

Akamai Internship Program

Advancing the next generation of Hawaii's science, engineering, and technology professionals

Hawai'i is a world premier site for telescopes. Telescopes benefit from a local workforce, and local communities benefit from jobs at telescopes. However, telescopes face major challenges in meeting workforce needs, including:

- **Only 20-40% of college freshmen intending to pursue a career in STEM actually complete a STEM degree (over 70% drop out or change majors).**
- **Telescopes in HI have an unfavorably high attrition rate of personnel hired from the mainland, U.S.**

Akamai addresses these problems by building a local workforce

Akamai by the numbers

100+ alumni now in STEM jobs in Hawai'i

87% of alumni retained in STEM majors

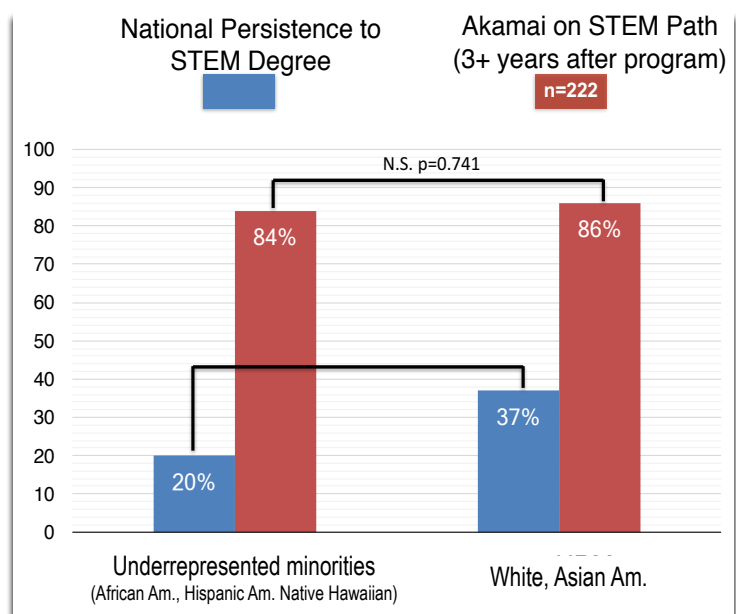
356 Akamai interns to date

23% Native Hawai'ian

52% underrepresented minority

37% community college students

Akamai Alumni Persist in STEM

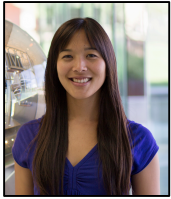


This chart shows two important outcomes:

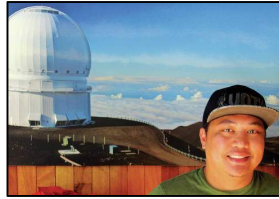
- 1) 87% of alumni persist in STEM
- 2) Alumni persist at same rate across demographic groups, which nationally show disparities in retention rates.

The Akamai Internship Program provides college students from Hawai'i work experience at an observatory or scientific/technical facility during an 8-week summer program. Akamai recruits students from community colleges and universities from a wide range of majors. Learn more about the Akamai program content, cycle and highlights at: akamaihawaii.org.

Akamai Internships have a track record of launching Hawaii students into **jobs at telescopes and tech companies:**



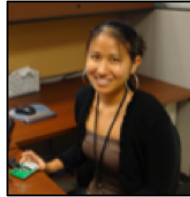
Stacey Sueoka, from Kaua'i, interned at **Textron** in 2007. She now works as an Optical Systems Engineer for the **National Solar Observatory on the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope**.



Eric Dela Rosa, from Hawai'i Island, interned at the **Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope (CFHT)** in 2007. He now works there as a systems administrator.



Joey Andrews, from Maui, interned at **Akimeka** in 2012 and has been hired there as a software engineer.



Jasmine Yoshimoto, from O'ahu, interned at **Trex** in 2009 and now works as an engineer at SPAWAR Systems Center.

“When my mentor from that internship heard I was graduating, he offered me a job!”

Internships at **telescopes** launch students into **graduate school:**



Devin Chu, from Hawai'i Island, interned at **Gemini** in 2011 and is now an astronomy graduate student at **University California, Los Angeles**.



Megan Ansdell, from O'ahu, interned at **Gemini** in 2006. She continued to graduate school and earned her PhD in Astronomy from the **University of Hawai'i**.

Akamai is a program lead by the Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators (ISEE). Learn more about ISEE's history and programs at: isee.ucsc.edu

The Akamai Internship program is celebrating its 16th year in 2018. Learn about prior year intern cohorts, eligibility and the people behind the program at: akamaihawaii.org

Funding for Akamai comes from the **Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory (TIO)**, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Hawaii Community Foundation, the Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope, and the Bank of Hawaii Foundation. Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo provide housing for interns. The mentor workshop is funded by the National Science Foundation and TMT International Observatory.