



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI

A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Notice of Interagency Food Systems Working Group Meeting

Held via Teleconference with In-Person Viewing Location

Friday, December 19, 2025
9:00am – 11:00am

Pursuant to section 92-3.7, *Hawaii Revised Statutes*, this meeting will be held using interactive conference technology (ICT). Board members, staff, people with business before the Board, and the public may participate remotely online using ICT, or may participate via the in-person meeting site which provides ICT.

Interested people may submit written testimony in advance of the meeting, which will be distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. If possible, we request that testimony be received by our office not less than seventy-two hours prior to the meeting to ensure that staff in time to disseminate it and that Board members have time to review it. Written testimony may be submitted electronically to dbedt.adc@hawaii.gov or sent via U.S. Postal Service, or delivered to:

Agribusiness Development Corporation
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

When testifying via ICT, via telephone, or in-person, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization you represent, if any. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

The public may participate in the meeting via:

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YWNiMjVjNGUtYzk4Ni00OTIxLWI0MGMtYjVINmFmNWJjN2Qx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223847dec6-63b2-43f9-a6d0-58a40aaa1a10%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fd1c10fe-d6de-43c9-9e53-03095feee2da%22%7d

Meeting ID: 292 326 450 321 0

Passcode: kF76wh67

Dial in by phone [+1 808-829-4853](tel:+18088294853), [205945488](tel:+1205945488) United States, Honolulu

[Find a local number](#) Phone conference ID: 205 945 488#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

ICT ACCESS

To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony, please use the link above. You will be asked to enter your name in order to access the meeting as an attendee. The Board requests that you enter your full name, but you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., ****@****.com.

As an attendee, your microphone will be automatically muted. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may click the Raise Hand button found on your Zoom screen to indicate that you wish to testify about that agenda item. The Chairperson or staff will individually enable each testifier to unmute their microphone. When recognized by the Chairperson, please unmute your microphone before speaking and mute your microphone after you have finished speaking.

For ICT and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

Instructions to attend State of Hawaii virtual board meetings may be found online at <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2020/08/State-of-Hawaii-Virtual-Board-Attendee-Instructions.pdf>.

IN-PERSON ACCESS

There will also be one meeting location, open to the public, which will have an audio-visual connection. That meeting will be held at:

Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street 5th Floor, Room 507A
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

For ICT, telephone, and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

LOSS OF CONNECTIVITY

In the event of a loss of ICT connectivity, the meeting will be recessed for a period not to exceed thirty minutes to restore connectivity with all board members and the public in-person access location noted above. In the event that audio connectivity is re-established within thirty minutes without video connectivity, interested participants can access the meeting via the telephone number and Meeting ID number noted above. In the further event that connectivity is unable to be restored within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically continued to a date and time to be posted on the ADC website at <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/adc/> no later than close of business the next

Interagency Food Systems Working Group Agenda
December 19, 2025

business day. New ICT, telephone, and in-person access information will be posted on the website no less than twenty-four hours prior to the continued meeting date. Alternatively, if a decision is made to terminate the meeting, the termination will be posted on the ADC website.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you require special assistance, accommodations, modifications, auxiliary aids, or services to participate in the public meeting process, including translation or interpretation services, please contact staff at (808) 586-0186 or by email at dbedt.adc@hawaii.gov.

Please allow sufficient time for ADC staff to meet requests for special assistance, accommodation, modifications, auxiliary aids, translation, or interpretation services.

NOTE: MATERIALS FOR THIS AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE ADC OFFICE, 235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 205, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 A MINIMUM OF THREE FULL BUSINESS DAYS (WEEKENDS AND STATE AND FEDERAL HOLIDAYS EXCLUDED) PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Agribusiness Development Corporation Non-Discrimination Statement

The Agribusiness Development Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or any other class as protected under applicable federal or state law, in administration of its programs, or activities, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation does not intimidate or retaliate against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in actions protected by, or oppose action prohibited by, 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Agribusiness Development Corporation's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:

Mark Takemoto
Acting Title VI Non-Discrimination Coordinator
235 S. Beretania St., Ste 205 Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-0186
dbedt.adc.titlevi@hawaii.gov

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to an Agribusiness Development Corporation program or activity, you may contact the Acting Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Session Minutes, November 21, 2025
3. Action Items
 - a. Review Act 239 Report Draft
4. Adjourn

The Board may go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to the exceptions provided under section §92-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Interagency Food Systems Working Group Meeting held Virtually on November 21, 2025 Via Microsoft Teams and/or In-Person at No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Room 507 A, Honolulu, HI 96813

Pursuant to section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), this meeting was held remotely with Working Group members, Staff, Applicants, and the Public participating via Microsoft Teams meeting venue, and an InPerson meeting location available for public participation at the No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel Street, Room 507A, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Members Present, in person:

None.

Members Present, virtually:

Dane Wicker, Co-Chair, Designee for DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member James Tokioka (Member Wicker)

Sharon Hurd, Co-Chair, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity

Representative Cory M. Chun, House Designee, House Chair of the Agriculture and Food Systems (AGR)

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Senate Designee, Chair Economic Development and Tourism (EDT)

Members excused:

None.

Staff Present, in person:

None.

Staff Present, virtually:

Keliann Yamamoto, DBEDT Deputy Director Secretary (Ms. Yamamoto)

Guests Present, physical location:

None.

Guests Present, virtually:

Dustin Lee, Representative Chun's Office Manager

Christopher Long

Meg Turner

Dexter Kishida, Department of Transportation, Food Security and Biosecurity Program Manager

Braza, Ram Arnan D

Lydi Morgan Bernal

Carly Wyman

Alexis Chapman, Director of Operations for Hawaii Food Industry Association

Tuki Drake

Rose, Valerie

Amanda (Shaw)

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Alice Liu, Hawaii Public Health Institute, Food Systems Program Manager
Sheryl Shigemasa, Wes Yap, HIDOE Farm to School
Hunter Heavilin, Super Assistance Food System Planner & Hawaii Farmer's Union Advocacy Director
Mark Ladao, Hawaii Public Radio
Joy Kono, Department of Education, Regional Kitchen Planner
Lauren Nelson, Maui Department of Agriculture, Good Access Coordinator
James Twigg-Smith
TK, Ag Stewardship HI

Interagency Food Systems Working Group Meeting #2

Transcript

The Interagency Food Systems Working Group Meeting #2 focused on approving minutes, discussing the framework for future reports, and presenting on food systems coordination. Amanda Shaw highlighted the importance of governance, decision-making, and resource identification. Hunter Heavilin emphasized the need for data-driven planning, including international trade, inter-island commerce, and retail price analysis. The group discussed the role of exports in resilience, the importance of local food purchasing initiatives, and the need for updated data to inform agricultural strategies. They also explored collaboration opportunities to enhance federal grant applications and improve local food security. The Interagency Food Systems Working Group discussed strategies to increase local food production, extend shelf life, and improve resiliency. Key points included leveraging state and county resources, such as facilities and equipment, to enhance agricultural capabilities. The group emphasized the importance of data sharing and federal grants to support local procurement. They highlighted the need for crop commodity maps and land use strategies to balance agricultural, energy, and housing projects. The discussion also covered the potential use of biotax funds for infrastructure and programs, and the necessity of annual reports to track progress towards mandates like Act 151 and Act 175.

Action Items

- [] Provide links to county-level food system plans and submits to the co-chairs.
- [] Submit suggestions for additional guests or presenters to the D-BED.ADC@hawaii.gov email.
- [] Explore opportunities to leverage county-level agricultural liaisons and food system coordinators to improve coordination.

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- [] Investigate resources needed to update and improve agricultural data collection and reporting.
- [] Identify successful models of local food procurement and aggregation (e.g., Maui DOE) and explore replicating them statewide.
- [] Consider using bio-tax funds to support infrastructure and program investments for a resilient food system.

Outline

Approval of Minutes and Meeting Introduction

- Co-chair Wicker calls the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., noting the presence of co-chair Hurd and member Representative Chun.
- Approval of minutes is motioned by Co-chair Wicker and seconded by co-chair Hurd.
- Co-chair Wicker mentions the meeting will be recorded and asks for any changes or revisions to the minutes.
- Motion to approve the minutes is passed unanimously.

