HOLD FOR MEETING ADEPT-10
August 6, 2026, Committee meeting

AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Amendment Summary Form

Legislation: Bill 98 (2026), AMENDING TITLE 22, MAUI COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PLAN

Proposer: Gabe Johnson, Chair
Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee.

Description: Replaces Bill 98 (2026), with a proposed CD1 version, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 22.03, MAUI COUNTY CODE, FOR A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PLAN," approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

Motion: Move to replace Bill 98 (2026), with the attached proposed CD1 version.

Effect: The CD1 version incorporates the following changes:

1. Amends the Bill's title to identify the new Maui County Code Chapter being established.

2. In proposed Subsection 22.03.010(A), amends the Bill's purpose by replacing the language "for the purpose of ensuring" with "to guide policy towards the goal of ensuring."

3. In proposed Section 22.03.020, adds a definition for "Food security."

Reason: The proposed CD1 version is based on input from the Managing Director and consultation with the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

Attachment: Proposed CD1 version of Bill 98 (2026), approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

adept:ltr:010aasf01:ebm

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 98,CD1 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 22.03, MAUI COUNTY CODE, FOR A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PLAN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. The Council recognizes the following guidance in the Maui County General Plan:

- **Countywide Policy Plan:**

"Diversifying the agricultural industry to improve food security and meet a higher percentage of Maui County's resident-food needs is a priority . . . ."

- **Maui Island Plan:**

"Increase food and energy security through local production and storage."

"Diversified local food production can help buffer our food supplies by reducing our dependency on imported foods."

- **Lānaʻi Island Plan:**

"Ensuring a resilient and sustainable society also requires . . . increasing food security."

- **Molokai Island Plan:**

"Encourage food security through programs and activities to increase the amount of locally grown food in agriculture, permaculture, agroforestry, aquaponics, and traditional Hawaiian farming systems."

This Ordinance codifies the Food and Nutrition Security Plan consistent with the General Plan's guidance.

SECTION 2. Title 22, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"**Chapter 22.03**

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PLAN

Sections:

22.03.010 Purpose
22.03.020 Definitions
22.03.030 Food and nutrition security plan
22.03.040 Plan contents
22.03.050 Plan implementation, updates, online dashboard, and reporting

22.03.010 Purpose. A. This chapter establishes the food and nutrition security plan to guide policy towards the goal of ensuring all Maui County residents have access to food that is affordable, nutritious, and aligns with the cultural practices, beliefs and dietary preferences of the host culture.

B. The plan's goals are:

1. Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production.
2. Increase community access to wild foods.
3. Increase individual and community capacity to remain food secure in times of emergency.
4. Develop innovative programs to increase access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods and lower rates of chronic diseases, especially in rural areas and Pacific Islander communities.
5. Leverage existing institutions, infrastructure, and programs to increase access to nourishing foods with a focus on keiki and kūpuna.
6. Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production.
7. Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption.
8. Protect and expand access to agricultural land.

9. Help producers to navigate regulations and identify how to streamline permitting and remove unnecessary regulations.
10. Improve agriculture infrastructure and establish new facilities to increase capacity and resilience.
11. Increase access to ongoing advancement and supportive resources for producers.
12. Increase farm viability and the viability of agriculture as a sustainable and fulfilling career.
13. Increase market access for local producers and support value-chain coordination.
14. Help food-system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses.
15. Create educational pathways to develop future generations of producers and food-system professionals.
16. Promote food-waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil health.
17. Manage invasive species.
18. Support mauka-to-makai resource-management practices.

22.03.020 Definitions. In this chapter, unless context otherwise requires:

"Director" means the director of management.

"Food security" means having consistent access to enough food to support an active and healthy life.

"Nutrition security" means having consistent access to affordable foods and drinks that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial and ethnic minority populations, lower-income populations, and rural and remote populations.

"Plan" means the food and nutrition security plan approved under section 22.03.030, including any amendments approved under section 22.03.050.

20.03.030 Food and nutrition security plan. Exhibit "A," the "Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan," is adopted, incorporated by reference, on file with the office of the county clerk, and subject to updates approved under section 22.03.050.

20.03.040 Plan contents. A. The plan must provide a clear and practical set of strategies and actions developed with input from the community, agencies, and other public and private partners to increase the County's efforts to enable nutrition security for all residents. The plan must acknowledge the power of local food systems to drive health, cultural connection, and resilience. The plan must incorporate traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge,

culture and practices; include input from a diverse representation of food producers; and outline strategies and set goals to:

1. Ensure all residents have consistent access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods.
2. Support producers and expand food production to create an abundant, self-sufficient food system.
3. Build vibrant local food economies and profitable career pathways for farmers and food-system workers.
4. Promote healthy, resilient ecosystems, and responsible resource stewardship.

B. The plan must advance the general plan's goals, objectives and policies on increasing nutrition security and helping with measurable improvement in the County's food system.

20.03.050 Plan implementation, updates, online dashboard and reporting. A. The director, with all necessary agencies, must manage and help with the plan's implementation, updates and reporting.

B. The director may advise each agency on strategies to put the plan into practice.

C. The County budget and capital improvement program must put the plan into practice.

D. An online dashboard, within 120 days of the effective date of this chapter, must track the progress of the plan's recommendations. The online dashboard must be accessible from the County's website and be updated yearly.

E. The plan must be posted on the County's website.

F. An updated plan must be submitted to the county every five years for approval by ordinance."

SECTION 3. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

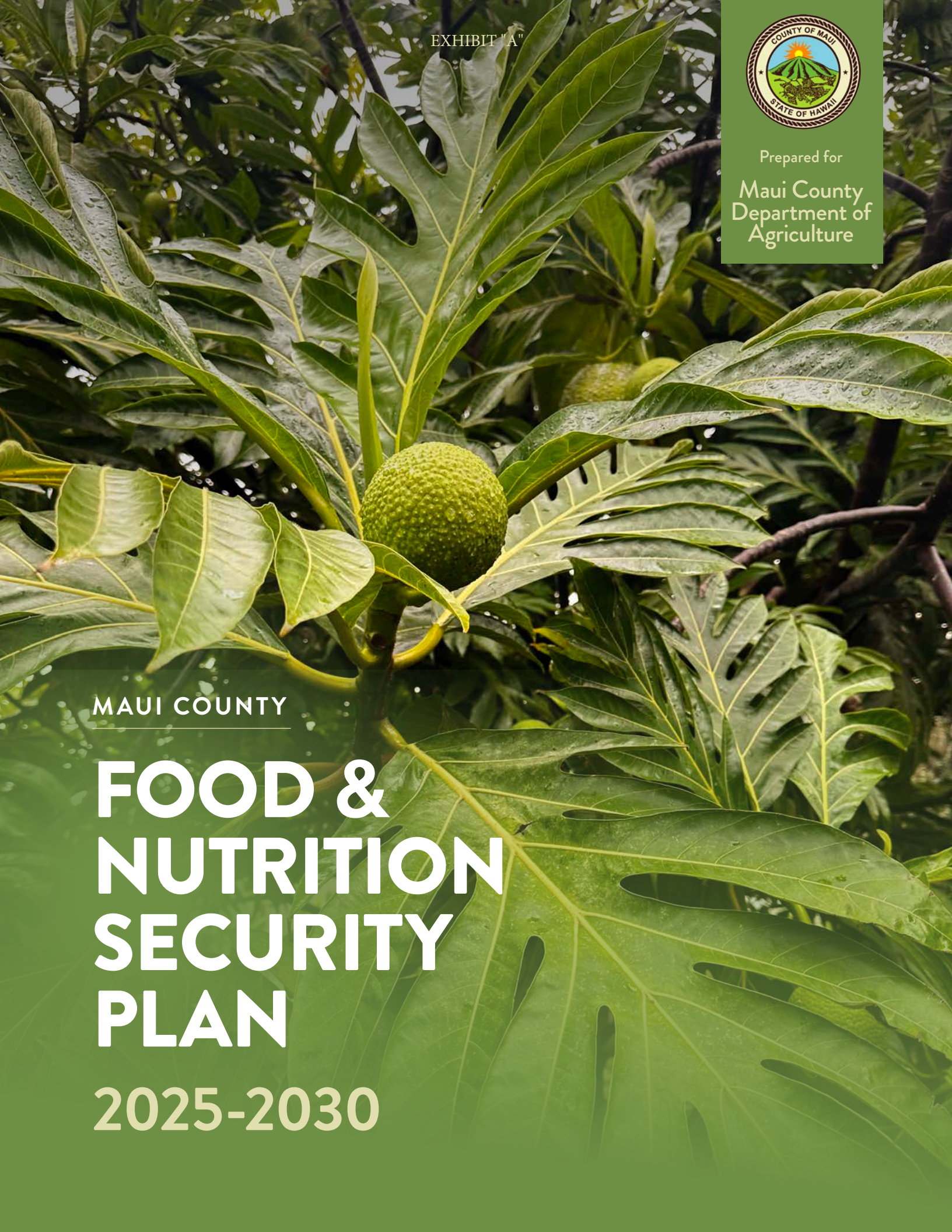
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Nahulu Nunokawa
Deputy Corporation Counsel
Department of the Corporation Counsel
County of Maui
LF2026-1140
2026-08-04 Bill 98 Food Security Plan (26-215a)

INTRODUCED BY:

GABE JOHNSON

EXHIBIT "A"



Prepared for

Maui County Department of Agriculture

MAUI COUNTY

FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY PLAN

2025-2030

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Objective 2.5: Improve agriculture infrastructure and establish new facilities to increase capacity and resilience

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Foreword

Photo: Kali Arce

Food insecurity is a painful reality for too many across Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi, the three islands that make up our beloved Maui County. This issue is worsened by our food system's dependence on imports, which makes us vulnerable to environmental disasters, political shifts, and other interruptions to our food supply. Challenges to food and nutrition security will continue as climate change worsens and our cost of living, already one of the highest in the world, continues to increase.

Environmental disasters affect us all, but they hit some communities much harder than others. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the August 2023 Maui fires resulted in tragedies and losses across Maui Nui that continue to impact so many of our residents. These events made it clear we need to develop a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system that draws from the traditional ʻike and stewardship practices that once made our islands' food system so bountiful.

Supporting local agriculture and increasing food access are key to achieving this goal and are intimately entwined with community health and nutrition, as well as economic prosperity for our islands. We must cultivate a more sustainable and self-sufficient community food system, which includes how we produce, process, prepare, market, and distribute food, as well as handle waste management.

Improving Maui Nui's food system will take great intention and effort, but we trust that many hands can make light work of this journey. A collective of voices from across Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi drives the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan. It is an action-oriented and goal-driven invitation to join us in strengthening Maui Nui's food system.

– Kali Arce, *Maui County Director of Agriculture*

Here in Hawai'i, I've noticed many in our communities have become so removed and disconnected from our relationship to our natural resources and traditional food systems. The long term effects of that are directing us toward some of the highest risks to our overall health and well-being.

