



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ISLAND AIR EXPLORERS PROGRAM GRADUATES ITS 2011 CLASS OF FUTURE AVIATORS

HONOLULU –Island Air's committee of employee volunteers proudly announces the graduation of its third class of Student Explorers. The Island Air Explorers Program ran for 10 weeks providing students between the ages of 14 and 20 hands-on experience in various fields of aviation. In February, program advisors invited interested students to join the program, which Island Air began in 2009 as a continuation of the Aloha Explorers program that shut down along with Aloha Airlines in March 2008. A total of 13 students passed the application process, which included orientation and an interview.

Exploring posts are awarded and managed by the Boy Scouts of America. Island Air's Explorers Program offers students 10 sessions covering aviation careers such as Flight Attendant, Pilot, Aircraft Mechanic and Airport Operations. The 2011 season also included visits to Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Makani Kai Helicopters, the Air Traffic Control Tower, and Airport Rescue Fire Fighters, as well as guest speakers from the Transportation Security Administration and Federal Aviation Administration.

Congratulations to the 2011 Class of Island Air Explorers:

Saldon Andrike – Pearl City High School  
Matthew Araujo – Lanakila Baptist High School  
Remington Fox – Hanalani Schools  
Brittany Kahumoku – University of Hawaii, HCC  
Kalikopualehua Kahumoku-Abadilla – McKinley High School  
Rylan Maeda – Roosevelt High School  
Quincy Maka'awa'awa – Kamehameha Schools  
Kyra Nii – Aiea High School  
Logan Ne – Kamehameha Schools  
Elima Pangorang – University of Hawaii, West Oahu  
Shane Robinson – Maryknoll High School  
Ian Ramos – Embry Riddle Aeronautical University  
Jesse Soileau – Castle High School

Island Air continues to carry on Aloha's tradition of honoring one outstanding student explorer with the Jaime Wagatsuma Award, which was named for the program advisor and pilot of both Island Air and Aloha Airlines after she lost her battle with cancer in 2007. This season, Island Air presented the Jamie Wagatsuma Award to Brittany Kahumoku, a 19-year old who, after completing the program, has decided to continue pursuing her interest in the field of aviation. Kahumoku said of her experience, "After finishing the program I have a greater appreciation for every aspect of the airline industry, knowing that it takes people from different areas doing their jobs effectively and

efficiently makes me want to applaud every single person for having that commitment to excellence and safety. They are the ones who truly make air transportation an enjoyable experience. I am honored to be named the Outstanding Explorer; however, I am most appreciative of the program advisors who volunteer their time to mentor us students, prepare their presentations, and arrange for visits with Island Air's aviation partners. It was an amazing experience, and one that I am thankful and blessed to have received."

More information about the Island Air Explorers Program can be found on Island Air's web site at [www.IslandAir.com/Explorers](http://www.IslandAir.com/Explorers). Follow the students' progress on the program's Facebook page (search: Island Air Explorers). Fans can support the Island Air Explorers Program by purchasing a logo item from [www.IslandAirStore.com](http://www.IslandAirStore.com).

Island Air is Hawai'i's leading regional carrier, serving airports on all major Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1980 to provide scheduled service between Princeville and Honolulu, the airline now offers 338 weekly flights between the islands of O'ahu (Honolulu International Airport), Maui (Kahului Airport and West Maui's Kapalua Airport), Molokai (Ho'olehua Airport), Lana'i (Lana'i City Airport), Kaua'i (Lihue Airport), and the Island of Hawai'i (Kona International Airport). Island Air is committed to its island communities as well as providing warm and personalized service for its customers and those of its code-share partners Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, and United Airlines. For reservations, flight information, and free membership in Island Air's Cloud 9 Customer Rewards Program, visit [www.IslandAir.com](http://www.IslandAir.com).

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