



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**
Kauai Satellite Office

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)

The USDA - Rural Development (RD) is now accepting Grant applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) from now until August 29, 2011. The purpose of the VAPG is to assist Independent Producers of Agricultural Commodities, Agriculture Producer Groups, Farmer & Rancher Cooperatives & Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Business Ventures. The VAPG offers a maximum grant of \$100K for planning activities or a maximum of \$300K towards working capital. There is no minimum grant awarded. Grant funds may be used to pay up to 50 percent of the total eligible project costs.

The primary objective of this grant is to help develop strategies to create marketing opportunities and to help develop business plans for viable marketing opportunities regarding production of bio-based products from agricultural commodities. Ag. Producers of all sizes may apply but priority will be given to operators of small and medium-sized farms or ranches that are structured as family farms, beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers & ranchers, mid-tier value chain projects and farmer or rancher cooperatives.

Grants are awarded competitively and applicants are highly encouraged to apply early. The anticipated award date is November 30th, 2011. More information can be found at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG_Grants.html. To apply, contact your local USDA – RD office.

The USDA – RD serves the island of Kauai by providing loans, grants & subsidies to support housing, community facilities, businesses, utilities and cooperatives. The island is served locally by their satellite office located at 4334 Rice Street Ste. #106 in Lihue. For inquiries to this and other programs contact Michael Newgent at 808-245-9014 ext 110 or by email michael.newgent@hi.usda.gov.

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Committed to the future of rural communities

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