Many of Hawai'i's health statistics show us gearing in the direction of effectively normalizing heart disease, diabetes, obesity and other diet-related diseases. Access to nutrient-dense, culturally significant foods plays a critical role in the health of our community. The statistics are beyond concerning and it forces us to look at why, and how we came from a place known for its intimate connection to its land and food system to a place highly at risk of severe food insecurity.

In the Hawai'i of old, the whole social and political system was built around our relationship to our land, natural resources, and the food that we consumed on a daily basis. It was an everyday commitment to acknowledge and respect, with the deepest gratitude, that which feeds us. There was no separation between what we ate and who we are. It is that clear and distinct interconnection to nature that shaped our behavior, therefore interweaving our mindset to care for our place that we live, so our place where we live may care for us. In traditional Hawaiian understanding, we recognize that we are the reflection of our environment and our environment is the reflection of us, our actions, and behaviors.

For too long our relationship to our food has been severed, underprioritized, and underrepresented. Access to nutritional, multi-culturally significant foods needs to be once again brought to the forefront and prioritized within our local governing structure and our overall community. Here in the County of Maui's Department of Agriculture, through our Food and Nutrition Security Plan, we make a commitment to step back and remember our relationship to our food system. We also acknowledge and commit to taking more careful steps toward building back our relationship with our environment, our multi-cultural communities, and the many hands that cultivate our very existence. It's a small step for us but a much-needed step for those yet to be born. E ola mau na hua, e ola ka honua — long live the seeds and long live the earth.

– Koa Hewahewa, *Maui County Deputy Director of Agriculture*

Photo: Koa Hewahewa

Acknowledgements

The creation of this plan was guided by the dedicated staff of the Maui County Department of Agriculture, whose mission is to support the development and continued management of a sustainable regional agricultural system for Maui County, to promote resident and ecosystem health and well-being and create a thriving circular agro-economic system.

We share our deepest gratitude for our food producers, emergency food safety net providers, and food system workers for their dedication to feeding our community and protecting and stewarding our ʻāina and kai.

The Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan would not have been possible without these individuals and organizations:

- The 900+ Maui County residents who shared their time and local food system knowledge
- The 46 action leaders who have committed to carrying out this plan
- Kamanani Conklin and the New Venture Advisors team for supporting this plan throughout data synthesis, drafting, writing, and multiple phases of community feedback
- Kelsey Ige for her invaluable talent developing the graphic design for the plan and brief, as well as creative illustrations and data visualizations
- The Maui Nui Food Alliance (MNFA) Steering Committee and the MNFA Food System Subcommittee who guided the creation and drafting of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan. MNFA members Suzanne Fields, Rosemary Gutierrez-Coarite, Tita Hartman, Lehn Huff, Tehani Kaalekahi, Hauʻoli Kahaleuahi, Kelly King, Scott Lacasse, Negus Manna, Kai Pelayo, Lauryn Rego, Phyllis Robinson, and Michele Weinhouse who contributed to an in-depth review of the plan
- Lauren Nelson and the Maui County Department of Agriculture for supporting the plan throughout its development, writing, and implementation
- Alice Liu, Roella Foronda, and the Hawaiʻi Public Health Institute for their indispensable insight and guidance throughout this process
- The development of this Maui County Food & Nutrition Security Plan was supported by funding from Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food Systems Together initiative (THFST). THFST was born out of a project to inform food systems planning in Hawaiʻi with support from The Hawaiʻi Institute for Sustainable Community Food Systems at the University of Hawaiʻi – West Oʻahu and Hawaiʻi Public Health Institute
- The Hawaiʻi Department of Health SNAP-Ed Program and Nuestro Futuro Foundation for their support in providing funding for the Maui Nui food system needs assessments and community meetings including the talk story sessions and the Maui Nui Food Summits
- Jacquelin Varela, Kamanani Conklin, Kat Morgan, Jinmo Oh, Shalonda Bowden, and Michael Chase for their work to develop and conduct the Maui Nui Food System Needs Assessment, which provided the foundational data for the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan
- The Maui Nui food system leaders who facilitated the Community Talk Story Sessions
- Noelani Paresa for her analysis of Maui County community plans
- Jaysha Alonzo-Estrada, Erin Matsubara, Leanna Pham, and the University of California Berkeley School of Public Health for developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the plan
- Maui County leaders and the Maui County Council for their support in adopting and prioritizing this plan and its actions

Mahalo nui to everyone who has supported the plan and made this community-led effort possible.

Executive Summary

The Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan was created to ensure that all Maui County residents have access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food. This plan acknowledges the power of our local food system as a driver of health, cultural connection, and resilience, especially for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and aims to facilitate measurable change in our food system by 2030.

Maui County's plan focuses on nutrition security, which is defined as having consistent access to affordable foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial and ethnic minority populations, lower income populations, and rural and remote populations (USDA, 2022). Nutrition security builds on the concept of food security; consistent access to enough food to support an active and healthy life, the goals and strategies outlined in this plan make it clear that nutrition security must be part of a much larger, holistic effort to support local agriculture, food producers, and healthy ecosystems.

Creating this plan has involved over 900 Maui County residents who shared input through community gatherings, surveys, and talk story between 2021 and 2024. Their recommendations generated four high-level goals that focus on distinct yet interconnected parts of the food system:

Goal 1: Ensure all residents have access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods at all times.

Goal 2: Support producers and expand food production to create an abundant, self-sufficient food system.

Goal 3: Build vibrant local food economies & profitable career pathways for farmers & food system workers.

Goal 4: Promote healthy, resilient ecosystems & responsible resource stewardship.

Within each goal are multiple objectives, opportunities and barriers in that part of the food system, and actions, specific policies and programs to achieve those objectives. Community leaders, including local non-profits, small businesses, and government-supported projects, who have committed to supporting the plan's implementation are listed as Action Leads.

The Maui County Department of Agriculture will oversee the advancement of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan's goals through ongoing coordination with the Action Leads. The Department will publish an annual update on the plan's progress and its evolution.

We believe that a community-driven food system that nourishes ʻāina and eliminates hunger for all Maui County residents is possible for our islands and achievable within our lifetimes.

The Food and Nutrition Security Plan is designed to be dynamic and grow over time, and we invite your ongoing input. Please see the end of the plan for more information on how to get involved or offer feedback. We look forward to working together to build a brighter food future for Maui Nui.

Illustration: Kelsey Ige

Understanding Our Food System

What is a food system?

A food system includes all the activities and resources that go into producing, processing, distributing, marketing, and consuming food and managing food waste. It involves people, policies, and infrastructure as well as the environmental, economic, and social factors that influence how food is produced and distributed. Thinking about food from a systems perspective helps us understand the interdependent parts and dynamics of this system – its actors, interactions, feedback mechanisms, and boundaries – and identify strategic opportunities for transformation.

Traditional and Indigenous understandings, like the Native Hawaiian concept of ʻāina, offer a deeply relational understanding of the food system. ʻĀina, often translated as "that which feeds," encompasses both the land (including fisheries) and the people they nourish. This concept emphasizes a symbiotic relationship between humans and the environment, suggesting that caring for and respecting ʻāina leads to greater abundance and sustainability for all beings.

The food system intersects with many other community priorities, such as promoting health, supporting cultural practices, and addressing the impacts of climate change. A just and sustainable food system ensures that all people have access to nutritious and culturally relevant food, supports the livelihoods of those who produce food, and preserves the health of the environment for future generations.

Photo: Kali Arce

Why Plan for Food Systems?

A food system plan is a strategic framework that outlines a community's vision for its food system and maps out the steps and stakeholders needed to achieve that vision. Food system plans often include strategies to support agriculture and food security, but may also focus on issues as diverse as composting, fisheries, and fair labor practices in the agricultural and restaurant industries. We can create food system plans that take a long-term view of community needs and priorities to help us coordinate efforts that support them.

Food system planning has not always received the attention it deserves, in part because there is no dedicated "Department of Food" to lead these efforts across all the government agencies and sectors that impact the food system. Yet, food is deeply connected to many critical aspects of community well-being. More local governments and community-led groups are beginning to integrate food system planning into their broader strategic efforts, with a focus on developing sustainable and resilient food systems.

Why does Maui County need a plan?

Maui County's food system is part of a much larger system that is influenced by global food production, along with federal and state policies. There is much we can do to create a healthier, fairer, and more independent food system. Given the intertwined problems of food and

nutrition insecurity, agricultural production, and climate change, we must coordinate within our communities and act together to create food systems that are healthy, fair, prosperous, and sustainable for all.

Food insecurity is a major issue across the Hawaiian Islands, where nearly half of residents experience serious financial hardship and many lack the time, income, and means to access nourishing food (Aloha United Way, 2024). Rates of food insecurity are substantially higher among some groups in Hawai‘i, including women, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Filipinos, people who are high school educated or lower, and those who have been diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, or depression (Stupplebeen et al., 2020). Those who are more likely to face discrimination and social and economic hardship include racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, rural residents, and veterans. These groups also experience food insecurity at higher rates; worsening inequities and making this a key social justice issue (Feeding America, 2024; Jones, 2024; Cohen, et al., 2020; Singh, et al., 2022).

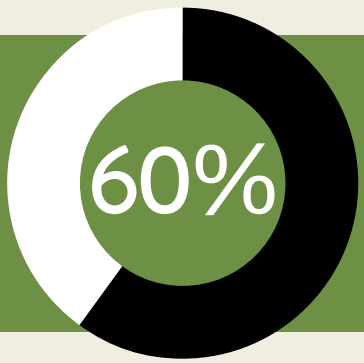
The starkest disparities in food security exist along racial and ethnic lines, education level, and income. For example, across Hawai‘i in 2023:

- 43% of Native Hawaiian, 45% of other Pacific Islander, and 47% of Filipino residents reported food insecurity compared to 27% of white and 21% of Japanese residents
- 46% of residents with high school education or less experienced food insecurity compared to 22% of those with college degrees or higher
- 47% of residents who do not currently drive a car experienced food insecurity compared to 27% of those who currently drive
- 71% of residents whose households made less than $24,999 experienced food insecurity compared to 34% of households with $50,000-$99,999 in income and 15% of households with $100,000 or more in income (Hawai‘i Food Bank, 2023).

As inflation and cost of living increase, Maui County residents face greater challenges in affording food and accessing healthy diets. Prior to the August 2023 fires, Aloha United Way (2022) found that over half of residents did not earn enough money to afford the basic cost of living. The Maui Together Wildfire Assessment (Grove, 2024) found 60% of residents had recently cut back on food and groceries for personal financial reasons and due to being short on money, an increase from the 54% who needed to cut back during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Improving food security isn't possible without also improving housing security, financial security, climate, and ecological security. Maui County residents have the highest rent costs in the nation, and 53% of residents spend more

Despite their resilience, our communities face greater challenges in affording food and accessing healthy diets.



of Maui County residents recently cut back on food & groceries for financial reasons, such as being short on money.

