

Employee K-12 and College Scholarships: Building a Brighter Future



From a young age, Zane Robertson was fascinated by anything mechanical, so it's only fitting that he went on to study automotive technologies at Salt Lake Community College. Zane, 20 year old son of Kūki'o design reviewer and architect, Jae Robertson, is grateful for the opportunity to pursue his dream through the support of the Kūki'o Community Fund Employee and Dependent Higher Education Scholarship. "I knew I could not stay in Hawai'i forever. Luckily for me, the Kūki'o Community Fund gave me the opportunity to leave Hawai'i and experience the world," shares Zane.

Zane fondly remembers visiting farms during his childhood in Waimea with his grandfather, as his grandpa would service farming equipment. "On one of these farms in little Waimea is where my fascination with mechanics truly began," he says. "It was working on one of those tractors that started my journey." Figuring out how the mechanics of it worked caught his interest, which grew to include automobiles. Although this world of mechanics was something new to his life, Kūki'o has always been a part of his memory. "Ever since I could remember, I was going to Kūki'o with my dad, driving from job site to job site watching Kūki'o grow as I too grew," Zane recalls. "To this day, Kūki'o is still helping me grow as a person, with the Kūki'o Community Fund giving me the chance to pursue my interest."



"Thanks to Kūki'o, my tuition is no longer a burden or limiting factor. I am free to continue my studies debt free and with a sense of security."



Kūki'o Community Fund is committed to supporting youth success in school, work, and life. The Kūki'o employee and dependent higher education scholarship is an extension of the fund's commitment to youth success and was established to encourage and support Kūki'o employees in their educational pursuits. Kūki'o scholarships are awarded based on financial need. Since this scholarship program began, all Kūki'o employee applicant families who display financial need have received scholarships.

Since 2017, 17 Kūki'o employees and dependents have received Kūki'o Community Fund Scholarships to pursue college degrees and training.

Your generosity made this and many more successful educational opportunities possible. Thank you, Kūki'o!

The Kūki'o Community Fund was established at the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) in 2001 as a way for Kūki'o members to connect with the surrounding Hawai'i Island community through meaningful charitable giving opportunities. We focus on the young people of Hawai'i Island because their success has a ripple effect on the entire community. By supporting education and youth development, the Kūki'o Community Fund increases the success of local youth in school, in work, and in life.

Thanks to contributions from Kūki'o members, the Hawai'i Island community has benefited from nearly \$7 million in grants from our Kūki'o Community Fund. Currently, grants are used to support exceptional organizations that provide youth development programs on Hawai'i Island and to boost education success through Career Connected Learning, the Ēlama Program at Pālanui, college scholarships for Kūki'o employees, and K-12 scholarships for dependents of Kūki'o employees.

Kūki'o members and local community leaders volunteer their wisdom, time, and funds to lead the growth and oversee the grants of our fund. The committee is led and facilitated by HCF's Hawai'i Island-based staff who provide a local, professionally managed, and cost-effective mechanism for the fund's grantmaking and operations.

Learn more at <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/kukiofund>