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

Ten Girl Scouts Recognized with Highest Individual Achievement

HONOLULU (FINAL) – Ten Girl Scouts of Hawai'i have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest recognition a member of the organization can achieve. The honorees will be presented at the Gold Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 28th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Garden Lanai at the Ala Moana Hotel.

“The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious achievement a Girl Scout can receive within the organization as it recognizes their commitment and service to the local, national, and global community,” said Shari Chang, CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawai'i. “We are proud of this year's accomplished recipients and their determination to identify the needs of their community and further explore new ways to perpetuate a positive change for generations to come.”

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn, recognizes a girl's commitment to making a sustainable difference in her community and beyond as she develops skills and values to meet present and future challenges in her life. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a Girl 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's Gold Award recipients executed a variety of projects focused on nutrition, education and sustainability. Recipients of the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i 2019 Gold Award are:

- **Britnee A. – *Hawaii WARD Project*.** To bring awareness to the critical roles of women in the armed forces, Britnee's project sought to honor the female veterans of the Women's Air Raid Defense of the Hawaiian Islands during World War II.
- **Imiloa B. – *March for Our Lives Honolulu*.** Inspired by the national rise of gun control advocacy, Imiloa lead the organization of the Honolulu chapter of March for Our Lives as a part of a national youth-led protest for stricter gun control laws. Along with establishing the Honolulu chapter, Imiloa worked with Youth Talk Back, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering peace. She participated in leading discussions, facilitating activities, designing the organization's logo, managing social media platforms and assisted with planning and executing various projects.
- **Samantha H. – *Prep for College as a High School Student*.** In order to help high school students better prepare for the college application process, Samantha worked to

encourage students as early as eighth grade to start thinking about where they would like to attend college. She also provided additional resources on how students can further explore opportunities at educational institutions internationally and abroad.

- **Kristen K. – *Prayers for a Purpose*.** Kristen beautified the Grotto of Our Lady Lourdes at Maryknoll Grade School for students, visitors and parishioners to enjoy. She maintained this sacred area by trimming overgrown plants and bushes, cleaning the statues, clearing leaves, planting flowers and assembling a wooden bench with a commemorative metal plaque.
- **Allyson K. – *Okage Sama De*.** Allyson's project, Okage Sama De: I Am What I am Because of You, was implemented at Manoa Cottage to improve the quality of life of senior residents at the facility. She collaborated with other students at Mid-Pacific Institute's high school clubs to plan and host various events for Manoa Cottage's kupuna residents. Allyson also built "therapy boards" for the residents to help them maintain and improve their hand-eye coordination by performing daily tasks such as flipping a light switch, locking a door chain, tying a shoelace and pinning a clothespin.
- **Priscilla L. – *Oxybenzone Ban Zone: Saving Our Reefs*.** Driven by a strong devotion and love for the ocean, Priscilla focused raising awareness concerning the environmental impact of oxybenzone, an ingredient common in sunscreen products, on fragile coral reefs. Through her research and engagement with state representatives, Priscilla has been working to help pass House Bill 600, a bill to ban the sale of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone in Hawaii.
- **Bethany L. – *Save the Environment and Your Skin!*** While many people in Hawaii care about preserving the environment for future generations, many are not aware of the negative effects of oxybenzone, an active ingredient in sunscreen products, and the harm it causes to people. To raise awareness concerning this issue, Bethany created an educational video to teach students about how oxybenzone sunscreens affect the environment, and sent the video to various public schools on Oahu. Bethany also presented the video at Temple Emmanuel, 'Iolani School, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i STEM Fest and a Koko Head Service Unit gathering.
- **Stefani S. – *A.L.O.H.A. (A Life of Healthy Actions)*.** Combining her love of food, cooking and teaching, Stefani created the A.L.O.H.A. Project to educate Hawaii's youth on healthy eating and issues surrounding child obesity. She created three different food stations for children to learn about healthy nutrition and implemented fun activities to further engage their interest.
- **Harlow T. – *Nutrition Mission*.** After taking a nutrition class in school, Harlow realized how important good nutritional habits are for a healthy life and wanted to make this information available to other students. For her project, Harlow created a syllabus providing basic information on nutrition and meal planning, which can now be easily accessed online for other students to learn and use.
- **Katelyn T. – *You are not Alone*.** Teens experiencing thoughts of suicide may feel like they don't have a trusted person to talk to about these feelings. Working with Mental Health America, Hawaii, Katelyn helped organize a suicide prevention training program for her high school teachers, counselors and students so they may be better equipped to comfort and guide other students struggling with thoughts of suicide.

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.

To learn more about Girl Scouts of Hawai'i and the Girl Scout Gold Awards, visit www.gshawaii.org

About The Girl Scout Gold Award

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have been making meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and around the world. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, acknowledges the power behind each Gold Award Girl Scout's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others. These young women are courageous leaders and visionary change makers. *They are our future, and it looks bright.*

About Girl Scouts of Hawai'i

Supporting over 5,000 girl and adult members statewide, 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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