Photo: Viola Gaskell (left), Cadencia Photography for Feeding Hawai'i (right)

than 30% of their income on rent and utilities (UHERO, 2024). In 2023, one-third of Maui County residents, including half of residents affected by the August 2023 fires, experienced food insecurity (HFB, 2023). Additionally, rural communities face significantly more health challenges than urban residents (UHERO, 2024). The Lānaʻi Community Food Assessment (2018) and the East Maui Community Food Assessment (2022) both highlight the resiliency of Maui County's rural communities and the supply chain challenges that impact community food access and market access for rural producers.

Food Security

When all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The four essential components of food security are:

- **Availability:** Is the physical supply of food sufficient?
- **Access:** Can people actually obtain the food?
- **Utilization:** Are people able to eat and benefit nutritionally from the food they have?
- **Stability:** Are people prepared to remain food secure in the face of environmental, financial, political, or social shocks and stresses?

Nutrition Security

Consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial and ethnic minority populations, lower income populations, and rural and remote populations (USDA, 2022).

How this Plan was Created

Developed in collaboration with over 900 community members, including farmers, ranchers, fishers, hunters, foragers, educators, and public health professionals, the Food and Nutrition Security Plan was shaped by diverse voices and experiences across Maui Nui.

Photo: Viola Gaskell

Individuals shared input through community gatherings and surveys between 2021 and 2024, and through two rounds of community feedback on the plan in the fall of 2024, including:

- Maui Nui 2021 Virtual Food Summit, Maui Nui 2022 Food Summit, and Maui Nui 2023 Food Summit
- Hawai'i Good Food Alliance 2021 Farmer Needs Assessment
- Maui County Department of Agriculture 2022-2023 Food Producer Needs Assessment
- Maui Nui Food Alliance 2023 Food Supply Assessment
- May to July 2023 Maui Nui Food Security Assessment
- Maui Food Bank's 2022 Food Bank and Pantry Assessment
- Maui Nui 2023 Consumer Needs Assessment
- Spring 2024 Community Talk Story Sessions
- September 2024 community feedback survey and public meetings on the first draft of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan
- January 2025 community feedback and public meetings on the second draft of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan

The plan was also informed by a desk review of Hawai'i nutrition, food system, and agriculture data and studies from the last 10 years and a comparative analysis of this plan's objectives with the Maui County Community and Island Plans, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), the Maui County Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, Aloha+ Challenge Actions, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

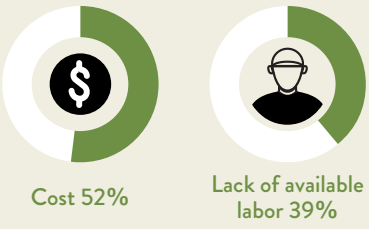
Maui Nui 2022-2023 Food System Needs Assessment Findings

To inform the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan with timely, Maui County-specific data, the Maui County Department of Agriculture and the Maui Nui Food Alliance conducted a Food System Needs Assessment in 2022 and 2023.

The Assessment aimed to identify current strengths and assets in the food system and examine the issues that prevent Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi from having a food supply that is self-sufficient, secure, and sustainable. Key findings from the Producer, Supplier, Consumer, and Food Security Needs Assessments include:

Producer Needs Assessment

The Maui County Food Producer Needs Assessment surveyed 70 Maui County food producers, including 12 from Lānaʻi, 18 from Molokai, and 40 from Maui. These producers shared the **top challenges they faced in getting their product to market:**



The producers surveyed also identified the following **top needs for the agriculture sector in Maui County:**

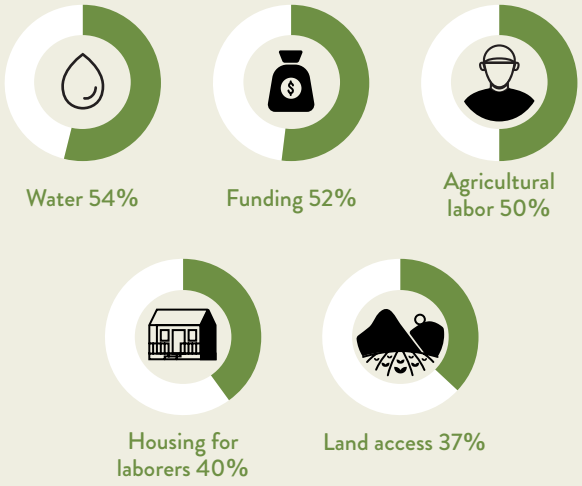


Photo: Viola Gaskell, Illustrations: Kelsey Ige

Food Supplier Assessment

The Food Supplier Assessment surveyed five food distributors in Maui County, who identified the **top challenges preventing them from sourcing more locally grown food:**

- Consistent availability (40%)
- Price (20%)
- Quality (20%)
- Difficulty in coordinating delivery and transportation (20%)
- Cultural appropriateness of crops (20%)
- Needing funding for more employees (20%)

The food distributors surveyed also ranked **their organization's top challenges:**

- Customer awareness of their product (60%)
- Supply costs (40%)
- Supply chain shortages (40%)
- Availability of raw ingredients (20%)
- Availability of qualified employees (20%)
- Access to commercial kitchens (20%)
- Funding (20%)

Consumer Needs Assessment

The Maui Nui Consumer Needs Assessment surveyed 97 Maui County residents, including 22 from Lānaʻi, 8 from Molokai, and 67 from Maui in December 2023.

96% of Maui Nui Consumer Needs Assessment respondents shared that they wished their grocery store offered more local foods, including:

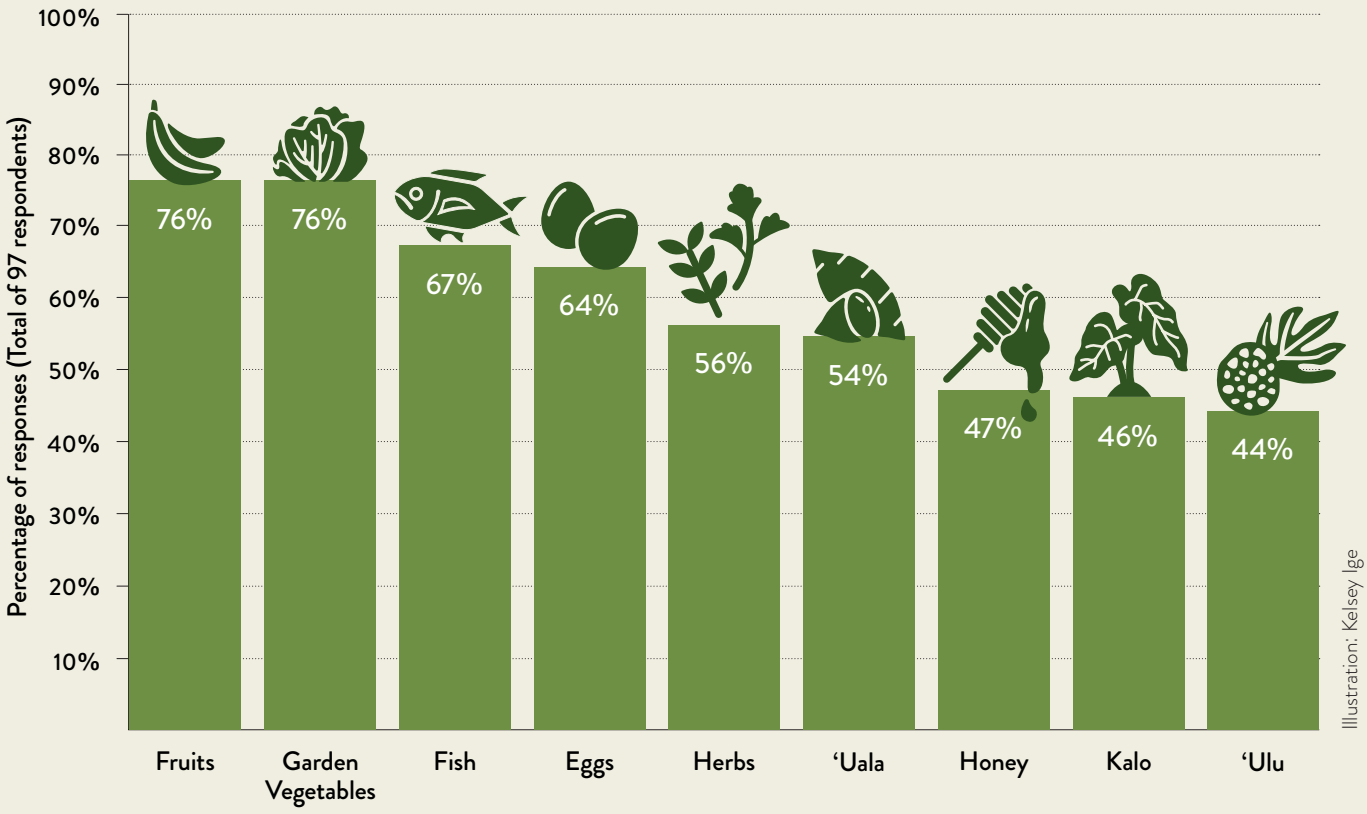


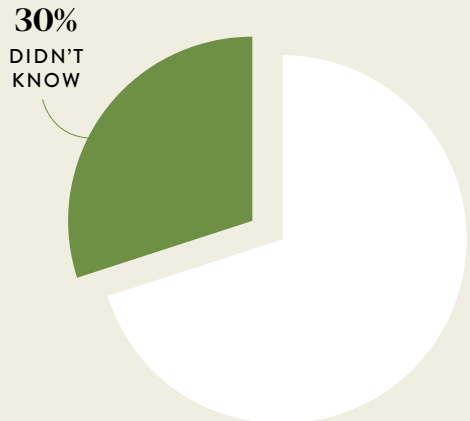
Illustration: Kelsey Ige

Photo: Kali Arce

The Maui Nui Consumer Needs Assessment surveyed respondents' emergency preparedness. Thirty percent answered that they did not know that the government of Hawai'i recommends that all individuals have a two-week supply of food and water on hand at all times in case of emergency. Fifty-five percent of respondents reported that they had a two-week supply of food and water on hand in case of emergencies.

Emergency Preparedness

Did you know that the Government of Hawai'i recommends that all individuals have a two week supply of food and water on hand at all times, in case of emergency?



Food Security Assessment

In June and July 2023, the Maui Nui Food Alliance surveyed 200 Maui County residents who had experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months. The Food Security Assessment was advertised through fliers in the Maui Food Bank's food box distribution.

92% of respondents said high and/or rising food prices had a major impact on their ability to access healthy food. It is likely this issue has only worsened since the August 2023 fires

Overall, survey respondents identified food prices, being declined or not qualifying for food assistance programs, food availability, the process of applying for food assistance programs or knowledge of food assistance programs, and time to prepare and cook nutritious meals as the largest barriers to getting locally grown, nutritious food to eat. Lack of affordable housing and low wages are also known barriers to food security and healthy food access.