Agenda Overview and Presentation Preparation

- Co-chair Wicker outlines the agenda, including presentations by Amanda Shaw and Hunter Heaivilin.
- Emphasis on the need for a report that summarizes the state's needs and key inputs for food systems.
- Discussion on the importance of state and county-level inputs, including land, irrigation, and facilities.
- Co-chair Wicker suggests inviting additional guests or presenters for future meetings and submitting their names via email.

Amanda Sharon's Presentation on Food Systems Coordination

- Amanda Shaw introduces herself and her role with Agriculture Stewardship Hawaii.
- Overview of Act 239 and its six dimensions: governance, decision-making, operating protocols, coordination, resources, and implementation plans.
- Discussion on the importance of measuring progress and analyzing policy impacts.

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- Examples of other states' coordination efforts, including Vermont's marketplace initiative and New Mexico's unique structure.

Challenges and Opportunities in Food Systems Coordination

- Amanda Shaw discusses the constraints and possibilities of being a working group under the Hawaii Sunshine Law.
- Importance of thematic grouping for focused discussions on issues like workforce, housing, and irrigation upgrades.
- Consideration of standing committees and permitted interaction groups to involve non-board members.
- Discussion on the need for formation committees to workshop governance and decision-making processes.

Coordination with County and Community-Led Organizations

- Amanda Shaw highlights the importance of coordinating with county and community-led organizations.
- Mention of existing food access coordinators and agricultural liaisons in various counties.
- Discussion on the need for regional coordination and the potential for regional food security working groups.
- Importance of identifying resources and funding for food systems initiatives.

Hunter Heaven's Presentation on Value Chain Coordination

- Hunter Heavilin introduces himself and his firm, Super Assistance.
- Overview of his research on food system resilience in Hawaii and the importance of value chain coordination.
- Discussion on the need for market intelligence tools to understand trade, inter-island commerce, and retail prices.
- Examples of international trade dashboards and inter-island commerce maps to inform market understanding.

Implementation Pathways and Data Gaps

- Hunter Heavilin discusses the importance of understanding land use and water resources for agricultural planning.

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- Need for comprehensive statewide maps of irrigation coverage and detailed data on inter-island trade.
- Discussion on the importance of coordination mechanisms like the produce information exchange.
- Examples of successful coordination efforts with food hubs, counties, and food banks.

Resilience Metrics and Dual Circulation Approach

- Hunter Heavilin emphasizes the need for resilience metrics in addition to efficiency metrics.
- Discussion on the importance of export mechanisms for reorienting local production to feed the population in case of disruptions.
- Importance of supporting both large-scale and small-scale operations to maintain a diverse and resilient food system.
- Introduction of the dual circulation approach, combining domestic and international circulation to support local production and exports.

Feedback and Questions from Attendees

- Co-chair Hurd comments on the importance of differentiating between conventional and organic produce in price data.
- Jamie discusses the potential for a local feed industry to support local beef production and improve resilience.
- Chris highlights the importance of having local processing capabilities for grains and other commodities.
- Discussion on the need for collaboration and data sharing to improve chances of winning federal grants.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Co-chair Wicker summarizes the key points from Hunter Heavilin 's presentation, including the importance of data and the need for updated information.
- Emphasis on the need for collaboration between the state, counties, and federal agencies to support food systems initiatives.
- Discussion on the importance of aligning resources and infrastructure investments to support sustainable economic development.

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- Co-chair Wicker thanks the attendees and outlines the next steps, including preparing the initial report and inviting additional guests for future meetings.

Commodity Coordination and Scaling Up Production

- Co-chair Wicker discusses the role of the commodity coordinator in reconciling current production capabilities and the need for farmers to scale up production.
- If farmers cannot scale up, the group will consider importing the difference, which is a policy call.
- The Department of Education (DOE) template is used to increase purchasing, and the general public can apply similar strategies.
- Emphasis on the need to update and upgrade data resources and the importance of dietary changes, especially among youth.

Resiliency and Infrastructure Development

- Co-chair Wicker highlights the importance of resiliency, especially during natural disasters, and the need for better infrastructure to support provisional aid.
- The state and counties can help by providing facilities and equipment to extend the shelf life of food and reduce reliance on MREs or the Department of Defense (DOD).
- Successful examples from the hotel industry in procuring locally are mentioned, and the need to replicate these models throughout the state.
- Maui is noted for its progress in purchasing local food, and the importance of studying and replicating these systems is emphasized.

Aggregate Facilities and Federal Grants

- Co-chair Wicker talks about the need for aggregate facilities for food hubs and small farmers to sell directly to clients like the Department of Education, state jails, and hospitals.
- The potential for federal grants is discussed, but the need for state funding to support these initiatives is highlighted.
- The idea of redirecting bio-tax funds to pay for infrastructure and programs is proposed, emphasizing the importance of building a case for these resources.
- Hunter Heavilin inquires about opportunities for data sharing to address gaps in information, particularly from the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

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Resilient Relief Fund and Data Collection

- Hunter Heavilin discusses a draft from last year that proposed a resilient relief fund using barrel tax money to support local purchasing during disruptions.
- The importance of having cash to support food banks and the need for a rapid deployment of funds is emphasized.
- Hunter Heavilin raises concerns about the declining barrel tax due to less dependency on carbon-based fuels and the need to factor this into planning.
- Co-chair Wicker acknowledges the need to balance mandates with the declining revenue streams and the importance of exports as a potential solution.

Building State Resources and Federal Uncertainty

- Hunter Heavilin shares an example of the impact of federal grant cancellations, emphasizing the need to build up state resources for reliability.
- Co-chair Wicker calls for a last call for questions or comments before moving on to review accomplishments and activities.
- The overall group's role in solving mandates related to agriculture, food production, and institutional purchasing is discussed.
- The importance of land use strategies and the need to layer these strategies to address capacity and scale are highlighted.

Land Use and Energy Projects

- Co-chair Wicker discusses the importance of understanding land use for agricultural production and the potential coexistence of energy projects.
- The need for crop commodity maps and data to identify productive lands for commodities and livestock is emphasized.
- The role of the Hawaii State Energy Office and other entities in driving mandates related to energy and housing is discussed.
- The importance of overlaying GIS data for potential energy projects and the need for policy calls to prioritize agricultural land is highlighted.

Housing Development and NIMBY Concerns

- Co-chair Wicker discusses the need for housing development and the potential impact on agricultural land.



**AGRICULTURE
STEWARDSHIP**

HAWAI'I

Supporting Local Farms and Food Systems
From the Ground Up Since 1997

Exploring Act 239 Options and Considerations

Amanda Shaw, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator

November 2025



Background

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1341

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 27, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 1186, S.D. 2,
H.D. 3, C.D. 1

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.
ACT 239

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Establishes statewide interagency food systems coordination team & working group housed within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Leadership: Co-chaired by DBEDT & Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB), supported by ADC, with legislators and invited experts to be invited by co-charirs.

Purpose: Build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system; reduce imports; improve food security.

Tasks: Governance protocols, county/community coordination, communications, funding, implementation plans, policy analysis.

Funding: \$100,000 (FY 2025–26) + annual reporting to Legislature.

Act 239: Key Provisions

1. Developing governance, decision-making, and operating protocols;
2. Coordinating with county and community-led organizations that are involved with food systems planning;
3. Identifying resources to support interagency food systems coordination and implementation efforts;
4. Developing internal and external communication processes;
5. Creating time-bound implementation plans and ways to measure progress toward statewide food systems goals; and
6. Utilizing policy impact analysis tools to evaluate proposed actions.





Learning from Other States

THFST Plan Bank



- **Vermont: Farm to Plate** - measurable statewide plan - linked to more than \$11.3 billion in food system economic output, supporting 64,000+ jobs and 11,500+ farm/food businesses
- **New Mexico: Food Charter** - food access, sovereignty, infrastructure, institutional purchasing through Economic Development Department's Food, Hunger & Agriculture Program and New Mexico Farmer's Marketing Association
- **Los Angeles** - focus on equity, recovery, urban ag - LA county also hosts a Office of Food Systems, an official partnership agreement between Los Angeles County and local philanthropic organizations.
- Other states/cities reviewed: Colorado, Iowa, Washington, Nevada, Maryland, New York City, North Carolina, South Carolina, San Diego, Virginia, California, Oregon, New England, Rhode Island, Seattle, Colorado, and New Hampshire.

