



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Jocelyn Collado or
Vianca Cao
Becker Communications, Inc.
(808) 533-4165

**GIRL SCOUTS OF HAWAI'I COMMEMORATES PROGRESS MADE FOR
HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED STEM CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE**

*Tour Project Site at Camp Paumalū and Meet-and-Greet Project Leads from DoD's
Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program*

HONOLULU (August 20, 2019) – In partnership with members of the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i will be commemorating the progress-to-date made in constructing the nonprofit's upcoming STEM Center for Excellence at Camp Paumalū on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 9 a.m. The celebration will consist of a site tour and a special farewell ceremony for IRT members who were instrumental in spearheading the project.

Tucked away on Oahu's north shore, Girl Scouts' STEM Center for Excellence is a sprawling 135-acre living laboratory located at Camp Paumalū which will provide year-round opportunities in subjects such as cyber security, astronomy, robotics, computer coding, botany, chemistry, environmental stewardship and more. The Center will provide interactive programming to encourage girls to pursue education and career pathways in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); areas in which women are vastly underrepresented.

"In Hawaii, there is an urgent need for STEM professionals as our state requires more than 16,000 candidates with STEM skills each year and of our current STEM professionals, only 30 percent are female," said Shari Chang, CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawai'i. "With the help and support of our generous donors, Girl Scouts' STEM Center for Excellence will provide a fun and safe environment for local girls to explore new interests, engage with female industry professionals and discover exciting careers in areas of science, technology, engineering and math."

In collaboration with Girl Scouts of Hawai'i, the project at Camp Paumalū is being led by U.S. military service members of the Air National Guard (ANG), the Army National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve and Air Force Reserve as part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. IRT provides opportunities for service members to train in a joint environment to enhance military readiness prior to deployment, while simultaneously building civil-military partnerships and providing key services to local communities.

"It has been an honor to partner with Girl Scouts of Hawai'i and to help rebuild and modernize the envisioned 10,030 square-foot STEM Center nestled along Oahu's north shore," said 1st Lt. Emelia Brooks of 138th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard and Officer in Charge for Camp Paumalū IRT Mission. "Our team has received intensive training

during this project and we are proud to contribute our time and resources to such a renowned organization dedicated to building young ladies of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.”

The anticipated STEM Center for Excellence will be a two-story facility with a 4,160 square-foot main upper level, featuring a large Innovation Center, containing lab space, appliances for hands-on experiments and a computer lab with eight work stations. The lower level will consist of a 5,830 square-foot program center and dining hall, complete with a commercial kitchen, historic fireplace, health center and other amenities.

For more information on Girl Scouts of Hawai'i and the STEM Center for Excellence, please visit www.gshawaii.org.

About Girl Scouts of Hawai'i

Supporting over 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.

About Innovative Readiness Training

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) is a collaborative program that leverages military contributions and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants. Communities typically provide materials and basic services (e.g. facilities), while military units contribute personnel and training resources. IRT missions produce mission ready forces, civil-military partnerships, and stronger communities.

###