Countywide & Regional Priorities from 2024 Community Talk Story

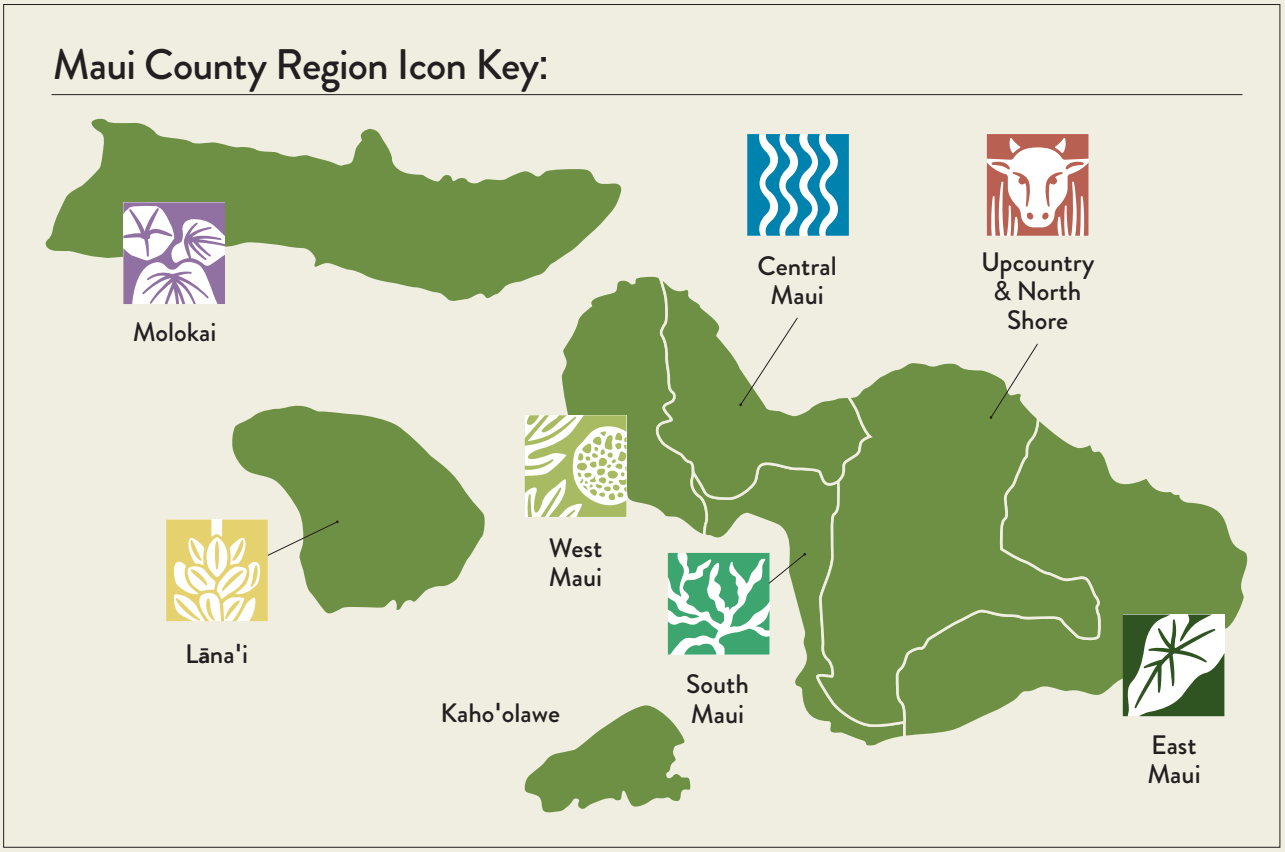


Illustration: Kelsey Ige

In the spring of 2024, the Maui County Department of Agriculture hosted Community Talk Story Sessions in the 7 major residential areas of Maui County. Members of the public were invited to explore and discuss the food system needs assessment findings, presented at each session, and to share insights, concerns, and opportunities that would form the basis of the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan. Each session included time for structured questions and open-ended discussions about Maui County's food system needs. The talk story participants included a wide variety of residents, including farmers, educators, emergency food system organizers, chefs, students, and kūpuna.

Talk Story participants prioritized the following needs and solutions for their region, listed below in order of priority:

West Maui

Virtual session via Zoom: 9 participants

- Increase amount of local food available in West Maui stores
- Local composting options for residents
- Plant fruit trees; rebuild Lāhainā as a food forest
- School gardens at each school
- Address invasive species, axis deer
- Need long term housing for our displaced community

East Maui

Helene Hall, Hāna: 27 participants

- Food aggregation facility with certified kitchen for the community and cold storage
- Support with overcoming restrictive waste water requirements and high water rates
- Increase access to housing
- Local slaughterhouse and meat processing
- Farm to School and Farm to Cafeteria
- Youth education programs, such as Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke's Mahele Farm
- Prioritize and protect our ocean resources ("it's half our food system")
- Community self sufficiency ("we fill in the gaps")

Lānaʻi

Lānaʻi Filipino Clubhouse: 25 participants

- Farmer education about companion planting and what to plant with bilingual translators
- Commercial kitchen
- Need agricultural supplies on island
- Increase food storage on island
- Agriculture in the classroom; educate the younger generation about food sustainability
- Develop pathways for farmers to be able to make a living full time
- Need slaughterhouse to support local protein production
- Improve healthy food access to help address diet-related diseases

Central Maui

Kahului Community Center: 20 participants

- Affordable housing
- Grant writing support for farmers
- Agriculture education programs
- Address deer and invasive species
- Improve water management
- Regional composting
- Community processing centers
- Community gardens
- Prioritize our endemic ecology and watersheds

South Maui

Kīhei Community Center: 7 participants

- Integrate agriculture in the classroom and curriculum
- Water storage, such as capturing stormwater to prevent flooding
- Re-establish our endemic ecology, mauka to makai
- Regional and household food storage
- Expand Farmers Markets to encourage fresh food access

Molokai

Mitchell Pauole Community Center: 19 participants

- Education on ʻāina; each place has different kuleana and teaches different customs
- Involve youth in food system education
- Build workforce pipelines on Molokai to build skilled laborers and support locally-owned businesses
- Increase access to housing
- Host a Food Summit on Molokai
- Support traditional subsistence practices
- Overcome regulations, including fishing bag limits ("we want to do things legally and keep people safe, but the wait times to get approval are limiting")

Upcountry

Hannibal Tavares Community Center: 26 participants

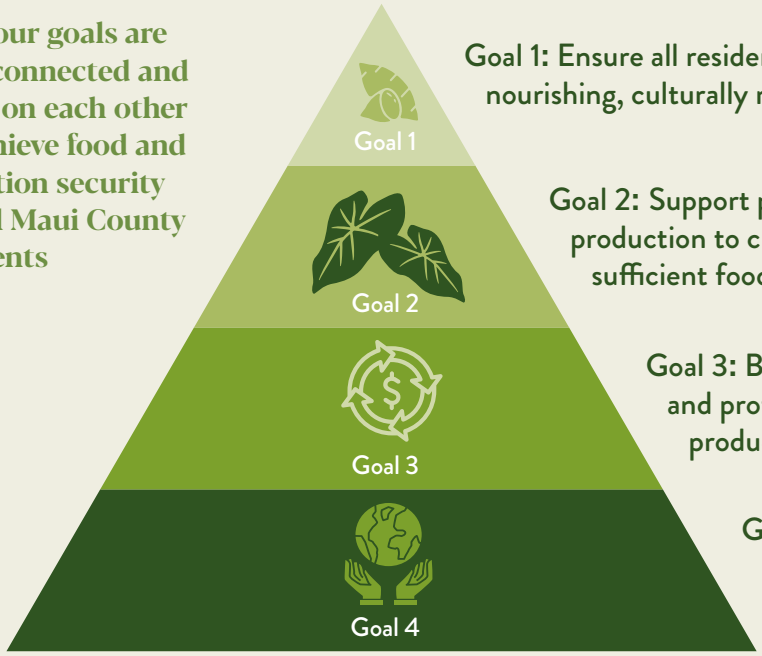
- Housing for farmers and farmworkers
- Water management and improved water access for farmers
- Increase diversity of foods available through the Food Bank, with options for people with different dietary needs
- Leasing State-owned land for agricultural use at low rates
- Enforcement for ag-zoned land
- Control of invasive species, especially deer
- Fire suppression, especially through managing wattle and eucalyptus

How to Read the Plan

This plan lays out strategic recommendations to improve nutrition security, climate and emergency resilience, and opportunities for local food producers within Maui County from 2025-2030.

The recommendations are organized into four broad goals that focus on different parts of the food system. The goals are interconnected and interdependent. Goal 4 is foundational to all of the goals, which build on each other to make it possible for Goal 1 to become a reality for our islands.

The four goals are interconnected and build on each other to achieve food and nutrition security for all Maui County residents



Goal 1: Ensure all residents have access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods at all times

Goal 2: Support producers and expand food production to create an abundant, self-sufficient food system

Goal 3: Build vibrant local food economies and profitable career pathways for producers and food system workers

Goal 4: Promote healthy, resilient ecosystems and responsible resource stewardship

Through the talk story sessions and food system needs assessment, the community identified the following themes to help guide the planning process:

- Prioritize getting local food to local people
- Support traditional Native Hawaiian food systems and foodways
- Recognize and use food as a pathway to improve health and quality of life
- Reduce dependency on imports
- Prioritize long term, equitable solutions
- Mālama ʻĀina (care for the land, seas, and that which feeds us)
- Support kūpuna (elders)
- Support keiki (children) and young families
- Support our rural communities in Hāna, Molokai and Lānaʻi
- Support Ridge to Reef resource management practices

Each goal includes the following:

- **Objectives:** Specific targets that focus on community-identified opportunities and barriers in that part of the food system.
- **Actions:** Specific policies and programs to achieve those objectives.
- **Action Leads:** Community-based organizations, local businesses, and government agencies who have committed to leading progress on a specific action. Action Leads have programs or initiatives they can build on in order to complete the actions in this plan.

Goals → Objectives → Actions

Throughout the plan, the following icons are used to show whether an action is a policy, program, or advocacy item:

Icon			
Description	A policy (public or internal) that county agencies or elected officials can put in place.	A program that county agencies or community-based organizations can develop.	A change requiring longer term community advocacy and coalition-building.

Within each goal, the objectives are listed in order of their importance to Maui County residents, as determined by a September 2024 prioritization survey. The Regionally Prioritized Objectives on page 37 lists each region's top objective for each goal. While the plan is intended to support the entire county, understanding the objectives that are most important to different communities will support community partners in prioritizing and implementing the plan.

Within each objective, the actions are listed in approximate order of when they will be implemented. Actions that have already been initiated and are supported by resources are listed first within each objective. The community leaders, organizations, and businesses who have already initiated work on a particular action or committed to implementing that action are listed as an **Action Lead.** The plan also notes where Action Leads have not yet been identified.