1. Developing governance, decision-making, and operating protocols

- Membership: HDOA, DBEDT, Legislature, invited experts - appointment and/or nomination process
- **Hawai'i Sunshine Law** (HRS Ch. 92) governs *how* boards meet and make decisions (open meetings, notice, testimony, minutes, etc.), but it **does not itself set the voting threshold** (simple majority, supermajority, unanimous, consensus, modified consensus etc.).
- Standing committees (SCs) versus permitted interaction groups (PIGs)
 - PIGS can include non-board members; SCs cannot
 - SCs require separate agendas
 - others?
 -
- “Formation” committee or group used in some states (e.g. Colorado)



Thematic Grouping Options

Different versions by context but many include:

- 1) Local Food Purchasing & Infrastructure
- 2) Farmer & Producer Support
- 3) Food Access & Nutrition Security
- 4) Resilience, Equity & Circular Economy
- 5) Next Generation
- 6) Regional Coordination



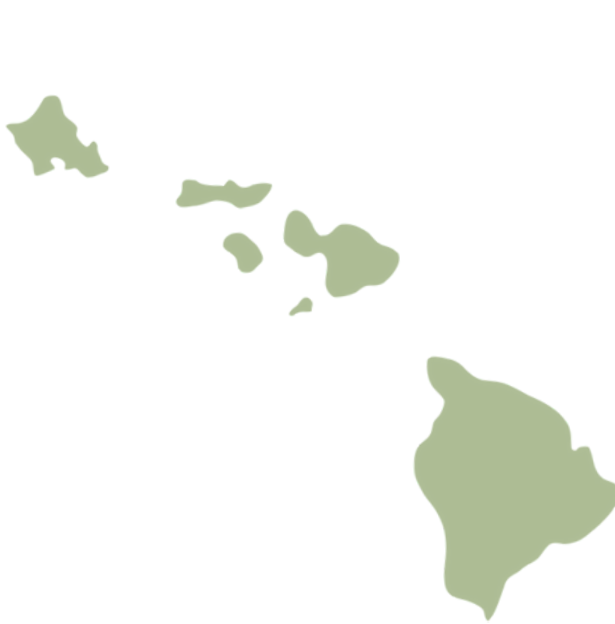
2. Coordinating with county and community-led organizations that are involved with food systems planning



- Mapping county and community partners - **existing county & community food systems plan as guides**
 - agriculture departments, food access coordinators and agricultural liaisons (HDAB), planning departments, public health departments, economic development offices, procurement, county emergency management+
 - THFST has lists of community-based organizations



- Possible Ways to Participate
 - 1) reflect in board structure - some places do regional reps
 - 2) Invite in existing liaisons or assign new ones to attend and provide updates
 - 3) attend and/or submit written or oral testimony at meetings - information, data, or community stories and offer subject-matter expertise on key topics.
 - 4) Review and comment on draft reports or policies.
 - 5) Encourage others in communities to engage.



3. Identifying resources to support interagency food systems coordination and implementation efforts

- 1) State and county budget appropriations
 - Green Fee, Barrel tax, CWNL fund etc.
- 2) Cost-sharing MOUs through agency partnerships - partner agencies commit staff time and in-kind resources (data, meeting space, technical assistance)
- 3) Federal grants e.g. LAMP grants (especially FMLFPP and LFPP), Local Food Promotion, and Regional Food System Partnerships; Sentinel landscape, REPI and DOI WATERSMART opportunities.
- 4) Philanthropic partners locally and nationally e.g. Better Food Policy Fund, through SAFSF and RFSI.



4. Developing internal and external communication processes

- Internal Communications options:
 - Shared workspace (document repository) within existing government file systems.
 - Share message board/chat spaces
 - common project tracking systems
 - support for Co-Chairs to connect on developing agendas.
 - Standard operating templates (agenda, action log, MOU templates).
- Stakeholder Communications
 - Public webpage or dashboard
 - updates in existing newsletters & email listserv.
 - Annual report
 - Media outreach and success storytelling



5. Creating time-bound implementation plans and ways to measure progress toward statewide food systems goals

- Options:
 - Utilizing funds to develop the plan internally or externally.
 - Utilizing PIGs or standing committees - with support pulling together across themes.
 - Learning from counties - what worked and didn't work for them
- Tracking progress

Objective	Label	Value	Target
Obj 1.1	Local Food in Institutions	6%	2030 → 30%
Obj 1.2	System Resilience	20%	2035
Obj 1.3	Local Consumption	10%	2050 → 30%
Obj 2.1	Prevent Worsening	100%	2029
Obj 2.2	Reduce Food Insecurity	33%	2040 → 23%
Obj 2.3	Kupuna Crops Access	15%	Ongoing



2026	Governance, land assessment, procurement engagement
2027	Cold storage, local purchasing, resilience programs
2028	Market linkages, expanded operations
2029	Diversification, resilience, climate readiness
2030	Consolidation & scaling, 5-year evaluation



6. Utilizing policy impact analysis tools to evaluate proposed actions.

- Policy assessments and applied research
- Regulatory Impact Assessment - cost/benefit analysis
- Economic Impact Modeling - jobs, income, multiplier effects
- Equity/Social Impact Assessment - impacts on communities
- Paʻakai analysis and AAEF policy analysis tools





Questions & Takeaways



1

Different models,
different trade offs &
constraints

2

Learning runways &
start-up thinking

3

Track impact - and
impact builds trust

4

Coalitional thinking - folks won't
all agree all the time

5

Remembering we're in it for the
long haul

6

Individually we know a little -
together we know a lot



Mahalo

amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org

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- The importance of developing homes next to farms or ranches and addressing NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) concerns is emphasized.
- The need for data to identify what is imported and what can be scaled up locally is reiterated.
- The balance between importing and scaling up local production is discussed, with a focus on the low-hanging fruit and policy calls to address the remaining needs.

Accomplishments and Future Plans

- Co-chair Wicker reviews the accomplishments to date, including efforts to meet mandates related to food production and institutional purchasing.
- The need for ongoing reports and the potential establishment of subcommittees in 2026 is discussed.
- The importance of having two meetings in December to review and finalize the report is emphasized.
- Lydi Morgan Bernal introduces a new role in the Hawaii Department of Education and expresses interest in joining the conversations around farm-to-school programs.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

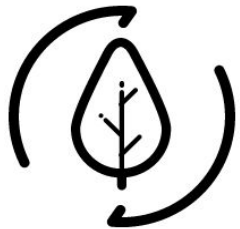
- Co-chair Wicker thanks the presenters and participants and discusses the next steps for securing meeting dates in December.
- The importance of adding names to the working group list and sending emails to be included is highlighted.
- Co-chair Hurd wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and the meeting concludes with no further questions or comments at 10:46 a.m.

Advancing Hawai'i's Food System Resilience & Value Coordination

...

Hunter Heaivilin
Hunter@supersistence.org

Nov 21, 2025
Act 239 Interagency Food Systems Working Group



SUPERSISTENCE

Integrated Approach to Implementation

Momentums

- Years of data digging and tinkering, perpetual PhD
- Discussions with DBEDT/ADC on data tools, commodity coordination
- Present: Exploring coordinated approaches to legislative mandates

Today

- I: Coordination Infrastructures
- II: Resilience Portfolio Approach
- III: Implementation Pathways

Part I: Coordination Infrastructures

...

