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GIRL SCOUTS OF HAWAI'I HOSTS ANNUAL STEM FEST ON O'AHU AND NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

HONOLULU (November 11, 2022) – Over 315 Girl Scouts on O'ahu participated in this year's STEM Fest where they learned about a variety of careers from some exemplary female STEM professionals. STEM Fest was open to all levels of Girl Scouts, from kindergarteners to 12th graders. Similar events were also held on Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island where more than 225 girls participated.

"STEM Fest is an incredible opportunity for the Girl Scouts to learn from and network with some of the most successful female leaders in STEM both locally and nationally," said Girl Scouts of Hawai'i (GSH) CEO Shari Chang. "It is so important that we provide the girls with role models they can look up to, letting them know they can achieve anything—even in a currently male-dominated field."

Exhibitors hosted unique activities that provided the girls with hands-on STEM experiences, including conducting chemistry experiments, building and launching rockets, using microscopes, touching sea stars, reading x-rays, dusting for fingerprints, and much more. Featured exhibitors included ALOHA Women in Aviation, AECOM, American Red Cross, Bishop Museum, Blue Planet Foundation, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Engineering, Astronomy and Sea Grant, National Weather Service and Microsoft, among others.

In addition to visiting booths and engaging in exciting STEM activities, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts were invited to hear a special keynote presentation from Adele Luta, scientist, innovator, and member of AstraFemina, a collective of prominent leaders—including astronauts, academic professionals and industry innovators—who have made a significant difference in the world through their contributions to the many fields of STEM.

STEM Fest is one of many GSH initiatives that seek to fulfill Hawaii's current and future need for STEM professionals. It is estimated that 80 percent of jobs that will exist in five years do not exist today. With women holding just 25 percent of STEM jobs in the U.S., GSH has expanded its programming to encourage girls to pursue careers in this rapidly-growing industry. One of the organization's recent and notable initiatives is its STEM Center for Excellence at Camp Paumalū on Oahu's north shore. This newly-constructed living laboratory will provide girls with year-round opportunities in cybersecurity, astronomy, robotics, computer coding, botany, chemistry and more. Learn more at www.gshawaii.org/en/stem-center.html.

Editor's Note: B-roll and high-res images are available for download.

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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