The development of the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan considered Maui County's existing community plans, the County of Maui= Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, Climate Action Resiliency Plan strategies, and the Aloha+ Challenge Actions and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Appendix A lists the existing community and state targets that are supported by each of the plan's objectives, demonstrating how specific actions to support the food system can also support priorities in areas such as community development, economic growth, climate resilience, cultural preservation, and sustainability.

Goal 1: Ensure all residents have access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods at all times.

Objective 1.1: Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production

Action 1.1.1: Establish and support regional community gardens in urban areas. ***Action Lead: Grow Some Good***

Action 1.1.2: Expand educational programs that support home gardening and homestead farming, including those that focus on seed saving and soil fertility. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Seed Saving Network, Sust'āinable Molokai***

Action 1.1.3: Expand tree, cultivar, and seed distribution programs. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, E kūpaku ka 'āina***

Action 1.1.4: Address existing homeowner association regulations that restrict residents from growing food crops. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Photo: Angie Diaz for Feeding Hawai'i

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Objective 1.2: Increase community access to wild foods

Action 1.2.1: Advocate for community-informed policies that support subsistence fishing and aquatic harvesting as part of the non-commercial food economy. ***Action Lead: The Nature Conservancy***

Action 1.2.2: Support Community-driven efforts to manage nearshore areas, and support communities at various stages of developing and proposing place-based regulations and management actions. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 1.2.3: Support educational programs for subsistence gathering, plant identification, and wild food preparation and cooking. ***Action Lead: Sunny Savage***

Photo: Daniel Torobekov

Action 1.2.4: Partner with Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to address regulations that limit local communities' access to aquatic resources. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.2.5: Offer additional educational programs on fishing, cooking, fish cleaning and handling, and 'opihi rest areas and harvesting techniques to ensure plentiful growth for future generations. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 1.2.6: Support limu restoration and limu management areas, such as a Kula Kai Limu Management Area for limu manauea and limu līpoa and Hāmākuapoko Limu Management Area for limu wāwae'iole. Support educational opportunities, including Hāna Limu Festival, for kūpuna to share knowledge with 'ōpio on responsible limu harvesting practices and protection of rare limu varieties. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 1.2.7: Increase access to hunting areas and the resources needed to hunt successfully and responsibly. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife***

Action 1.2.8: Offer education and skills development programs for young and beginning hunters and fishers. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources*** (***DLNR-DAR***)

Action 1.2.9: Collaborate with local fishers and community members to improve harbor infrastructure and security. Identify and support opportunities for responsible beach access and parking for night fishing. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Photo: Maui Food Bank

Objective 1.3: Increase individual and community capacity to remain food secure in times of emergency

Action 1.3.1: Provide educational classes on food preservation and storage methods. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Master Food Preservers***

Action 1.3.2: Create a Maui County Emergency Feeding Plan with specific actions and implementation leaders for each region. ***Action Lead: Maui Emergency Management Agency, Maui Emergency Feeding Taskforce, Sust'āinable Molokai, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.3.3: Establish emergency food stores in each region of Maui County and increase cold and dry storage capacity at food pantries to improve food access and resilience during emergencies. ***Action Lead: Maui Emergency Management Agency, Maui Emergency Feeding Taskforce, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.3.4: Implement public campaigns to increase awareness of emergency food supply needs. ***Action Lead: Maui Emergency Management Agency, Maui Emergency Feeding Taskforce, Sust'āinable Molokai, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.3.5: Facilitate the Maui Emergency Feeding Taskforce to coordinate Maui County's emergency feeding partners' emergency preparedness and response. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

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Photo: Lauren Nelson

Objective 1.4: Develop innovative programs to increase access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods and lower rates of chronic diseases, especially in rural areas and Pacific Islander communities

Action 1.4.1: Support educational programs to encourage healthy eating on a budget, focusing on local produce, culturally relevant foods, and cooking classes that connect farm to plate. ***Action Lead: Grow Some Good, Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Mālama I Ke Ola***

Action 1.4.2: Support gleaning organizations and models to get food that people grow at home to local markets and food assistance. ***Action Lead: Common Ground Collective***

Action 1.4.3: Implement food as medicine and Produce Rx Programs. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.4.4: Establish a Keiki Produce Prescription Program. ***Action Lead: Maui Food Bank***

Action 1.4.5: Support the establishment of more fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, and farm stands, especially in rural areas. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.4.6: Provide meal planning and cooking classes for preventing or managing chronic diseases utilizing culturally relevant foods, in multiple languages or with interpreters. ***Action Lead: Mālama I Ke Ola, Maui Nui Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coalition***

Action 1.4.7: Establish community gardens for kūpuna with programs to support intergenerational knowledge sharing. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coalition***

Action 1.4.8: Create community fridge programs to increase neighborhood-level access to fresh, healthy food. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

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Photo: Kali Arce

Objective 1.5: Leverage existing institutions, infrastructure, and programs, including those funded by USDA, to increase access to nourishing foods with a focus on keiki and kūpuna

Action 1.5.1: Expand Farm to Food Bank purchasing to increase residents' access to locally grown and raised products. ***Action Lead: Maui Food Bank***

Action 1.5.2: Help producers obtain compliance to sell to the Hawai'i State Department of Education to expand student access to local, culturally relevant foods. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.5.3: Support retailers and farmers market vendors in accepting SNAP, DA BUX and WIC. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture, Maui Hub, Hāna Farmers Market, Sust'āinable Molokai, Lāna'i Farmers Market***

Action 1.5.4: Increase SNAP participation for eligible residents by increasing awareness of available programs; supporting individuals with the application and recertification process. ***Action Lead: Project Vision***

Action 1.5.5: Address the summer and school break meal gap through the 'Ai Holo School Break Meal Delivery Program, summer feeding programs through DOE, and Summer EBT. ***Action Lead: Maui Food Bank***

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Action 1.5.6: Enhance healthy food access for youth through school-based food pantries, from preschool through college, Aloha Backpack Buddies, and healthy Keiki Cafe snack programs. ***Action Lead: Maui Food Bank***

Action 1.5.7: Align public transportation routes and schedules with key food access locations, including grocery stores, farmers markets, and retailers who accept SNAP, DA BUX, and WIC. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Transportation, Maui Economic Opportunity, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 1.5.8: Support enrollment in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and coordinate with market managers to ensure markets can accept SFMNP vouchers. ***Action Lead: Maui Economic Opportunity***

Action 1.5.9: Expand healthy, fresh food access for Kūpuna through the Go Fresh food box program. ***Action Lead: Maui Food Bank***

Action 1.5.10: Expand Kūpuna access to prepared foods, by expanding the capacity of hot meal delivery programs and re-establishing a Food Truck Meal Voucher Program for Kūpuna. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 1.5.11: Leverage Hawai'i Nutrition Center resources to help residents improve their nutrition, through direct education and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) activities, such as cooking skills, food resource management, shopping guides, pictorial food cards, farm to school activities, and information about using SNAP benefits to buy fruit, vegetable, and herb seeds and plants. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Nutrition Center***

Action 1.5.12: Increase WIC participation for eligible residents by increasing awareness of available programs and markets that accept WIC, providing individuals with support in applying and getting recertified. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Healthy Eating Active Living*** (***HEAL***) ***Coalition***

Photo: Viola Gaskell

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Goal 2: Support producers and expand food production to create an abundant, self-sufficient food system.

Objective 2.1: Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production

Action 2.1.1: Protect and support Kanaka ʻŌiwi water rights and usage for mahiʻai. ***Action Lead: East Maui Community Water Authority***

Action 2.1.2: Support and protect actualization of water rights and rejuvenating stream flow for stream-fed communities in Maui County. ***Action Lead: East Maui Community Water Authority***

Action 2.1.3: Utilize the Water Use and Development Plan to identify opportunities for improving agriculture-related water infrastructure. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.1.4: Provide financial support to producers, develop water infrastructure, water storage, and reservoirs for agriculture. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.1.5: Explore strategies to maintain low water rates for producers. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Water Supply, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.1.6: Implement drought policies that recognize the unique needs of the agriculture sector. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Water Supply, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.1.7: Amend County Code to prioritize Upcountry producers for installation of water meters. ***Action Lead: Action Leads: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Photo: Natalia Kokhanova

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Objective 2.2: Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption, with a focus on culturally relevant foods and sustainable protein sources

Action 2.2.1: Build a thriving local plant nursery and seed industry. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Botanical Gardens***

Action 2.2.2: Establish seed and cultivar banks to support preservation and perpetuation of culturally relevant food cultivars. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, E kūpaku ka ʻāina***

Action 2.2.3: Develop a tissue culture lab in partnership with cultivar banks to make disease-free, verified plant material, including kalo, ʻuala, and ʻulu to provide to farmers. ***Action Lead: E kūpaku ka ʻāina***

Action 2.2.4: Host educational community events, including Lā ʻUlu and the East Maui Taro Festival, to celebrate kūpuna crops, their diversity and uses. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 2.2.5: Support production of culturally relevant crops such as ʻulu, kalo, ʻuala, and maiʻa by identifying and establishing institutional purchasing markets. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.2.6: Support development of value-added products to increase the availability of local food, extend shelf life, utilize byproducts, and increase markets for producers. ***Action Lead: University of Hawaiʻi Maui Food Innovation Center***

Action 2.2.7: Support nursery businesses in securing land and make State and County land more available to nurseries. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.2.8: Increase meat processing capacity, focused primarily on axis deer; provide career development and training opportunities for slaughterhouse workers. ***Action Lead: Maui Cattlemen Association***

Action 2.2.9: Subsidize the fees that hunters pay for wild game inspections by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which are required for meat to be commercially sold for human consumption. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Photo: David Nakama

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Objective 2.3: Protect and expand access to agricultural land

Action 2.3.1: Support community access to agriculture parks. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.3.2: Work with DLNR to simplify regulations that complicate access to agriculture infrastructure, including loʻi and loko iʻa, and areas for subsistence gathering and hunting. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture, Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife***

Action 2.3.3: Enforce zoning requirements on agricultural lands to keep those lands in production. ***Action Lead: Maui County Planning Department, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.3.4: Provide support with farm lease transfer and succession planning. ***Action Lead: GoFarm Hawaiʻi***

Action 2.3.5: Protect agricultural leases and ensure their durations are sufficient to support farming and ranching. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Action 2.3.6: Establish a County program to manage and purchase large tracts of land for agricultural use to keep agricultural lands in production. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Action 2.3.7: Identify County and State land that is suitable for farming that can support and sustain canoe crops including ʻulu, niu, and kalo. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Objective 2.4: Assist producers in navigating current regulations and identify opportunities to streamline permitting and remove unnecessary regulations

Action 2.4.1: Increase knowledge and understanding of regulations and requirements and support the training needed to acquire certifications, including food safety and successful inspections. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaiʻi Maui Food Innovation Center, Sustʻāinable Molokai***

Action 2.4.2: Provide support throughout the permit and regulation processes by creating instructional videos and guides to help people complete required forms. ***Action Lead: Maui County Planning Department, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.4.3: Work with Hawaiʻi Department of Health to revise waste water and septic requirements for commercial kitchens. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.4.4: Provide financial support to defray or subsidize the costs of food safety and organic certifications. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

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Objective 2.5: Improve agriculture infrastructure and establish new facilities to increase capacity and resilience

Action 2.5.1: Expand commercial kitchen access, and identify where to develop additional commercial kitchen facilities. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.5.2: Expand key egg infrastructure to wash, pack, chill, and transport eggs. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 2.5.3: Expand cold and dry storage facilities and transportation options, including refrigerated trucks, in each region of Maui County. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 2.5.4: In both rural and agriculture lands, identify essential agriculture buildings that are needed for construction. ***Action Lead: Maui County Planning Department, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.5.5: Establish food aggregation facilities to get more produce to market. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 2.5.6: Establish mobile slaughterhouse units for rural areas that meet USDA food safety requirements. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Photo: Viola Gaskell

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Photo: Viola Gaskell

Objective 2.6: Increase access to ongoing advancement and supportive resources for current producers

Action 2.6.1: Provide ongoing educational outreach, training, and support for existing producers. ***Action Lead: GoFarm Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension***

Action 2.6.2: Support producer mental health and build capacity for mental health resources. ***Action Lead: Seeds of Wellbeing, Hawai'i Farmers Union Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program***

Action 2.6.3: Improve communication channels to share funding and learning opportunities with producers. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 2.6.4: Offer additional farmer education programs, accessible in multiple languages. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

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Goal 3: Build vibrant local food economies & profitable career pathways for producers & food system workers.