Connecting the Value Chain

Roles of Value Chain Coordination

Primary Roles



Market Matchmaking



Providing Technical Assistance



Convening Stakeholders



Innovating and Catalyzing New Ideas

Systems Enabling Roles



Resource Prospecting



Policy Advocacy



Research, Assessment and Education



Fostering and Maintaining Relationships



Facilitating Accountability and Negotiation

(Rocker, 2019)

Market Intelligence Systems






Import Analysis Dashboards

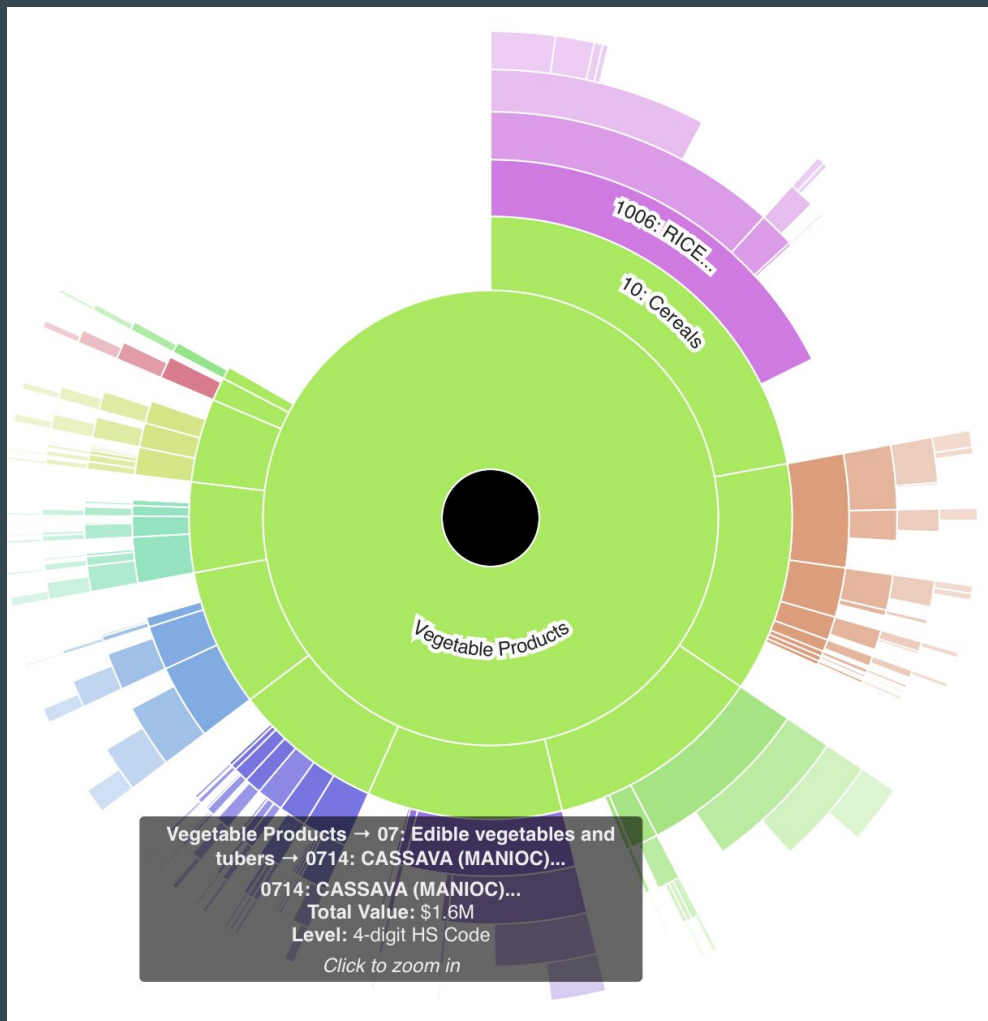
- Near-time tracking: Product volumes, source countries, seasonal patterns
- Opportunity identification: Local production gaps and market potential
- Examples identified:
 - Cassava: 500k+ lbs imported, easily cultivable locally
 - Coconuts: Zero exports, 500k+ imports
 - Value-added processing opportunities at Wahiawa facility

USDA Integration Opportunities

- Farm-to-School Data: 3 states receive federal support for local purchase calculations
- Hawaii Status: Verifying DOE participation in national systems
- Benefits: Outsource data processing, access to standardized reporting, national comparison metrics

Global Food Relations

-  Interactive Trade Dashboard
Monthly import/export trends with responsive charts
-  Commodity Search & Analysis
-  Sunburst Visualization
-  HS Code Hierarchy Browser
-  Hawaii-Specific Insights - Key products like coffee, macadamia



Global Food Relations

- Country
- Region
- Product
- Seasonality

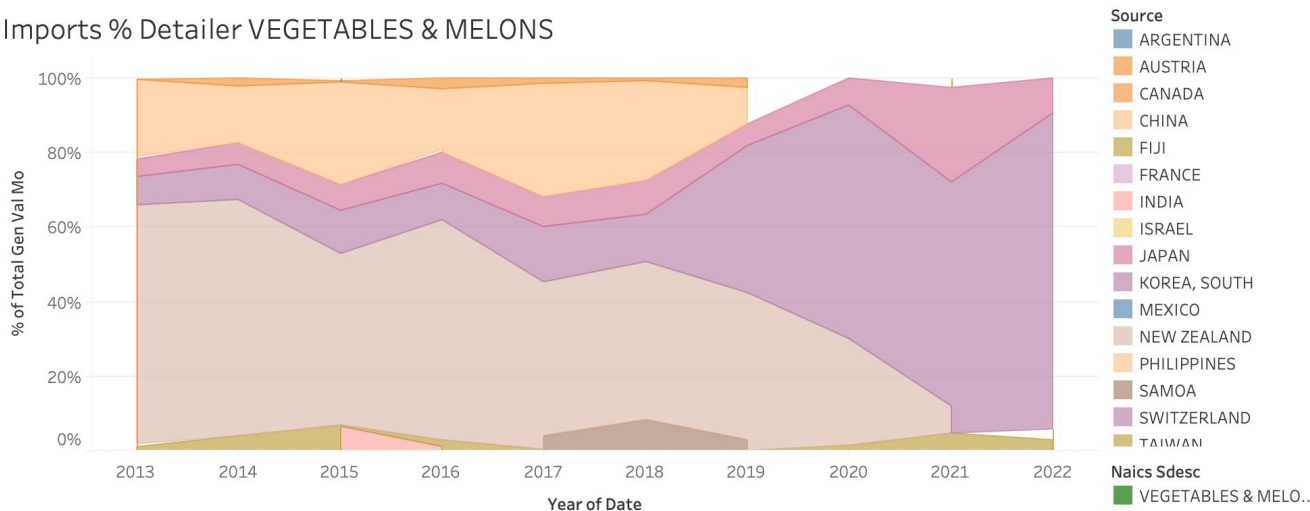
Aggregation Level
○ Subsector
● Industry Group

Products
VEGETABLES & MELONS

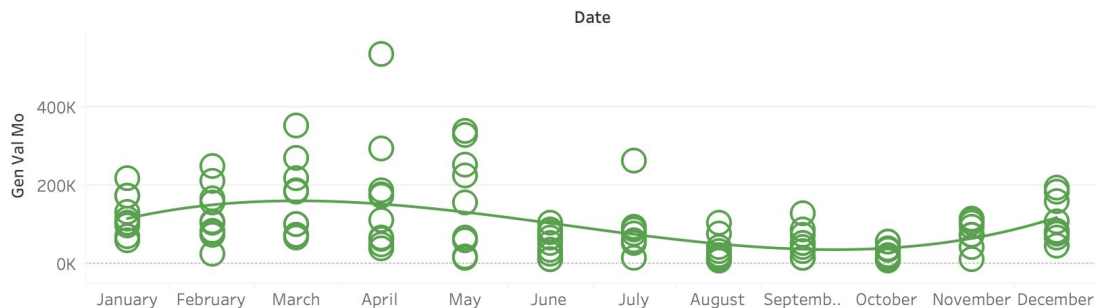
Source Aggregation
○ Global
○ Region
○ Trade Area
● Country

