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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFCEA Hawaii is proud to announce the award of 23 STEM scholarships totalling \$72,500 to deserving college students from Hawaii, and 16 STEM Grants totalling \$33,000 to K-12 STEM Teachers/Organizations in Hawaii.

HONOLULU, Hawaii – November 24, 2021. AFCEA Hawaii is honored to be able to award STEM scholarships to our best and brightest students who are majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Cyber. This year we awarded 23 STEM scholarships for a total of \$72,500. We also awarded \$33,000 in STEM Grants to assist 16 STEM teachers, advisors and other non-profit organizations providing STEM Programs to Hawaii K-12 students.

Linda Newton, the AFCEA Hawaii Chapter President explains: “Our goal is to promote STEM and Cyber Education through STEM Scholarships and Grants. AFCEA Hawaii STEM Scholarships and Grants help Hawaii-based students pay for their education in these fields, and help Teachers and other local non-profit organizations promote STEM projects because tomorrow’s leadership depends on sound education today. We want to foster tomorrow’s leaders and innovators through STEM and Cyber advocacy.”

We thought you might like to hear comments from some of our recent scholarship and grant recipients:

Haruna Tomono, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, Bachelor of Science in Biology/Neurobiology, July 2024

“Especially with the ongoing pandemic, attending college from home has been mentally challenging. With the scholarship, worries about financing my education have been put to ease and I am able to focus on my studies. I will be able to take advantage of the opportunities available to me to further my interests in neurobiology and medicine, and hopefully contribute to Hawaii’s community in the future.”

Kaily Nakasone-Tablang, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Arizona, Bachelor of Science in Space Physics, May 2024

"It allowed me to focus on my education and my school work instead of having to worry about finances."

Marcos Lencinas, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Illinois, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, May 2024

"Going to college is one of the largest expenses that families, including ours, have, and being a recipient of the Capt. Jim Hickerson scholarship will greatly help pay for my studies this year."

Jake Andrew Palmieri, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Engineering & Cognitive Sciences, May 2025

"It really let me hone in on my coursework without worrying about the financial burden of attending USC."

Amanda Nelson - STEM Keiki Coding Connections for M/K-2 Haumāna, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Pū'ōhala School

"Our STEM education program is unique because we work to provide STEM education for students in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and in English to support our bilingual community. Students also engage in STEM through culturally responsive and place-based learning opportunities that are connected to our community in Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i."

Lori Shimoda - I am a Scientist (IAS) K-8 schools via Chaminade University

"We bring the science and scientists to the school, eliminating costly field trip fees and minimizing disruption to instruction time. Our program hopes to provide opportunities to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds with an authentic and quality experience. Access to technology and resources should not be limited to the privileged."

2021 AFCEA Hawaii STEM Scholarship Recipients

Named Scholarships:

Name	Major	School	Scholarship
Madison Kai	Mechanical engineering	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	LTC Thomas Rienzi, USA (Ret.) Memorial Scholarship
Haruna Tomono	Bioengineering	California Institute of Technology	ADM Richard Macke USN (Ret) Scholarship
Lillian Park	Business Administration in Applied Science: Cybersecurity	Wayland Baptist University	SMSgt Robert Ventura, USAF (Ret.) Memorial Scholarship
David Visperas	Computer Science	Stanford University	CAPT Jim Hickerson USN (Ret) Scholarship
Keili Sakura Takamiya	Chemistry	University of Hawaii at Manoa	CAPT Ken Wiecking, USN (Ret.) Scholarship
Aiesha Pradhan	Pre-med (biology major)	Cornell University	COL Bill Haney USA (Ret) Scholarship
Laurence Jackson	Computing, Security and Network Technology	Honolulu Community College	CENT Program at HCC/West Oahu Scholarship
Gabrielle Chun	Mechanical Engineering	Marquette University	Melvin Ing Memorial Scholarship
Erin Akemi Mukai	Neuroscience (Pre-sciences)	University of Washington	MG Eugene Renzi, USA (Ret) Memorial Scholarship
Ethan Yamamoto	Computer Engineering	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	MG Rockly Triantafellu USAF (Ret) Memorial Scholarship

General Scholarships:

Name	Major	School
Alyssa Greenwell	Computer Science	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Braedyn Reed	Engineering Undeclared	University of Washington
Briana Lee	Computer Science	University of Hawaii at Manoa
Lauren Yamamoto	Integrated Industrial Technology	Leeward Community College
Lindsey Fujimori	Cognitive Science	University of California, Los Angeles
Michelle Cabunoc	Natural Resource Management	Oregon State University
Alexander Ink	Computer Science and Computer Engineering	Ohio State University
Brett Hazama Lum	Mechanical Engineering	University of Washington
Kaitlyn White	Physics Specialization in Astrophysics	University of California, San Diego
Landen Kukahiwa	Biology, Minor (Mathematics)	Chaminade University
Lucas Blair	Astrophysics	University of Hawaii at Manoa
Sarah Sakakihara	Civil engineering	California Polytechnic State University
Tristyn Lin Terashima	Mechanical Engineering	University of Hawaii at Manoa

2021 AFCEA Hawaii STEM Grant Recipients

Named STEM Grants:

Project Title	Name	School Name	Named Grant
STEM Keiki Coding Connections for M/K-2 Haumāna	Amanda Nelson	Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Pū'ōhala School	Cynthia Pacheco Coding Grant
I Am a Scientist	Lori Shimoda	K-8 Schools via Chaminade University	Ed Ryglewicz STEM Teacher Grant

General STEM Grants:

Project Title	Name	School/ Organization Name
Team Magma #3008 Robotics	Bryan Silver	Kalani High School
Hand2Mind STEM Kits for Seahorses	Donna Soriano	Waianae Elementary
Saint Louis School Robotics Program	Travis Takashima	Saint Louis School Hawaii
Hawaii MATHCOUNTS Program	Barry Nakamoto	Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers Education Foundation
MYP Design: Take Flight	Ramsay Barnes	Le Jardin Academy
Castle Proto Knights Robotics Program	Ryan Saito	Castle High School
Computer Science Program	David A. Thompson	Waialua High and Intermediate School
STEM Night and STEM Classroom Learning Stations	Janet Bagby	Ewa Makai Middle School
Haleiwa Elementary Robotics	Jared Haiola	Haleiwa Elementary School
Kauai High School Media	Leah Aiwohi	Kauai High School
AFJROTC STEM Program	Michael Wingfield	Moanalua High School
Hawaii Youth Cybersecurity Exhibition Booth	Reynold Hioki	(ISC)2 Hawaii Chapter
Mililani Mauka VEX IQ Robotics Program	Scott Miyagi	Mililani Mauka Elementary School
FIRST Lego League Nā Hunaahi	Dr. Toni Kauai	FIRST Lego League Nā Hunaahi

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