Objective 3.1: Increase farm viability and the viability of agriculture as a sustainable and fulfilling career

Action 3.1.1: Increase producers' access to capital, such as through County-supported Agriculture Grants and Microgrants for Small Producers. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.1.2: Increase financial literacy training for producers across Maui County. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Farmers Union Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program***

Action 3.1.3: Provide grant writing support for producers. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 3.1.4: Support producers' access to agricultural inputs and scale-appropriate equipment to enhance productivity. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 3.1.5: Provide down payment assistance and deferred payment assistance loans to support producers in purchasing agriculture land. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Photo: Viola Gaskell

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Objective 3.2: Increase market access for local producers & support value chain coordination

Action 3.2.1: Support producers in accessing markets, marketing, distributing their products, and education on diversifying production. ***Action Lead: Maui Hub, Local Harvest***

Action 3.2.2: Support transportation and collaboration to get small and rural producers' products to market. ***Action Lead: Maui Hub***

Action 3.2.3: Expand local markets for kalo, ʻulu, niu, and other culturally relevant foods. ***Action Lead: Hawaiʻi Taro Farm, Polipoli Farms, Maui Hub, Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative***

Action 3.2.4: Adopt local-first food purchasing guidelines for County agencies and events, such as by setting targets for the percentage of food sourced locally or establishing separate bidding processes for local producers. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Photo: Kari Hagedorn

Action 3.2.5: Promote the Eat Local Maui campaign to encourage residents, grocery stores, hotels, and other large purchasers to prioritize local, sustainable foods in their procurement. ***Action Lead: Eat Local Maui, Project Locavore***

Action 3.2.6: Create an online customer-oriented directory showing where to purchase local food, including a list of farmers markets in Maui County. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.2.7: Support Farm to School efforts to increase the amount of locally-sourced food on school menus. ***Action Lead: Hawaiʻi ʻUlu Cooperative, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.2.8: Train current and future generations of chefs to use, prioritize, and promote local ingredients. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending confirmation*

Action 3.2.9: Develop a pipeline to get axis deer to local markets, especially to food assistance. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Venison***

Action 3.2.10: Develop infrastructure and market incentives to support small scale fishers. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

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Objective 3.3: Assist food system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses

Action 3.3.1: Simplify and align grant applications to make them more accessible to producers and entrepreneurs. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.3.2: Clarify city, county, and state regulations that impact small food businesses, including cottage food laws. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.3.3: Provide entrepreneurship programs and resources to support food and agriculture businesses. ***Action Lead: GoFarm Hawai'i, Mana Up***

Action 3.3.4: Host an incubator for food businesses to get from idea to market in order to grow and scale locally sourced and produced foods. ***Action Lead: University of Hawai'i Maui Food Innovation Center***

Action 3.3.5: Educate value-added producers on packaging options and how to navigate price comparisons and sustainable options. ***Action Lead: University of Hawai'i Maui Food Innovation Center***

Action 3.3.6: When appropriate, encourage forms of agritourism that support agricultural education opportunities for the community that help to connect residents to their food system (e.g., U-Pick operations). ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.3.7: Develop farmer business management resources and services accessible in multiple languages. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Photo: Viola Gaskell

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Objective 3.4: Create educational pathways to develop future generations of producers and food system professionals

Action 3.4.1: Expand partnerships with community, the DOE and other schools to integrate agriculture in the school classrooms, in the community, and on the land to grow a future generation of farmers. Support intersession, after school, and field trip opportunities for students to learn about agriculture careers. ***Action Lead: Grow Some Good, Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke***

Action 3.4.2: Establish more school gardens and garden coordinator positions. ***Action Lead: Grow Some Good, Ma Ka Hana Ka ʻIke***

Action 3.4.3: Increase support for agriculture teachers through the development of curriculum, professional development opportunities, and connection to resources to use in the classroom, such as the STEMWorks tech and curriculum lending library. ***Action Lead: STEMworks***

Action 3.4.4: Provide pathways for agriculture jobs, including career exploration events for middle school and high school students, agriculture internships, and strengthen partnerships between high schools and University of Hawaiʻi Maui College to help students access pipelines to agriculture training and financial support. ***Action Lead: STEMworks***

Action 3.4.5: Offer an agriculture area at DOE career days and an Ag Field Day for middle and high school students. ***Action Lead: STEMworks***

Action 3.4.6: Offer farmer education opportunities to support transition into agricultural work. ***Action Lead: GoFarm Hawaiʻi, Hawai'i Farmers Union Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program, and University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture, Human Resources Cooperative Extension***

Action 3.4.7: Support direct mentorship for producers and expand paid agriculture internship programs. ***Action Lead: STEMworks, Hawai'i Farmers Union Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program***

Action 3.4.8: Host educational community events, including Ag Fest, to celebrate agriculture careers and products. ***Action Lead: Maui County Farm Bureau, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 3.4.9: Identify and partner with kūpuna to develop a community-driven agriculture curriculum. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

Action 3.4.10: Partner with Lawaiʻa, Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources (DLNR-DAR), and other non-profits to create a fishing curriculum to incorporate fishing in the classroom. ***Action Lead:*** *Not yet identified*

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Goal 4: Promote healthy, resilient ecosystems & responsible resource stewardship.

Objective 4.1: Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil health

Action 4.1.1: Establish County-supported regional organics diversion facilities to divert food waste, animal carcasses, and feasible waste stream materials. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Environmental Management Recycling Section***

Action 4.1.2: Expand organics diversion facilities to meet region-specific agricultural needs. Provide products such as wood chips, compost, and soil amendments. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Environmental Management Recycling Section***

Action 4.1.3: Incentivize strategies to boost soil health and support organics diversion, water retention, erosion control and fire prevention, i.e., low or no-till farming, cover cropping, diverse crop rotation, and utilizing resources produced by organics diversion facilities, including compost and mulch. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Environmental Management Recycling Section***

Photo: Kali Arce

Photo: Gerry Ross

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Photo: Mickey Pauole for Feeding Hawai'i

Objective 4.2: Manage invasive species populations

Action 4.2.1: Utilize best management practices at organics diversion facilities to prevent the interregional spread of invasive species. ***Action Lead: Maui County Department of Environmental Management Recycling Section***

Action 4.2.2: Increase plant and animal pest and disease screening at County points of entry to stop the spread of invasive species, including coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch***

Action 4.2.3: Support early detection, response actions, and community awareness and engagement for priority agricultural pest species. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Control, Maui Invasive Species Committee***

Action 4.2.4: Develop an Emergency Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Plan for Maui County. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Maui County Department of Environmental Management Recycling Section, Maui County Department of Agriculture***

Action 4.2.5: Support innovative community strategies to repurpose edible invasive plant and animal species into food, fuel, medicine, and fiber products. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Venison, Sunny Savage***

Action 4.2.6: Expand incentives for hunting and fishing invasive species. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife***

Action 4.2.7: Fund responsible fencing to keep ungulates out of farms while supporting reasonable access for hunters. ***Action Lead: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife***

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Objective 4.3: Support mauka to makai resource management practices

Action 4.3.1: Restore native ecology, plant native trees and shrubs, stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and lessen damage from flooding. ***Action Lead: Maui County Soil & Water Conservation Districts***

Action 4.3.2: When making land management decisions, prioritize the place-based, traditional ecological knowledge of community members living generationally in each ahupua‘a, and normalize the practice of co-hosting community input sessions with local leaders and organizations. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending Confirmation*

Action 4.3.3: Support Community Water Authorities’ efforts to create equitable water usage, restore stream flow for food production, preserve legacy systems, increase efficiency of water infrastructure, and support healthy watersheds to grow water for future generations. ***Action Lead: East Maui Community Water Authority***

Action 4.3.4: Invest in improving traditional fisheries infrastructure and loko i‘a. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending Confirmation*

Action 4.3.5: Support Community Based Subsistence Fishing Areas where appropriate, as determined by community experts in partnership with Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources (DLNR-DAR). ***Action Lead: DLNR-DAR***

Action 4.3.6: Remediate soil and promote landscaping practices that support healthy reef ecosystems. ***Action Lead: Maui Nui Marine Resource Council Reef Friendly Landscaping Certification Program***

Action 4.3.7: Prioritize expansion of R1 water delivery and storage to conserve water resources and reduce injection well pollution to the nearshore environment. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending Confirmation*

Action 4.3.8: Expand grant and technical assistance to accelerate the conversion of cesspools to treated waste water systems. ***Action Lead: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations*** (***WAI***)

Action 4.3.9: Establish riparian and gulch buffers on agricultural lands to stabilize banks and to prevent erosion driven inputs to the ocean. ***Action Lead:*** *Pending Confirmation*

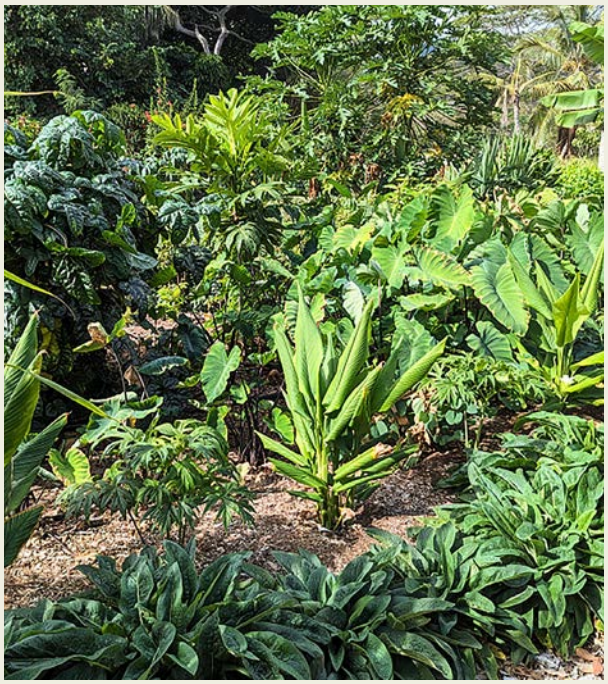

Photo: David Nakama

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Regionally Prioritized Objectives

To ensure the plan was community based and reflective of residents' needs, public input was obtained through two rounds of community feedback.