Source Detail
All

Imports % Detailer VEGETABLES & MELONS



Imports Seasonality VEGETABLES & MELONS



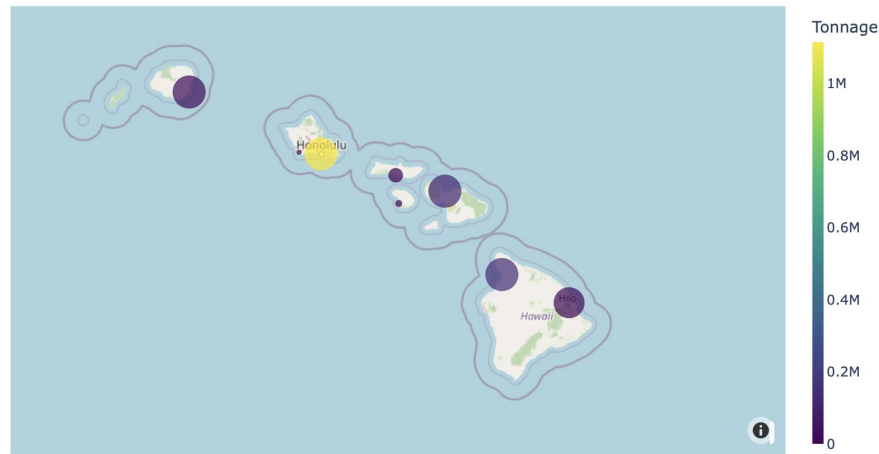
Island Movements

Waterborne commerce across Hawai'i's commercial ports

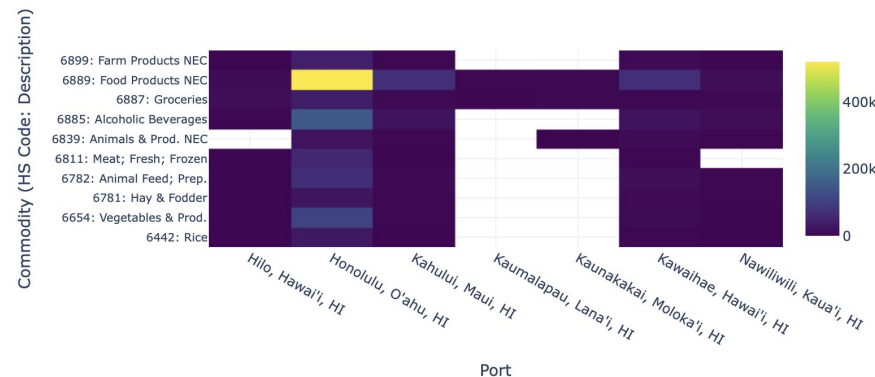
- Interactive map of ports with tonnage overlays
- Commodity heatmaps and category breakdowns
- Sankey diagrams showing inbound/outbound flows
- Year-by-year analysis with filters (commodity, report type, traffic section)
- Geospatial layers for port statistical areas and facilities

portcommerce.supersistence.org/

Port Locations



Commodity Details



Near-Time Retail Sale Price Tracking System

Current Capabilities

- Weekly retail price sale data
- Organic vs conventional price tracking
- Historical trend analysis and API integration
- Decision support for farmer market viability

Value for Commodity Coordination

- Market validation for production plans
- Price discovery for farm planning
- Import substitution analysis based on viable price points

foodprice.supersistence.org

USDA Weekly Food Price Report								
Region	Community	Commodity	Variety	Size	Avg price	Store count	Prior WK avg price	Prior WK store count
Hawaii	Vegetables	Asparagus	 GREEN	per lb	\$7.45	4	\$7.45	4
Hawaii	Vegetables	Broccoli	CROWN CUT	per lb	▲\$3.49	23	\$1.99	2
Hawaii	Vegetables	Brussels Sprouts	N/A	2 lb bag	\$7.76	4	\$7.76	4
Hawaii	Vegetables	Cabbage	ROUND GREEN TYPE	per lb	\$1.19	33		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Carrots	BABY PEELED	1 lb bag	▲\$2.49	7	\$1.79	3
Hawaii	Vegetables	Carrots	N/A	per lb	▲\$1.39	3	\$0.99	2
Hawaii	Vegetables	Cauliflower	N/A	per lb	\$2.59	3		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Corn-Sweet	N/A	trays 4-5 ears film wrapped	\$4.59	23		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Mixed Mini Sweet Peppers	N/A	1 lb package	\$5.19	3		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Onions, Green	N/A	per bunch	\$0.59	2		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Pumpkins	 PIE TYPE	per lb	\$2.32	4		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Squash	 Acorn	per lb	\$2.32	4		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Squash	 Butternut	per lb	\$2.32	4		
Hawaii	Vegetables	Squash	Kabocha	per lb	▲\$1.69	57	\$1.49	4

Land Use Optimization

Critical Planning Gap : Outdated Land Classification

Current Problem :

- Land Study Bureau ratings based on 1930s soil data + 1960s irrigation maps
- Sugar lands rated "A", pineapple lands rated "D" - same soil type
- Example: Mililani Ag Park (perpetual ag) vs adjacent solar farm (identical soil)

Impact : 2030s land use decisions driven by century-old agricultural data and mid-century markets

Act 189 (SLH 2022) Report & maps
arcg.is/1T99X0



Soil Classification Systems Regulating Agriculture Land Use

Soil Classification Systems & Use in
Regulating Agricultural Lands Study

Supersistence

Updated Land Classification Framework

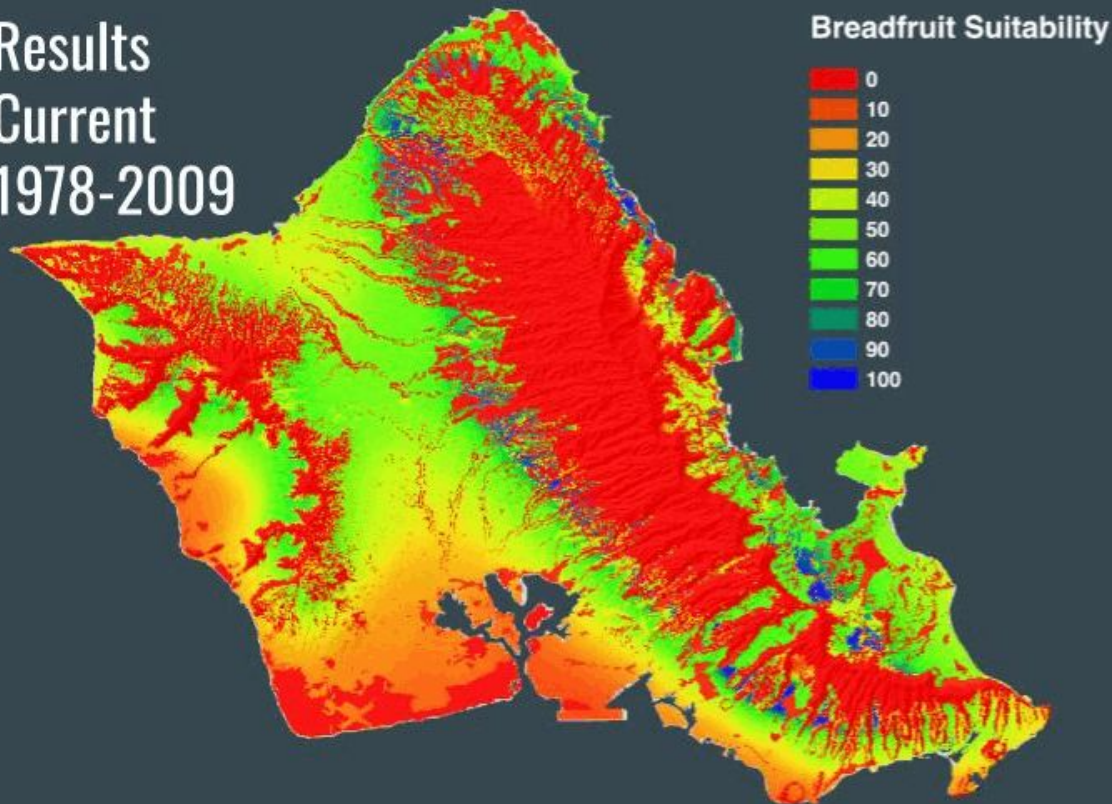
Proposed Solutions

- Climate-integrated modeling
- USDA soil survey integration:
- Crop suitability overlay
- California model

