

Jason Brand

Jason Brand is currently the president of the Brand Industrial Group Inc (BIG), headquartered in Hawaii. Jason and BIG maintain active equity positions in sustainable farming ventures, aquaculture, alcohol, digital media, digital payments, programing and film productions. Kunia Country Farms, LLC - a main supplier of aquaponic lettuce to the islands' supermarkets and restaurants – and Ko Hana Distillers – makers of Ko Hana Hawaiian Agricole Rum – are two of his more famous local investments. Mr. Brand co-founded both companies and actively participates in their management. Jason also chairs the USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and is president of the Hawaii Foundation for Agriculture Research.

Prior to moving to Hawaii in 2008, Mr. Brand retired as President of Merrill Lynch Asia (currently Bank of America Merrill Lynch), a Senior Vice President on the firm's Management Team, and a Director of DSP Merrill Lynch, Ltd. in India. He served as Co-head of Pacific Rim Global Markets & Investment Banking of Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. beginning in January 2005 and also served as its Managing Director. Mr. Brand was jointly responsible for all debt, equity and investment banking businesses in Japan, Asia and Australia. Prior to this appointment, he served as the head of Pacific Rim Global Markets, responsible for all debt and equity businesses for the region. Until February 2005, Mr. Brand also served as the Head of Americas Debt Sales and the Chief Operating Officer for the Global Investor Client Group, responsible for sales and distribution of fixed income and equity products at Merrill Lynch. Before that, Mr. Brand led the Corporate Finance Group as part of Investment Banking in Japan. There, he worked on numerous deals ranging from convertible securities to restructuring bankrupt companies. Mr. Brand joined Merrill Lynch in 1993 as a derivative marketer in the Fixed Income Division. He earned his Managing Director title while still in Fixed Income, leading Merrill Lynch efforts with Financial Institution clients within the Strategic Solutions Group. Mr. Brand received his CFA in 1997 and graduated from Cornell University.