

Volume 7 Issue 12

## Application Highlight

### Rulon® Harvests the Hawaiian Hillside

When most people think of Hawaii, they think of white, sandy beaches, flowered shirts, and of course, pineapples. But what they don't think about, and is just as critical as sunscreen, is the use of [Rulon® bearings](#) in the farming machinery used to harvest those pineapples.

Ever since James Dole cultivated the first pineapple farm on Oahu in 1901, pineapples have become a critical commodity — and top tourist souvenir — of the Hawaiian Islands. The Islands' lush climate and rich soil provide an ideal growing environment for this versatile fruit, which can be found in everything from tropical desserts, grilled fare, and even the classic Piña Colada.

#### Fresh from the fields

Although the US pineapple industry has been transformed by international competition, it remains a key Hawaiian business, along with the export of sugar, coffee and flowers. Growers plant an estimated 14,000 acres annually in the lush Hawaiian hillside, and harvest after a long growth cycle of about eighteen months. Pineapples must be closely monitored to ensure harvesting at the exact moment of ripeness, since overripe fruit quickly deteriorates before reaching market. And harvesting at a steep hillside angle is no easy feat, especially when taking into account the pineapples' thorny skin and spiky top. It is here, where harvest meets hillside that Rulon® bearings shine.

#### Booms, conveyors and more

Using a tractor equipped with a long boom, workers pick from rows of densely packed fruit, and load the payload onto a field conveyor system for processing. Rulon® materials are found on the boom lift and conveyor devices, as well as on suspension lift cylinders. Rulon bearings are ideally suited to the rigors of pineapple harvesting since they resist caustic substances — such as the high sugar acidity of pineapples — that can quickly erode inferior components. And with Rulon®, machine greasing is a non-issue, since these bearings are able to self-lubricate, giving workers more reliable operation while increasing efficiency.

Did you know that TriStar offers the largest Rulon® inventory in the US? And we have an intuitive on-line [selection guide](#) to help you determine the right Rulon material for your application? Or if you need engineering assistance, just [Ask the Experts](#) for a recommendation.

Either way, we encourage you to say Aloha to Rulon® for your next project!

To learn more about the TriStar advantage, visit us at [tstar.com](http://tstar.com).

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#### Ask the Experts!

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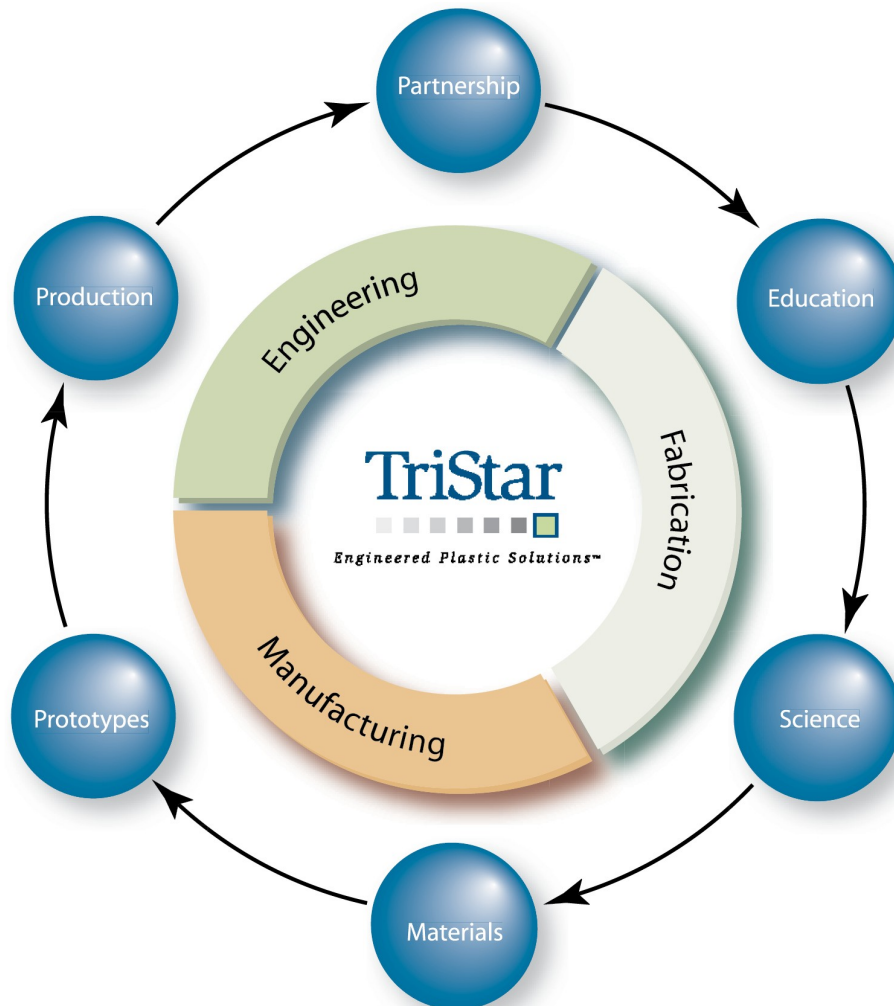


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With engineering and sales offices coast to coast we stand ready to serve you.



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