DBEDT/ADC Collaborations

- CTAHR partnership
- OPSD GIS integration
- ADC land prioritization

Results
Current
1978-2009



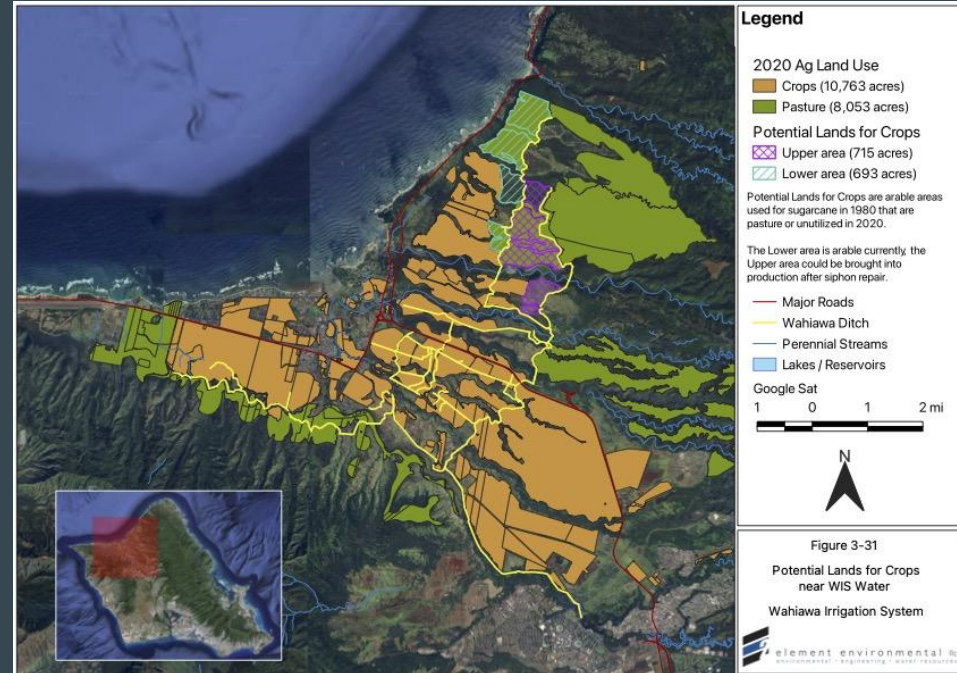
Irrigation Infrastructure Mapping

Knowledge Gap

- No comprehensive irrigation coverage map exists statewide
- Historical infrastructure status
- Planning necessity

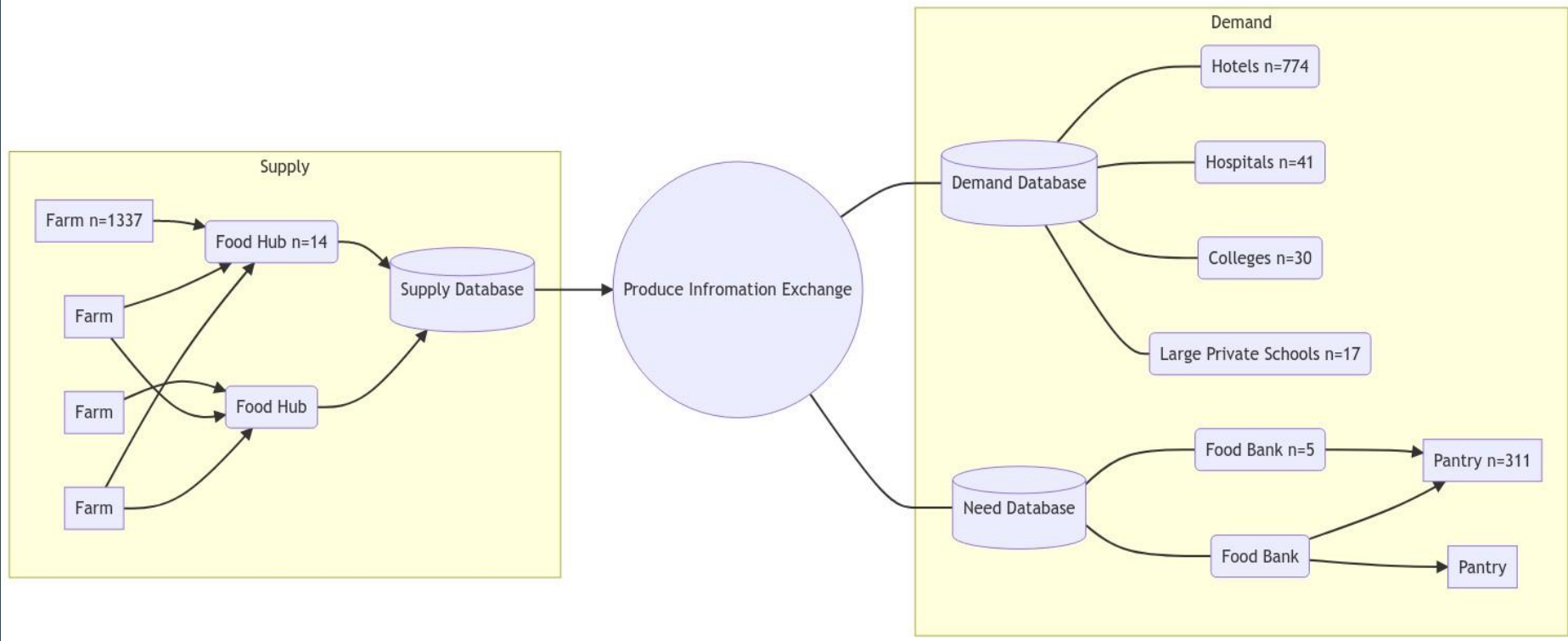
Proposed Research Priorities

- Baseline mapping
- Integration with suitability modeling
- Investment prioritization



Produce Information Program to Aid Isle Crop Output

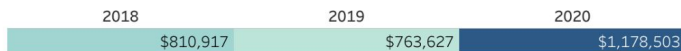
Coordination Mechanisms



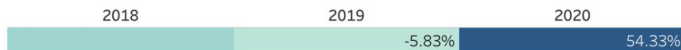
Purchase Studies

Consumables Purchasing

Annual Totals, Consumable Goods



Purchase Change Year Over Year

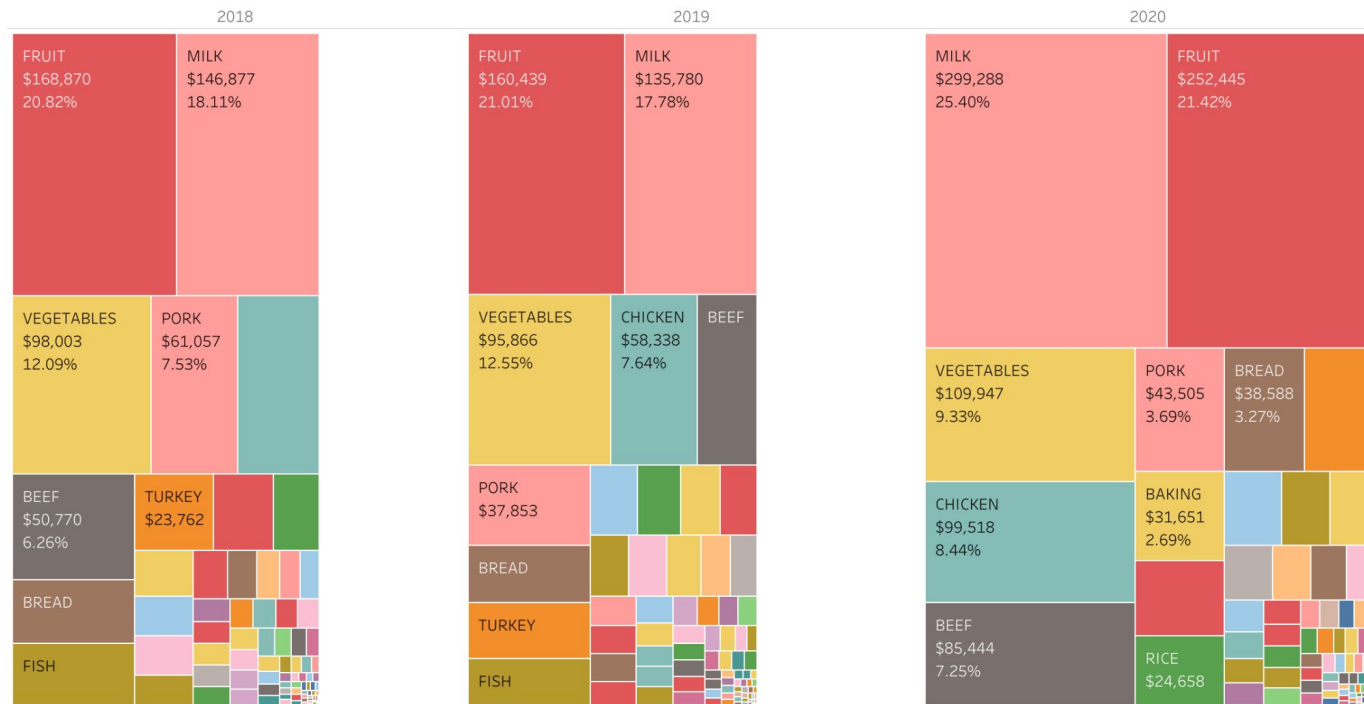


The top five purchasing categories are FRUIT, MILK, VEGETABLES, CHICKEN, and BEEF. These categories were built into the provided data and hence may not be entirely accurate. For example, the FRUIT category includes fruit cups.

