

## Spotlight

### Women Mentor Young Women In UH STEM Program



Women hold less than a third of the STEM related jobs in the United States, but a modest program out of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa math department is working to turn that around. Since 2016, female UH Mānoa students in STEM fields have been mentoring female high and middle school aged students. "A lot of these fields, especially in STEM, it's still male dominated, and it can be intimidating," said Olivia Murray, mentor and UH Mānoa computer science major. "And just for them to see another girl who was successful in the field, I think that would be really encouraging for them." They meet on the Mānoa campus once a week and are guided through subjects like computer coding and advanced math by young women excelling in those fields.

## Steering Committee

### U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono – Honorary State Chair

**Dr. Monica San Jose**, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum

**Roya Dennis**, Career Pathways Manager – Elemental Accelerator

**Mary Beth Laychek**, Outreach Program Manager Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope

**Dr. Elena Manjavacas**, Astronomer at W.M. Keck Observatory

**Dr. Jessica Dempsey**, Deputy Director of the East Asian Observatory

**Mary Wenstrom**, Director of Innovation and Partnerships at Hawaii Technology Academy

**Dr. Sarah Styan**, President and CEO, Kauai Community Science Center

## News & Events

### Women's Stars Program

The STARS Program is based on NASA's successful summer programs for young women. It first launched in 2014 and has been held every year since with a growing number of students and participating local science, education and outreach organizations including: Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, HI-SEAS, WM Keck Observatory, Gemini Observatory, EA/JCMT, Subaru Telescope, Pacific Aviation Museum, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caterpillar Ltd., USGS Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory, University of Hawaii at Hilo and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. The program has evolved over the years to address student needs with an emphasis on female challenges in STEM, providing more opportunities for mentorship as well as overnight housing to accommodate students from other islands. In 2019 they launched a space and science summer camp for Hawaii girls interested in STEM.

### Scouting Into STEM

Move over, crafts and cookies. The Girl Scouts organization is making sure that their scouts get experience and exposure to women who work in STEM fields. It is now the largest pipeline in the U.S. for female leaders in STEM fields. And it has committed to getting 2.5 million young women into STEM careers by 2025. "We need to get Hawaii on this action," says Shari Chang, CEO of Girl Scouts of Hawaii – and the fourth-generation scout means business. The 2019 STEM Fest, the largest-ever Girl Scouts event in the state, attracted almost 400 girls. They were met by 130 STEM professionals, mostly women, so the girls could see women in leadership roles, and visualize the potential of what they could be, too.

### Hawaii Virtual STEM Conference 2020

#### Event Highlights:

- Interactive Training Sessions on:
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Microsoft
  - Creating Dashboards with ESRI's Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)
  - Exploring Augmented Reality Content for Merge Cubes (do you have a Merge Cube? If not, we'll tell you how you can get one!)
  - Hawaii Clean Energy Initiatives
  - Coding in Minecraft
  - Building your brand on LinkedIn



On **May 8th and 9th**, we launched our first-ever VIRTUAL HACKATHON CHALLENGE hosted in partnership with BizzyB and Malama Maunaloa.



**Honorary Chair**  
**U.S. Senator**  
**Mazie Hirono**