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

Ten Girl Scouts Recognized with Highest Individual Achievement

HONOLULU – Ten Girl Scouts of Hawai'i have earned the 2022 Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest recognition a member of the organization can achieve that recognizes a girl's commitment and service to their local, national, and global community. The Gold Awards will be presented at the Girl Scouts Higher Awards Ceremony on Sunday, June 12.

"Every year, we are amazed by the creativity and incredible impact of the Gold Award projects. The Girl Scouts are truly changemakers, and we look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future," said Shari Chang, CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawai'i. "We are honored to award these girls our most prestigious achievement, and are grateful to have had the opportunity to help shape these leaders of tomorrow."

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. Only six percent of eligible Girl Scouts nationwide earn the prestigious Gold Award.

This year's Gold Award recipients executed a variety of projects focused on public health, education, conservation, entrepreneurship and more. Recipients of the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i 2022 Gold Award are:

- **Esther C. – *Cyber Safe Seniors*.** After learning about the importance of cybersecurity, Esther decided to create a self-paced educational course to help educate Hawaii's older adults about protecting themselves from the many online threats that have been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Esther's curriculum, *Cyber Safety 101*, has been shared with AARP Hawaii, the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, One Kalakaua Senior Living and the Plaza at Waikiki. Her project's powerful vision and meaningful impact on the community has earned her national recognition as a [2022 Prudential Emerging Visionary](#).
- **Kayla C. – *The Art of Plastic*.** To shed light on the overuse of single-use plastics in everyday life, Kayla published a children's book about a plastic bottle's long journey from the trash can to the recycling bin. Kayla's goal was to create a fun and engaging way to teach kids about the importance of recycling and get them thinking about the effects of plastic on our environment. She hopes that learning about the issue early on will encourage future generations to take necessary action.
- **Miya H. – *Influenza: Let's Stop It!*** Upon learning that over 55 million people contract the flu each year, Miya created a public service announcement to be shown at school,

informing viewers about precautions to take to lower infection rates and the importance of staying healthy during flu season. The PSA features students and faculty members taking ownership of stopping the flu on campus. It seeks to reduce the illness' impact within the school, and ultimately, the entire community.

- **Ciara H. – *Girl Scout Building*.** As a Girl Scout, Ciara believes the organization allows young people to share experiences and make meaningful memories, and she also understands the significance of having a safe place to meet. For her Gold Award project, she decided to give back to the organization and our youth by improving the usability and functionality of the Girl Scouts' hut on Schofield Barracks. Ciara sought to fix the facility's run-down bathrooms, fire safety code violations, a broken fence and accessibility to dangerous areas, to create a space conducive to learning and collaboration.
- **Annabelle I. – *Millionaires in the Making: Inspiring Future Entrepreneurs*.** To inspire, encourage and educate young entrepreneurs, Anabelle created the [Girl Business Network](#) to support teenage girls looking to start their own business. Only 36% of small businesses are run by women, mainly due to the fact that females tend to receive less funding, support and respect when developing a business idea than men. Annabelle created a website and Instagram account to connect likeminded individuals and help girls work through these obstacles to establish a successful business. Her website features a blog and videos on topics including the four major business structures, ways to stay motivated and advice from other teenage entrepreneurs.
- **Alexis K. – *The Christmas Spirit Project*.** To bring joy to seniors in care homes, Alexis created a [YouTube video](#) of Christmas carols to be played at senior centers during the holidays. The COVID-19 pandemic put many programs for the elderly on pause. Many care homes did not allow visitors, and those who did, had very strict guidelines. Alexis' project sought to keep the spirit of Christmas and community traditions alive. Her video will be played at care homes for many years to come.
- **Jaeci O. – *Mino'aka Bags*.** To bring comfort and lift the spirits of keiki at Shriner's Children's Hospital, Jaeci sewed 100 reusable cloth Mino'aka Bags to hold craft supplies and games to keep the children busy during their stay and put a smile, or mino'aka, on their face. Each bag included a make-your-own cactus doll, tic-tac-toe game, mask holder necklace craft, origami paper, a small toy, wood art craft, notebook and crayons. Inside the bag was also a list of services offered at Shriner's along with a notecard providing key information that families can use to help their children during hospitalization.
- **Jochel O. – *Invasive Fish: Pests with a Benefit*.** In collaboration with Papahana Kuaola, an organization focused on 'āina-based education, Jochel created a mongoose-proof and weather-resistant dry box where they could turn invasive fish into fertilizer. The project helps to decrease invasive fish populations and promote environmental sustainability. The dry boxes help to turn fish into fish bone meal that can be used to fertilize plants, such as the kalo grown at Papahana Kuaola. Jochel also created pamphlets about the project that Papahana Kuaola can continue to use to share the knowledge and inspire children and families to make their own box.
- **Chloe S. – *Senior Playtime*.** After learning that elders have been found to gradually start developing mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, after moving into care homes, Chloe wanted to find a way to keep their minds active and engaged. She partnered with Palolo Chinese Nursing Home and Roosevelt High School Key Club

members to create a pen pal program. Every two weeks, the members of Roosevelt's Key Club write letters to send to the seniors at Palolo Chinese Nursing Home. Chloe also created activity kits for the seniors to keep them busy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key Club members plan to make the program an annual tradition.

- **Cherisse W. – *Mālama 'Āina at the Priory***. Concerned about the lack of education on environmental sustainability in schools, Cherisse educated students at St. Andrew's Schools on the effects of plastic pollution on the environment, newly-enacted legislation affecting single-use plastics, alternatives to single-use plastics and other related topics. Cherisse believes that teaching our keiki about the environment will foster their love for the 'āina, which will motivate them to take care of it.

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

The Gold Award, which started as the Golden Eaglet in 1916, recognizes Girl Scouts for creating 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.

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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