



THINK Fund at HCF supports STEM-related career exploration for Hawai'i Island youth

The Hawai'i Island New Knowledge Fund (THINK) at Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) provided initial funding to the Career Connected Learning (CCL) grants program and encouraged other donors to support STEM-related learning and career preparation. CCL grants were distributed to 40 schools and nonprofits on Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i in 2019, expanding the range of experiences for students to develop academic, technical, trade, and entrepreneurial skills.

Grantee Highlight: The Success Factory

At the Success Factory, STEM professionals guide students through real-world experiences, such as natural resource problem solving in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, star gazing, talks on Black Matter on Mauna Kea with Canada France Hawai'i Telescope, and high-tech cultural resource and recycling at Pōhakuloa Training Area. Learning camps for students in grades 4-12 employ technical curricula and problem-solving methodology, enabling students to approach learning from creative and responsible perspectives. Students also form long-lasting relationships with local leaders who continue to inspire and guide them toward STEM-related future careers.



The Success Factory also provides a valuable learning opportunity for Hawai'i Island STEM educators such as Lisa Mason, who shared, "Teachers who volunteer with NexTech can gain a unique experience that is unlike other professional development classes or workshops in East Hawai'i."

Grantee Highlight: Girl Scouts of Hawai'i



Interest in STEM careers greatly increased for 90 Hawai'i Island girls who spent time with female STEM professionals at the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i (GSH) STEM Fest hosted in Waimea, Hawai'i Island. Girls had the opportunity to learn from 23 female STEM leaders. Topics included Beyond the Rainbow - Exploring Light That Our Eyes Can't See, A Day in the Life of a Monk Seal, Impacts of Oil Spills on Birds, and The Role of Volcanic Gasses in Volcanic Eruptions and Monitoring. Through STEM Fest, GSH provides girls the opportunity to think outside of the box and learn about career paths they may have otherwise never known about or considered. STEM Fest aligns with the Girl Scouts of the USA's national goal of putting 2.5 million girls nationwide into the STEM pipeline by 2025.

With support from the CCL grant, GSH has been able to increase their membership on Hawai'i Island to 34 troops, exposing 318 girls to evidence-informed, project-based STEM curriculum year-round.

Since 2015, more than \$5.4 million in grants have been awarded to innovative STEM programs and activities, including \$1.7 million by Thirty Meter Telescope through THINK Fund at HCF and \$3.7 million from other donors.



14,000
Students served



900
Educators served



14
Funding partners

For more information about THINK Fund at HCF, please contact Lydia Clements, Vice President of Foundation & Corporate Partnerships, at (808) 935-1206 or lclements@hcf-hawaii.org