



PAAC Global Leadership Program: Workshop on **Sustainable Business Practices** February 18, 2017

Where do the products we buy come from? How are they made? What are the ethical and social implications of our actions as consumers?

On this day, students examined their role in the global economy through chocolate. After visiting a cacao farm in Kahaluu and a chocolate factory in Kailua, students compared the ways in which local efforts to produce chocolate contrast—environmentally, ethically, socially, economically, and politically—with industrial cacao operations halfway around the world. The experience empowered students to be more conscious consumers.



*"The **passion** Ben had for his **plants** and for the **environment** was really **eye-opening**."*

*"Today made me more **aware of the products I am buying/consuming** and has influenced me to be a **more conscious consumer**."*

*"It **pushed me to make better choices** in what I buy."*

Photo by Tyler Bright

Workshop Highlights:

- **Farm tour of Green Fields Nursery**, a farm in Kahaluu, Oahu that grows cacao beans.
- **Factory tour of Manoa Chocolate**, a local chocolate company that sells ethically-sourced, high-quality chocolate from around the world, including Hawaii. Students learned how chocolate is made and compared the taste of chocolate from different regions throughout the world.



Photo by Tyler Bright

*"It really **opened my eyes to the sourcing for products** I use every day. It gives me **initiative** to look for **fair trade labels** and **ask questions about sourcing ethically**."*

*"It really **opened my eyes about being a consumer** and how **everything I purchase has an impact on everyone that was involved in the process**."*