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GIRL SCOUTS OF HAWAI'I EARN GOLD AWARDS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS

****10 Scouts Recognized with Highest Individual Achievement****

HONOLULU (FINAL) –Ten Girl Scouts of Hawai'i scouts have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award – the highest recognition a member of the organization can achieve. The honors will be presented at the Gold Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Mission Memorial Auditorium.

“The Girl Scout Gold Award is a prestigious honor that recognizes a scout’s unmatched commitment and service to the local, national, and global community,” said chief executive officer Shari Chang. “We’re so proud of this year’s accomplished recipients and their achievements. We know these Girl Scouts will continue to excel as role models in their communities, and will be successful in their future endeavors to make the world a better place.”

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn, recognizes a scout’s commitment to making a sustainable difference in her community or the world as she develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges in her life. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a scout must design and execute a project that fulfills a need within her community, creates change, and is sustainable. The project must be completed with a suggested minimum of 80 hours of work. Only six percent of eligible girls nationwide earn the prestigious Gold Award.

This year awarded scouts executed a variety of sustainable projects focused on prevalent issues in local and international communities, including anti-bullying, environmental protection, and the perpetuation of cultures. Recipients of the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i 2017 Gold Awards are:

- **Madison Brumbaugh** – Proper Care and Maintenance of Your Pet project. In an effort to decrease the prevalence of diseases while creating a healthier population of pets, Madison educated pet owners on best practices when caring for their furry friends.
- **Kiana Carson** – The Beauty and Importance of the Wahiawa Botanical Garden project. Kiana developed a docent training program for docents to give guided garden tours of the Wahiawa Botanical Garden. She designed the training program in both PowerPoint as well as booklet form.
- **Candace Noguchi** – Space for the Community project. Candace coordinated,

planned and placed two 40' x 10' standard-sized shipping containers at the Momilani Recreation Center. These containers were designed to provide the organization with safe and secure places to place their equipment and ward against theft.

- **Pomaika'i Ogata** – Build-A-Bench project. Pomaika'i coordinated and hosted a "Build-A-Bench Day," during which instructors taught basic construction skills such as cutting and sanding wood and assembling benches. The "Friendship Benches" built during the event were donated to public schools on Oahu to promote anti-bullying among students.
- **Nicole Popp** – Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle: Outreach and Education project. Nicole educated the general public about the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, which actively destroys coconut trees, and designed various displays on identifying the grubs and beetles. These displays are now located at several botanical gardens, the Honolulu International Airport, and the Pacific Entomological Society.
- **Elizabeth Rooks** – Perpetuating the Art and History of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar project. Elizabeth addressed the lack of awareness of slack key guitar in younger generations by presenting at the Kailua Farmers Market and creating a website about her journey, which she promoted via social media.
- **Golda-Gray Thomas** – Friendship Promise project. Golda-Grey promoted the importance of a "Friendship Bench," a safe place on playgrounds for kids to find peace when they need a friend. When children sit on the "Friendship Bench," they are letting other students and teachers know that they're looking for a friend with whom to play.
- **Jennifer Tokunaga** – Better Food for Our Keiki project. In an effort to introduce keiki to locally-grown produce, Jennifer designed and built an aquaponics system at Webling Elementary School. She also instructed the students on how to maintain the aquaponics system, as well as how to build one in their own homes.
- **Nicole Tsuda** – Nicole's Guide to Adoption project. Recognizing the dissimilar experiences of adopted children, Nicole designed, created and maintained a website for adopted children like herself. The website was used as a tool for kids to express their feelings, seek support and share stories.
- **Haley Yamamoto** – Friendship Promise project. Also incorporating the "Friendship Bench" in her project, Hayley designed and developed a Friendship Bench Guide that helps the user implement a bench at their school. Over 250 contacts received this guide, which has been viewed about 200 times per month and pinned on 70 Pinterest boards worldwide to date.

Silver Awards to Girl Scout Cadettes and Bronze Awards to Girl Scout Juniors for their community service projects will also be presented at the ceremony.

About Girl Scouts of Hawai'i

Supporting almost 5,000 girl and adult members statewide, the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i (GSH) builds girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place. GSH's headquarters is located on the island of O'ahu, with three neighbor island

service centers on the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui. GSH is chartered by the national office, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and is responsible for the leadership, administration and supervision of Girl Scout programs in the State of Hawai'i. For more information about GSH, visit www.gshawaii.org or call (808) 595-8400.

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CORRECTION: Anna Kimata also earned her Gold Award for her Coding for a Cause project. Inspired by her passion for the STEM fields, Anna led a team of students to create new websites for two non-profit organizations: Japanese Women's Society Foundation and Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. Anna taught her team the fundamental aspects of writing code while promoting her spirit of service.