



## Akamai Internship Symposium: Hilo

**Tues, August 4, 2026 - 9am - 11:30am HST**

University Classroom Building 100, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, HI

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### Introduction & Opening Comments

**Lisa Hunter**, Director, Akamai Workforce Initiative, Univ. of California Observatories

**Intern presentations will occur in two concurrent sessions**

#### Session 1

**Benjamin Bercasio, Gemini Observatory** -  
*Expansion of a 3D Visualization of the Gemini  
North Telescope in Unreal Engine with TCS  
Integration*

**Bethany de Loach, Gemini Observatory**-  
*Analyzing SPHEREx Spectral Data to Identify  
Life-Essential Volatiles in Debris Disks*

**Isaiah Broderson, Gemini Observatory** -  
*Developing a Machine Learning Telescope  
Pointing Model for Gemini North*

~ BREAK ~

**Ben Ellis, Infrared Telescope Facility** - *NASA's  
IRTF Secondary Mirror Handling Ring and  
Storage Unit Design and Implementation*

**Juliana De Vera, Institute for Astronomy  
Hilo** - *Mechanical Design of Flexures in Compact  
Laser Diode Module for Instrumentation  
Development*

**Evan Lam, Institute for Astronomy Hilo** -  
*Creating a Deployable Weather Sensor System for  
the UH 2.2m Telescope*

#### Session 2

**Oren Valdez, Gemini Observatory** - *Designing a  
Gemini Telescope Bogie Track Maintenance System*

**Lawrence Zheng, Subaru Telescope** -  
*Deployment of Accelerometer-Based Telescope  
Vibration Control for Adaptive Optics*

**Max Richmond Sibayan, USDA ARS Pacific  
Basin Agricultural Research Center** - *Integration  
of Harmonic Radar to an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle  
(UAV) for Organism Tracking*

~ BREAK ~

**Ayrton Takane, Subaru Telescope** - *Improving  
and Adding Features to the Subaru Telescope  
Simulator*

**Andrew Li, Academia Sinica Institute of  
Astronomy and Astrophysics** - *Assembly and  
Optimization of a Test Bench for Non-linear Signal  
Processing for SETI Applications*

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**Reception with lunch pupus to follow**

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The Akamai Workforce Initiative is led by the Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators at  
University of California Observatories

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