In September 2024, approximately 200 Maui County residents completed the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan survey, to provide feedback and prioritize the plan's objectives. The survey asked residents to share in which region of Maui County they lived to identify regional priorities. The following table shows the prioritized objectives for each region of Maui County.

Region	Goal 1 Priority	Goal 2 Priority	Goal 3 Priority	Goal 4 Priority
East Maui	Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production and access to wild food.	Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production.	Increase farm viability and the viability of farming as a sustainable and fulfilling career.	Manage invasive species populations.
Upcountry	Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production and access to wild food.	Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption, with a focus on culturally relevant foods and sustainable protein sources.	Assist food system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses.	Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil fertility.
Makawao, Haʻikū & Pāʻia	Support economic security, food affordability, and financial safety nets to prevent poverty and food insecurity, due to rising food prices.	Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production.	Increase market access for local producers & support value chain coordination.	Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil fertility.
South Maui	Support economic security, food affordability, and financial safety nets to prevent poverty and food insecurity, due to rising food prices.	Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption, with a focus on culturally relevant foods and sustainable protein sources.	Increase farm viability and the viability of farming as a sustainable and fulfilling career.	Manage invasive species populations.

Region	Goal 1 Priority	Goal 2 Priority	Goal 3 Priority	Goal 4 Priority
Kahului	Support economic security, food affordability, and financial safety nets to prevent poverty and food insecurity, due to rising food prices.	Protect and expand access to agricultural land.	Increase market access for local producers & support value chain coordination.	Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil fertility.
Waikapu, Wailuku, Waihe'e, Waiehu	Support economic security, food affordability, and financial safety nets to prevent poverty and food insecurity, due to rising food prices.	Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production.	Increase farm viability and the viability of farming as a sustainable and fulfilling career.	Support Ridge to Reef resource management practices.
West Maui	Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production and access to wild food.	Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production.	Increase farm viability and the viability of farming as a sustainable and fulfilling career.	Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil fertility.
Lāna'i	Leverage existing institutions and programs, including those funded by USDA, to increase access to nourishing foods.	Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption, with a focus on culturally relevant foods and sustainable protein sources.	Assist food system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses.	Manage invasive species populations.
Molokai	Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production and access to wild food.	Support producers in navigating regulations and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.	Assist food system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses.	Support Ridge to Reef resource management practices.

Additional Policy Needs

In addition to the county-level actions included in the plan, community members also identified potential policy changes at the state and federal levels that would support this plan's goals and a more just food system for Maui County. These policy needs may fall outside of what this plan's action leaders can directly implement and represent advocacy opportunities for action leaders and allies.

County:

- **Restructure and reallocate taxes:** Revise taxes on food and agricultural inputs, and allocate the County 0.5% surcharge on the state excise tax to fund healthy food access programs.
- **Plan for residential food production:** Encourage dedicated space for community gardens in all new housing developments.
- **Address systemic drivers of food insecurity:** Support economic security, food affordability, and financial safety nets to prevent poverty and food insecurity, due to rising food prices.
- **Support financial literacy and benefits enrollment:** Expand the availability of financial literacy training (i.e., MEO's Senior Club) and integrate support with digital literacy, enrollment in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other public benefits into these trainings.
- **Increase housing affordability:** Support policies that increase access to affordable housing, such as rent control, since food security is not possible without housing security.
- **Provide financial support for local food production:** Develop subsidies for local produce and protein production, including feed subsidies.

Photo: Lauren Nelson

Additional Policy Needs

State:

- **Support SNAP transitions:** Create and fund a program to end the SNAP benefits cliff, with tapering benefits based on income.
- **Support food affordability:** Revise taxes on food and agriculture inputs.
- **Incentivize healthy soils:** Provide State subsidies for cover cropping and other healthy soils practices.
- **Support value-added foods:** Further revise cottage food laws to encourage small makers (i.e., some staple Indigenous foods cannot be processed at home. Baking is permitted and jams, jellies, and sauces are now permitted, but makers cannot sell homemade poi, sundry, or ʻulu flour).
- **Promote a stronger agricultural sector:** Increase the State budget for agriculture.
- **Evaluate agricultural lands:** Develop an updated study of prime agricultural lands to support planning and zoning decisions.
- **Support DA BUX:** Continue state funding for the DA BUX program to match available federal funding.
- **Reduce child and youth hunger:** Fund universal school meals for all Hawaiʻi State Department of Education students.
- **Encourage local sourcing in school meals:** Increase the flexibility of the School Food Service Branch to purchase more local produce directly from small and mid-sized farmers.
- **Support healthy, inclusive school meals:** Launch educational program and retrofit kitchens to support school nutrition staff in preparing meals with more locally sourced, whole food, and culturally relevant ingredients.
- **Enhance distribution infrastructure:** Provide cold storage at all ports and airports to support inter-island shipments.
- **Identify appropriate irrigation management systems:** Ensure responsible irrigation management and affordable water rates for agricultural producers on Lānaʻi, Molokai and Maui.

Federal:

- **Develop more realistic SNAP benefits and guidelines:** Adjust the SNAP benefit amount and income requirements to reflect the cost of living.
- **Increase adoption of organic agricultural practices:** Reduce barriers to organic agriculture, including the cost and challenges of organic certifications.
- **Promote more affordable food transportation:** Exempt Hawaiʻi and all noncontiguous U.S. locations from the Jones Act, and implement shipping rate caps on domestic shippers based on comparable routes.
- **Incentivize healthy food systems:** Implement subsidies to support production of nutritious and sustainable crops.

Photo: Grow Some Good

Implementing the Plan

Amplifying community-based solutions was a core focus of developing the Food and Nutrition Security Plan. This reflects our commitment to making the plan actionable and supporting existing efforts to strengthen our community food system.

The plan will be carried out and co-led by community leaders, including non-profits, small businesses, and government-supported projects working to build a better food system for Molokai, Lānaʻi, and Maui. The Maui County Department of Agriculture (MDOA) will oversee the advancement of the Food and Nutrition Security Plan's goals through ongoing coordination with the plan's action leads.

Monitoring Progress

Each action lead will collaborate with MDOA to develop indicators to measure and monitor each action's progress. These indicators will aid partners in demonstrating the impact of their work to community members, government agencies, potential funders, and others. Recognizing that it can be challenging to secure the resources and funding needed to sustain food system work, the plan also aims to encourage collaboration and communication between action leads. This can support collective grant proposals, which are often more successful and can help bring in additional federal, state, and private resources to benefit Maui County's food system.

Sharing Updates on the Plan

The plan's progress will be communicated in an annual report which will share the status of each action's indicators as well as any barriers impeding success. The annual report will flag the need for additional interventions, collaboration, and resources. The annual report will also describe any changes or additions to the action leads. Annual reports on the plan's progress from 2025-2030 will be shared on the Department of Agriculture's website and at the Maui Nui Food Summit.

The Maui Nui Food Summit is an annual gathering hosted by MDOA and the Maui Nui Food Alliance, where food system leaders – including producers, food businesses, educators, and students from Lāna i, Molokai, and Maui – share solutions and discuss strategies to strengthen food security for our islands. Join the Maui Nui Food Summit to hear directly from the plan's action leads about their work to build food system resilience and nutrition security in Maui County and how to get involved. Information on how to register for the Maui Nui Food Summit will be shared on the Maui County Department of Agriculture's and Maui Nui Food Alliance's websites.

Photo: Kali Arce

How to Get Involved

We all have a role to play in rebuilding a resilient, equitable, and nourishing food system for Maui County. While this plan is designed to encourage collaboration, there are actions we can all take individually and with our families to support a healthier food future for our islands, including:

- Attend community events celebrating food traditions and agriculture, including the East Maui Taro Fest, Lā ʻUlu, and Ag Fest.
- Grow food at home, volunteer at a neighbor's farm, or join a community garden. Share your harvest with Common Ground Collective and the Maui Food Bank.
- Sign up for DA BUX to get 50% off of local produce when shopping with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at participating retailers.
- Shop at farmers markets and food hubs or sign up for a farm box subscription directly with a producer.
- Join the annual Eat Local Maui Challenge to eat 100% local food for a week. Join Project Locavore's Eat Local Maui Facebook group to learn where to locally source ingredients on Maui.
- Become a healthy food system advocate. Join the Maui Nui Food Alliance to influence County-level food policy, and follow Food + Policy, Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau, and the Hawaiʻi Farmers Union for food-focused legislation tracking and updates.
- Advocate for more local food at schools by following and supporting the Hawaiʻi Farm to School Hui.
- Support policies that protect food access and our natural resources to ensure a thriving food system and future for our islands.
- Search HandsOnMaui.com for volunteer opportunities to give back, including volunteering at meal distributions and supporting loʻi restoration.

Interested in supporting an action in the plan?

If you are interested in supporting an action, please connect directly with the action's lead or get in touch with the Maui County Department of Agriculture at agriculture@co.maui.hi.us. You can find action leaders' contact information listed in the Agriculture Resource Directory on the Maui County Department of Agriculture's website. To learn about opportunities to support the plan's actions and advocacy goals, join the Maui County Department of Agriculture's mailing list at tinyurl.com/mauidoalist.

Connect with Us

We encourage you to reach out with any questions or feedback you have about this plan.

Maui County Department of Agriculture

Email: Agriculture@co.maui.hi.us

Website: mauicounty.gov/Department-of-Agriculture

Appendix A: Community Strategy Alignment

The development of the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan considered Maui County's existing community plans, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, Climate Action Resiliency Plan strategies, and the Aloha + Challenge Actions, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This list shows the existing community and state targets that are supported by each of the plan's objectives, demonstrating how specific actions to support the food system can also support priorities in areas such as community development, economic growth, climate resilience, cultural preservation, and sustainability.