MILK was the largest purchasing category in 2020 (25%) and the largest year over year growth (120%) in spending.

As local milk is in short supply, focus should be placed on fruit and vegetable sourcing, followed by protein sourcing.

By Category



Integration Model

Implementations

- Honolulu County: Completed Oahu Good Food Purchasing Program analysis
- Hawaii County: Current institutional purchasing project development
- USDA RFSP application for coordinated data infrastructure

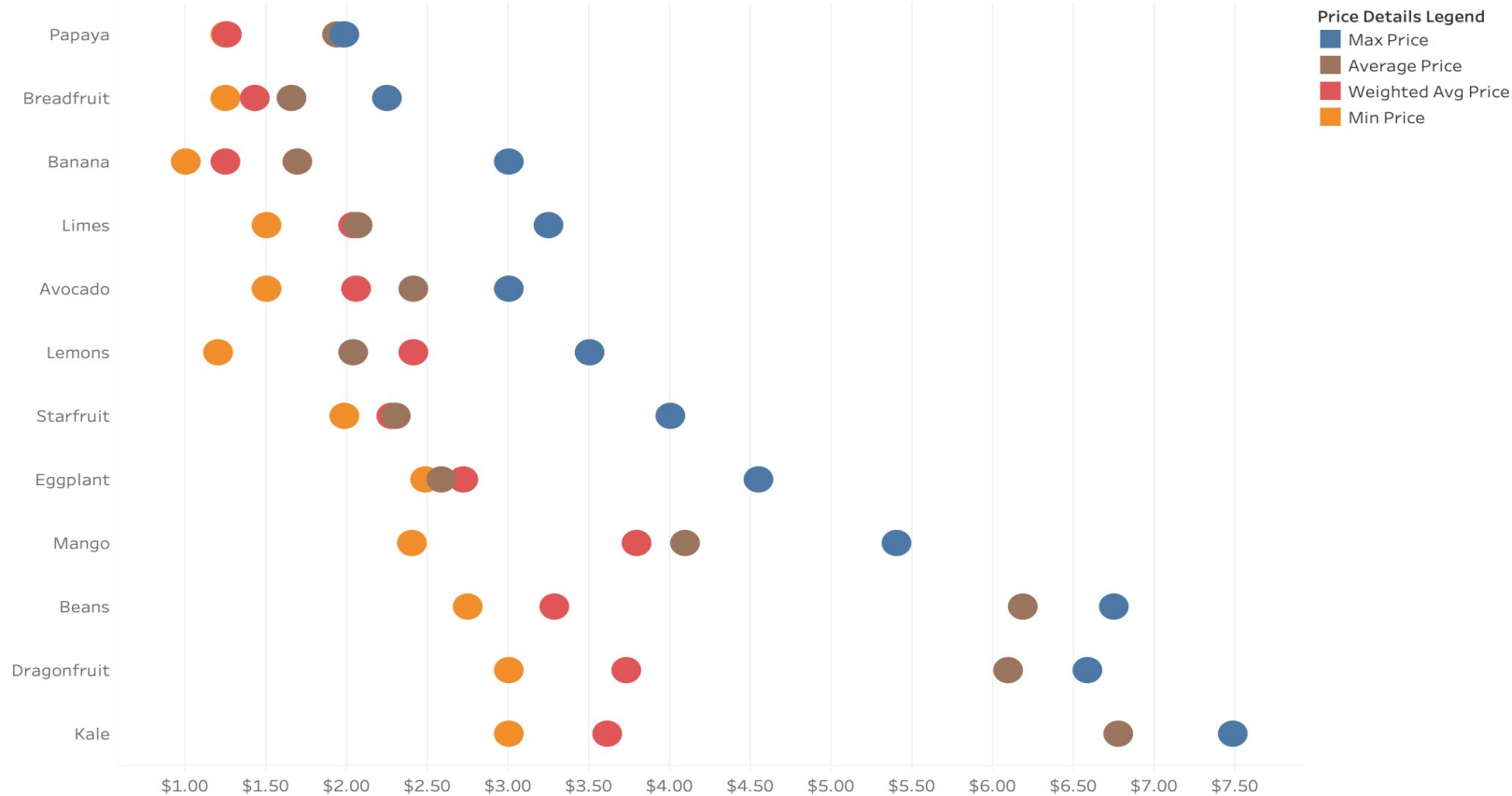
Value Propositions

- Scaling efficiency
- Resource optimization
- Policy alignment



Analysis - Suppliers by Avg Price

Price Details



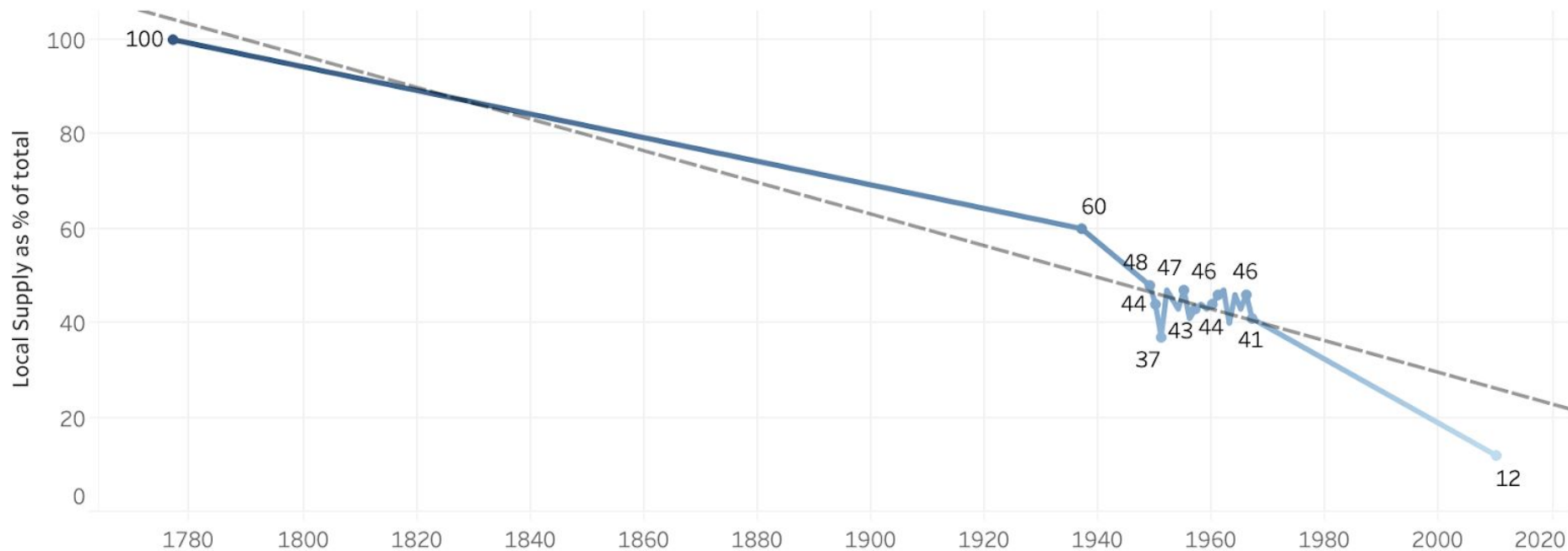
Part II:
Resilience Framework
Portfolio Approach
...

Disruptions & Resilience Over Time

	≤18th Century	19th C	20th C	21st C
Disruption	Weather & warfare	Economic & Weather	War & Economic	Economic & Pandemic
Impacts	cause regional hunger or famine	famines begin and end, respectively	disruptions impact all islands	disruptions affect entire globe
Strategy	Crop/production system diversity <i>Kanui</i>	New crop integration Migration	Central planning Market integrated storage	Civil society safety net Transfer entitlements

Hawaii Food Self-Sufficiency Ratio

- ~90% import dependency ratio (Loke & Leung, 2013)
- Trend wavers during periods of food crisis.



WWI

- War threatened food supplies
- Farmers began producing crops that had fallen away due to the rise of California agriculture
 - Cabbage, potatoes, dry beans, and others (Crawford, 1937)
 - Corn (Duensing, 2008)
- Exports disrupted
 - Banana bonanza
- Territorial Food Commission
 - Good outreach!

