

Michael Schutte
High School: Hawaii Preparatory Academy
GPA: 3.35
Prospective University: San Diego State University
Major: Business Management

Kona-California Scholarship

I plan to study business management at San Diego State University. If I were to receive this scholarship it would help with my college expenses. This scholarship would encourage the continuation of my goal: to be the first in my family, including extended family, to graduate from a university. With a business degree I intend to return to Hawaii and follow in my father's footsteps. We enjoy the ranch lifestyle and the hard work it demands. Incorporating ranching and business management can be more than a way of life, it can be a successful livelihood. I look forward to ranching and conducting business in my hometown of Waimea. My goal is to be one of Hawaii's sole proprietor cattle ranchers.

I am part of the Hui Aloha Kiholo organization. Our mission is to protect, perpetuate, and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management, and active community stewardship. Due to the tsunami on Friday, 11, 2011- Kiholo had suffered immense damage. The damage was so devastating to this area, that the help of our organization was necessary. Our organization came together with about twenty volunteers to help rebuild the A'uwai, which had been destroyed. First we had to recover the boulders that once held the foundation of the stone walls. These stone walls lead into the ancient and sacred fishponds. Using the traditional method of building a stone wall, we formed a line and passed on one boulder at a time. We created a traditional, and improved passage way for turtles and fish to take refuge from awaiting predators. This has and will teach the congregation about the traditional fishing techniques. Our group strives to be an example for all members of our community to be selfless; working together to keep our oceans, land and all its inhabitants clean and pure.

I believe that being good and industrious is too work hard in everything that you do, whether it's academically, in athletics or doing a laborious job.

Academically- never failing to completing assignments, and going above and beyond what is expected. Having highly ambitious goals, and always seeking advancement in knowledge. Expanding creative thinking, using it to benefit the people of Hawai'i.

In athletics- mentally pushing your body beyond its physical limits. Being diligent, and disciplined by showing up to practice every day and putting in the extra effort on my own time. Taking care of my body as if it was a temple, feeding it the best nutrients it can get.

Living on a ranch has instilled hard working attributes in me. From sun up to sun down, I am constantly working. Even during my holidays and school breaks I routinely get up at 5:30 to take care of my morning duties which include feeding our horses, taking care of our dogs, chickens and cattle. Weather its weed whacking around the property, cleaning horse stalls or fixing a fence line, its all done with love and paid with the satisfaction of knowing that I am being a active member of my family. There isn't such thing as an unfinished task on our ranch. With everything that I put my mind too, it's completed with the absolute best of my ability, and the task always gets finished.

I have a positive outlook on life. Through the past years I have faced adversities of many kinds. For instance helping my teenage sister raise a child. It was very straining and difficult at first, but I have come to love and cherish every second I get to spend with my niece who is now five. It required a lot of work to take care of a child, but as time went on it wasn't work, it is simply a blessing being able to have her by my side.

I am so grateful for the community and setting I grew up in. Everything that I am today was because of people I have grown up around, and the rich cultural area I grew up in. In my small hometown, Waimea, everyone has the Aloha spirit. They show kindness and generosity, that I have also grown up sharing this spirit with everyone I have the opportunity to. I grew up on the mountain slopes of Pu'u Hoku Ula, the sacred battlegrounds. I never had expensive toys growing up, but I had the great outdoors as my playground. It gave me a greater love for my home land and it will always have a special place in my heart, where ever I go, I know that Hawaii will always be my home, and now its my turn to go to California and make my home land proud.