The Grove Farm Foundation Scholarship is one of the largest scholarships given by a kama‘aina company within the State and is focused solely on Kaua‘i students.

Grove Farm Foundation awards scholarships valued at up to $20,000 to a student with a strong record of academic accomplishment, good citizenship, quality of character, and community service.

After being narrowed down to the top three candidates from each of Kaua‘i’s three public high schools, the nine finalists interviewed with a Selection Committee.

Grove Farm is proud to announce that Natasha Abadilla (Waimea High School), Abigail Illoreta (Kapaa High School) and Daisy Luis Liberato (Kaua‘i High School) were named the winners of the 2010 Grove Farm Foundation Scholarship.

The six other finalists who qualified for the final interview process each received a $100 Borders Gift Card in appreciation for their time and effort.

Each Grove Farm Scholar will receive $5,000 annually for each of their four years in college. One requirement of the scholarship is that the student must fulfill an annual 10 hour community service requirement in order to remain eligible for their subsequent scholarship awards.

Congratulations to Daisy, Abigail and Natasha!

Michael Tresler was recently confirmed to the Commission of Transportation for the State of Hawai‘i.

Mike has broad knowledge on a number of issues at the forefront of business on Kaua‘i and throughout the State.

In addition to his new confirmation, Mike continues to serve as one of 25 Task Force Members focused on the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

An active community volunteer, Mike also serves as a Trustee for the University of Hawai‘i Foundation as well as for the Kaua‘i Police Activities League.
Yap named to Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors

Keith Yap has been named a Director of the Board for Kaua’i Habitat for Humanity.

Kaua’i Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1992 following Hurricane Iniki and since its inception, it has completed 100 homes across the island, from Kekaha to Hanalei.

In addition to paying monthly mortgages and putting down an upfront payment, homeowners invest a minimum of 700 hours of their own labor towards building their homes and the homes of others participating in the program.

Keith Yap is Grove Farm’s Director of Finance, he currently serves as the Treasurer for Kaua’i Hospice, and also volunteers his time as Vice Chair of the Kaua’i-Ni‘ihau Burial Council.

A graduate of Leadership Kaua’i, Keith also contributes his time to a multitude of other community associations.

Grove Farm employees Memorial Day

When Grove Farm learned that there was a shortage of lei for Memorial Day, employees quickly sprung into action.

Members of the Grove Farm ‘ohana picked armfuls of crownflower, plumeria, puakenikeni and bougainvillea and everyone got busy cleaning flowers.

The entire staff participated in sewing lei to help honor our nation’s veterans.

Tony Elliott, Veterans Services Counselor for the State of Hawai’i—Office of Veterans Service, came by to pick up the lei and ready them for Memorial Day ceremonies around the island.

The Grove Farm ‘ohana proudly display some of the lei sewn in remembrance of Memorial Day

KCC Business Scholarship Awarded

Grove Farm is proud to continue its history of supporting business education graduates at Kaua’i Community College (KCC).

This year’s KCC recipient of the Grove Farm Business Scholarship, Ms. Kelsi Kinoshita Naumu, will graduate in Spring 2010 with an Associates of Applied Science in Business Technology degree. Upon the completion of an additional class, she will receive her Associates in Accounting later this Fall.

She will begin the curriculum at University of Hawai’i West Oahu via distance learning, and will major in Business Administration.

At the Donor Appreciation & Students Thanked and Recognized (STAR) reception held on KCC’s campus in May, Kelsi was presented with a $500 scholarship check.
In celebration of Earth Day, the dedicated members of Grove Farm’s ‘ohana decided to do a community service project in Lihue.
During their lunch hour, employees walked from the Grove Farm office in Puhi, along Kaneka Street and down Nuhou Street to pick up rubbish.
Nearly 10 bags of rubbish and roadside debris were collected and brought back to the Grove Farm office for disposal.
What began as a New Year’s resolution for the office in January of 2009 has turned in to a weekly fitness activity with nearly 100% participation.
Employees take turns trying different athletic exercise — ranging from tennis to soccer to touch football and more — and organize lunches that incorporate fresh produce from the office garden.

Marissa Sandblom was recently approved by the State Senate to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).
ADC was established in 1994 to facilitate and provide direction for the transition of Hawai’i’s agriculture industry from a dominance of sugar and pineapple to one composed of a diversity of different crops.
ADC currently has projects on all the main islands throughout Hawai’i.
ADC is headed by a board of directors consisting of eight private-sector members appointed by the governor and three specified ex-officio members.

In honor of the upcoming 25th Anniversary and celebration of Koloa Plantation Days, Grove Farm is arranging a special “Walk Through the Sugar Era” tour of the Wilcox Tunnel, also known as “Koloa Tunnel”, Waita Reservoir, and a look at the old Koloa Mill area for interested participants.
The theme of the 2010 Koloa Plantation Days is “Sweet Memories” and this family-oriented festival will be held over nine days, from July 17-25, 2010.
Participants in the special tour will meet at Koloa Mill to learn about Koloa Plantation’s significant history. Then people will be shuttled up to view Waita Reservoir, before concluding with a visit to the nearby Wilcox Tunnel.

Grove Farm’s landholdings are comprised of three distinct, former sugar plantations: Grove Farm, Koloa Plantation, and Lihue Plantation.
Hundreds turn out for April 3rd Swap Meet and Easter Egg Hunt

A big mahalo goes out to Aqua Engineers, Kodani & Associates, and Esaki Surveying & Mapping for their generous donations of candy and prizes.

Over 1,700 plastic eggs were filled with candy and nearly 200 keiki showed up with their families to take part in the Easter Egg Hunt.

While the keiki were grouped according to age, the excitement of the moment caused many children to start hunting eggs earlier than allowed and all of the eggs were found in under a minute.

Five lucky winners found the “Golden Egg” which contained a special Grove Farm sticker and found themselves with a goodie bag of toys, snacks and a reusable shopping bag.

Members of the Grove Farm ‘ohana also passed out over 200 balloons to keiki following the Easter Egg Hunt.

Grove Farm Senior Vice President, Michael Tresler (back right) and Gary Heu, Administrative Assistant for the County of Kauai (back left), pose with the “Golden Egg” winners of Grove Farm’s Easter Egg Hunt. The winners were (from left to right): Kaenen Api-lado (1 year old), Davealyn Planas - sitting (3 years old), Justin Bolosan (8 years old), Kaesha Silva - sitting (2 years old), and Meleana Ibaan (6 years old).