Goal 1: Ensure all residents have access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods at all times	
Objective 1.1: Increase community self-sufficiency by supporting home food production	
Community Plans	Hāna; Maui; Makawao - Pukalani - Kula; Molokai, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	N/A
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 5
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption
Objective 1.2: Increase community access to wild foods	
Community Plans	Hāna, South Maui, Lānaʻi, Maui, Molokai, Paʻia - Haʻikū, West Maui.
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our Natural Systems Strategy 5 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 14: Life Below Water; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Natural Resource Management

Objective 1.3: Increase individual and community capacity to remain food secure in times of emergency	
Community Plans	Hāna, South Maui, Lānaʻi, Molokai, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 3 Action 3; Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 2; Secure Our Infrastructure Strategy 1 Action 3, Strategy 3 Action 1, Strategy 3 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Smart Sustainable Communities
Objective 1.4: Develop innovative programs to increase access to nourishing, culturally relevant foods and lower rates of chronic diseases, especially in rural areas and Pacific Islander communities	
Community Plans	South Maui, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture; Healthcare & Wellness
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption
Objective 1.5: Leverage existing institutions, infrastructure, and programs, including those funded by USDA, to increase access to nourishing foods with a focus on keiki and kūpuna	
Community Plans	Hāna, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 1: No Poverty; Goal 2: Zero Hunger
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Smart Sustainable Communities

Goal 2: Support producers and expand food production to create an abundant, self-sufficient food system	
Objective 2.1: Improve water infrastructure and management to support food production	
Community Plans	Hāna, Lānaʻi, Maui, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, Molokai, Paʻia - Haʻikū, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Eco-economy; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 1 Action 2 & Strategy 4 Action 4; Secure Our Infrastructure Strategy 2 Action 1; Secure Our Natural Systems Strategy 3 Action 1, Strategy 3 Action 4
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Goal 13: Climate Action
Aloha+ Challenge	Natural Resource Management
Objective 2.2: Diversify food production and increase the amount of food grown for local consumption, with a focus on culturally relevant foods and sustainable protein sources	
Community Plans	Hāna, South Maui, Lānaʻi, Maui, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, Molokai, Paʻia - Haʻikū, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Agriculture, Land Use, & Natural Resources Strategy 3 Action 3; Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption

Objective 2.3: Protect and expand access to agricultural land	
Community Plans	Hāna, South Maui, Maui, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, Molokai, Paʻia - Haʻikū, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Agriculture, Land Use, & Natural Resources Strategy 3 Action 1; Secure Our People Strategy 1 Action 3
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption
Objective 2.4: Assist producers in navigating current regulations and identify opportunities to streamline permitting and remove unnecessary regulations	
Community Plans	Hāna, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Attainable Housing & Construction; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	N/A
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption
Objective 2.5: Improve agriculture infrastructure and establish new facilities to increase capacity and resilience	
Community Plans	Maui, Paʻia - Haʻikū, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	N/A
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our Infrastructure Strategy 3 Action 7, Strategy 6 Action 2
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption

Objective 2.6: Increase access to ongoing advancement and supportive resources for current producers	
Community Plans	Hāna, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry
Climate Action Resilience Plan	N/A
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Green Workforce and Education
Goal 3: Build vibrant local food economies & profitable career pathways for producers & food system workers	
Objective 3.1: Increase farm viability and the viability of agriculture as a sustainable and fulfilling career	
Community Plans	Hāna, Lānaʻi, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 4
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Green Workforce and Education
Objective 3.2: Increase market access for local producers & support value chain coordination	
Community Plans	Hāna, Maui, Molokai, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 3; Secure Our Natural Systems Strategy 1 Action 1
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Green Workforce and Education

Objective 3.3: Assist food system entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses	
Community Plans	Hāna, Lānaʻi, Molokai, Paʻia - Haʻikū, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 4 Action 4
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Green Workforce and Education
Objective 3.4: Create educational pathways to develop future generations of producers and food system professionals	
Community Plans	Hāna, Lānaʻi, Molokai, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Eco-economy; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture; Healthcare & Wellness; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our People Strategy 3 Action 1
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Green Workforce and Education
Goal 4: Promote healthy, resilient ecosystems & responsible resource stewardship	
Objective 4.1: Promote food waste diversion, composting, and other efforts that reduce waste and improve soil health	
Community Plans	Maui, Molokai, South Maui, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Municipal Strategy 4 Action 1; Waste Strategy 2 Action 3 & Strategy 3 Action 2; Agriculture, Land Use, & Natural Resources Strategy 2 Action 1; Outreach & Education Strategy 1 Action 2
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 13: Climate Action; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Waste Reduction

Objective 4.2: Manage invasive species populations	
Community Plans	Hāna, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, South Maui, Lāna'i, Maui, Molokai, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Attainable Housing & Construction; Healthcare & Wellness
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Secure Our Natural Systems Strategy 1 Action 1, Strategy 1 Action 2, Strategy 1 Action 3, Strategy 1 Action 4
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 13: Climate Action; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Local Food Production & Consumption; Natural Resource Management
Objective 4.3: Support mauka to makai resource management practices	
Community Plans	Hāna, South Maui, Lāna'i, Maui, Molokai, Makawao - Pukalani - Kula, Pa'ia - Ha'ikū, Wailuku - Kahului, West Maui
County of Maui Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)	Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry; Attainable Housing & Construction; Eco-economy; Hawaiian Knowledge & Culture; Science, Technology, Innovation & Efficiency
Climate Action Resilience Plan	Agriculture, Land Use, & Natural Resources Strategy 1 Action 2, Strategy 2 Action 2, Strategy 3 Action 1, & Strategy 3 Action 2; Secure Our People Strategy 6 Action 4; Secure Our Infrastructure Strategy 2 Action 1, Strategy 2 Action 2, Strategy 2 Action 5, Strategy 2 Action 6; Secure Our Natural Systems Strategy 2 Action 4, Strategy 3 Action 1, Strategy 3 Action 2, Strategy 3 Action 3, Strategy 3 Action 4, Strategy 4 Action 1, Strategy 5 Action 2
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 13: Climate Action; Goal 14: Life Below Water; Goal 15: Life on Land
Aloha+ Challenge	Natural Resource Management

Glossary

Agriculture Education: Teaching and learning about the food, fiber, and fuel systems, such as plant and animal production and the environmental and natural resource systems that support them (Future Farmers of America, 2024). Offers students the engaging opportunity to connect to real-life learning in a variety of academic subjects including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), nutrition, food science, Hawaiian studies, language arts, health, social studies, and more.

ʻĀina: Holistic Kānaka ʻŌiwi term for place encompassing landscapes, freshwater systems, and seascapes, inclusive of people. Literally, "that which feeds." (Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food System Together, 2024).

Co-management: In Hawaiʻi, co-management with the state typically involves management responsibilities being shared between communities and the Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR), but DAR retaining final decision-making authority on any fisheries rules created (Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food System Together, 2024).

Community-based Fisheries Management: Community efforts to lead the management of nearshore reef fisheries, generally based on traditional customary systems. Sometimes pursued through co-management with nonprofits or the state Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) (Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food System Together, 2024).

Compost: Hawaiʻi State Law defines compost as "the product of a composting process... in which organic materials are biologically decomposed under controlled conditions to produce a stable, humus-like mulch or soil amendment (HRS §141-16)".

Disaster Preparedness & Response: The measures to be taken to reduce, to the minimum level possible, the loss of human lives and other damage through the organization of prompt and efficient actions of response and rehabilitation (Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food System Together, 2024).

Ecology: A branch of biology that studies the interactions of organisms with each other and their given environments. There are several different types of ecology based on specific levels being studied, such as molecular ecology, organismal/behavioral ecology, population ecology, community ecology, ecosystem ecology (Odum, 1953; Christensen et al., 1996).

Ecological Sustainability: The ability to maintain systems involving complex interactions between individual organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems continuously over time without degrading the integrity of surrounding ecosystems or the organisms they contain. For example, the use of renewable energy sources which harness the abundance of natural resources that cannot be depleted, such as wind, solar, hydroelectric, and biomass (Christensen et al., 1996; DeLonge et al., 2016; National Research Council, 2010).

Ecosystems: Dynamic communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms interacting with their physical environment as a functional unit. (Society for Ecological Restoration, 2023)

Endemic Species: Native species only found in one specific place (e.g., throughout the Hawaiian Islands but nowhere else, or only on Haleakalā) (Transforming Hawaiʻi's Food System Together, 2024).

Farm to School: Defined as the intersection of three elements: 1) school food procurement, 2) nutrition and agriculture education, and 3) school gardens (National Farm to School Network, 2021). Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening local economies, enriching learning experiences, and contributing to vibrant communities (Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together, 2024).

Farm Viability: An individual farm's ability to sustain long-term production and undergo succession, including transferring ownership of assets, operations, and management (MSU Extension, 2022; American Farmland Trust, 2020).

Food Safety: The conditions and practices that preserve the quality of food across the supply chain to prevent the contamination of food by toxic chemicals (e.g., certain pesticides) and the onset and spread of foodborne illnesses (USDA, 2024). Correctly labeling packaged and restaurant foods with known allergens is also an important, though often overlooked, element of food safety (FDA, 2023).

Food Security: When all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The four essential components of food security are:

- Availability: Is the physical supply of food sufficient?
- Access: Can people actually obtain the food?
- Utilization: Are people able to eat and benefit nutritionally from the food they have?
- Stability: Are people prepared to remain food secure in the face of environmental, financial, political, or social shocks and stresses? (Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together, 2024)

Food System Resilience: The capacity over time of a food system to provide sufficient, appropriate and accessible food to all (i.e. food security) in the face of various biophysical, social or economic disturbances (Tendall et al., 2015; Schipanski et al., 2016; Chodur et al., 2018).

Food Waste: Food waste refers to any portion of food not consumed by humans for any reason, post-harvest. This includes unsold retail food, kitchen trimmings, plate waste (food that is served but uneaten), spoiled food, and inedible food portions like peels and rinds. The term food waste may also include post-harvest losses along production and supply chains, such as by-products from food and beverage processing facilities (Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together, 2024).

Health: A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, regardless of disease or ability status (WHO, 1946). The fundamental conditions and resources for health are: peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable ecosystem, sustainable resources, social justice and equity (WHO, 1986).

Health Equity: A state in which everyone has fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health (CDC, 2022).

Hunger: Both a painful physical sensation resulting from a lack of food consumption, and a broader state in which a person does not have the physical and/or financial resources to obtain the food they need (Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together, 2024).

Invasive Species: An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. This is the federal definition of invasive species from Executive Order 13112. Invasive species is a nonregulatory term. The state of Hawai'i has several regulatory designations that are related to but not synonymous with the term, including pest, noxious weed, and injurious wildlife (Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, et al., 2017).

Nutrition Security: Consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations, and rural and remote populations.

There is a high degree of overlap between food security and nutrition security, and the terms "food security" and "nutrition security" are often combined as or "food and nutrition security," which reflects the fact that neither can be achieved without the other. While nutrition security is more complicated to measure than food security, the USDA and other key organizations increasingly recognize nutrition security should be centered in their work (Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together, 2024).

Sustainable Fisheries: Fisheries that harvest seafood in ways that protect the long-term health of fish populations and the ecosystems that support them. This means that the rate and quantity of fish harvested, as well as the methods of harvest and resource management, allow the population to naturally replenish and renew. (Marine Stewardship Council, n.d)

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