The Pacific Commercial Advertiser

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 1918.

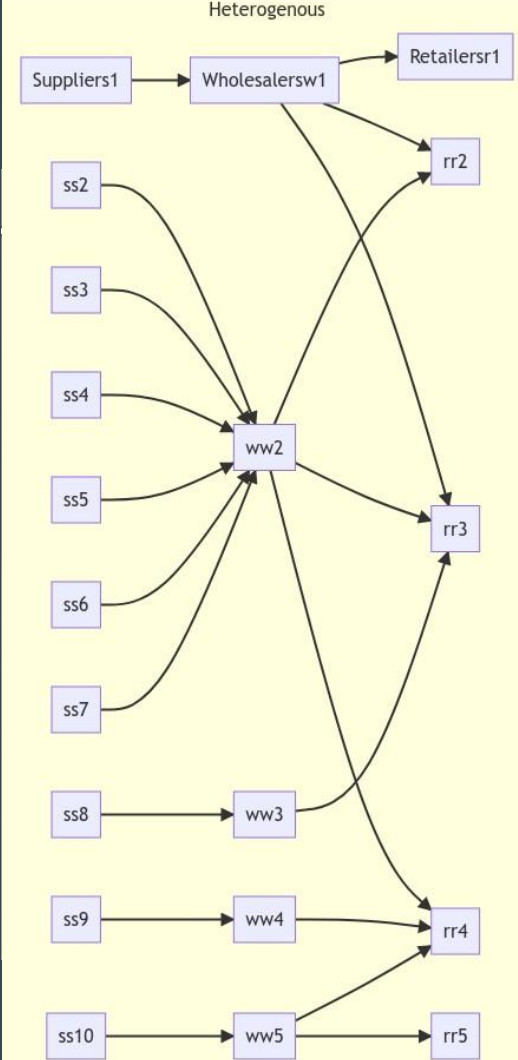
THIS LITTLE MAID IS AN EARNEST WORKER FOR THE BANANA CONSUMING PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE. She is Dorothy Coombs, the four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coombs of 1556 Liholiho Street. Dorothy is seen sitting on an Elgin touring car, the agency of which her papa represents. This machine did useful work in distributing bananas to persons who were not able to buy them and Dorothy helped her papa to give them away. That she believes bananas are just the thing to eat, is evident from the supply she has on hand. The model Elgin shown is one of the latest and a car which is meeting with great popularity in Honolulu.



Risk & Relationships

- Global **systemic risk** manifests as local **systems risk**
 - **Import** topology **instability**
 - **Export** markets reorient to **local** during disruptions
 - Tourism as export market
-
- *Global import dashboard*
 - *ID capacity from structure*
 - *Manage for adaptive capacity*
-
- Value proposition: **reduce systems risk**

Adapted from Hernández & Pedroza-Gutiérrez, 2019.



Risk & Relationships

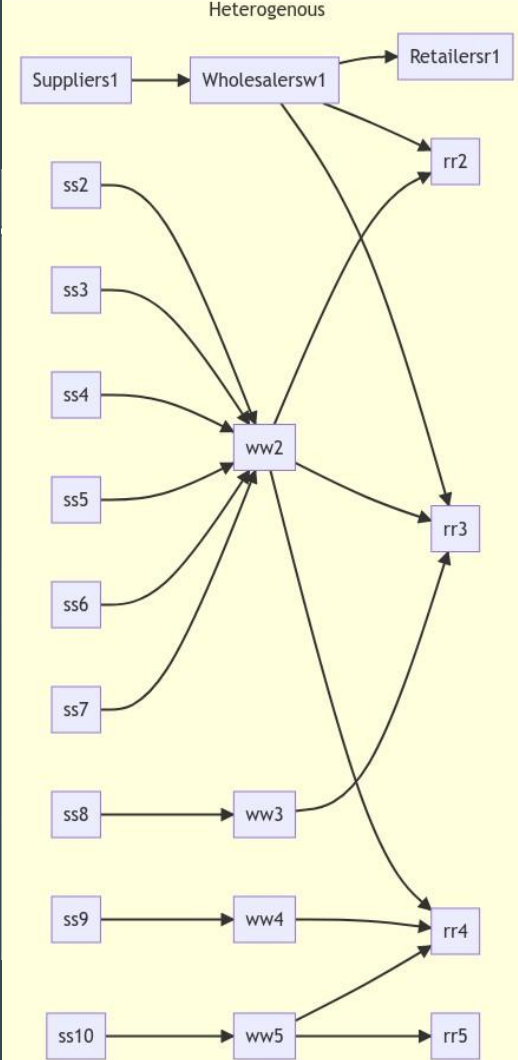
Import Dependency Analyses

- Geographic concentration
- Seasonal vulnerability
- Transportation risks
- Infrastructure bottlenecks

Network Resilience Mapping

- Stakeholder connectivity analysis
- Critical node identification
- Emergency preparedness integration

Adapted from Hernández & Pedroza-Gutiérrez, 2019.



Implementation Framework: Beyond Efficiency-Only Agriculture

Key Takeaways

- Data-Driven Planning
- Infrastructure Alignment
- Portfolio Resilience

Immediate Actions for State Policy

- Fix Data Gaps
- Align Infrastructure Investment
- Diversify Support Mechanisms The Bottom Line

State agricultural subsidy needs to build systemic capacity, not just enable scale.

Agricultural Portfolio Strategy: Diverse Economies

Anchor Operations (Scaled Efficiency)

- Export market capture and institutional supply
- Processing infrastructure utilization
- Cost-competitive commodity production

Resilience Infrastructure (Distributed Capacity)

- Geographic risk distribution across islands and micro
- Seasonal production diversity and succession planning
- Emergency food supply and disaster response capacity
- Market shock absorption and supply chain redundancy

Network Coordination Functions:

- Innovation and knowledge sharing
- Market testing and specialty production
- Community resilience and food access



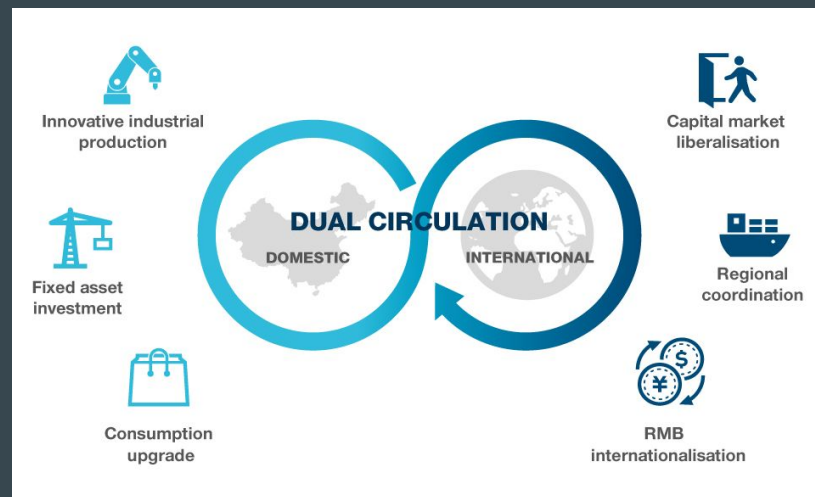
Dual Circulation Development & Economic Multiplier Analysis

Local Circulation vs Import Leakage

- Current DOE spending: ~95% import leakage
- Premium local purchasing: Circular economy benefits, tax dollar retention
- Network effects: Small farm operations as economic connectors

Resilience Value Quantification

- Supply chain security: Insurance value of distributed capacity
- Emergency preparedness: Cost avoidance during disasters
- Innovation capacity: Economic development through agricultural diversity



Policy Integration Framework

Complementary Metrics Approach

- Efficiency metrics: Cost per unit, yield optimization, scale economies
- Resilience metrics: Supply chain diversity, emergency capacity, network connectivity
- Adaptive capacity: Innovation rates, knowledge transfer, climate adaptation

Risk Management Integration

- Portfolio diversification: Geographic, operational, economic distribution
- Adaptive management: Learning systems, iterative improvement
- Policy impact assessment: Both efficiency and resilience outcomes

Emergency Food Planning Scaffold



Part III:

Implementation Pathways

...

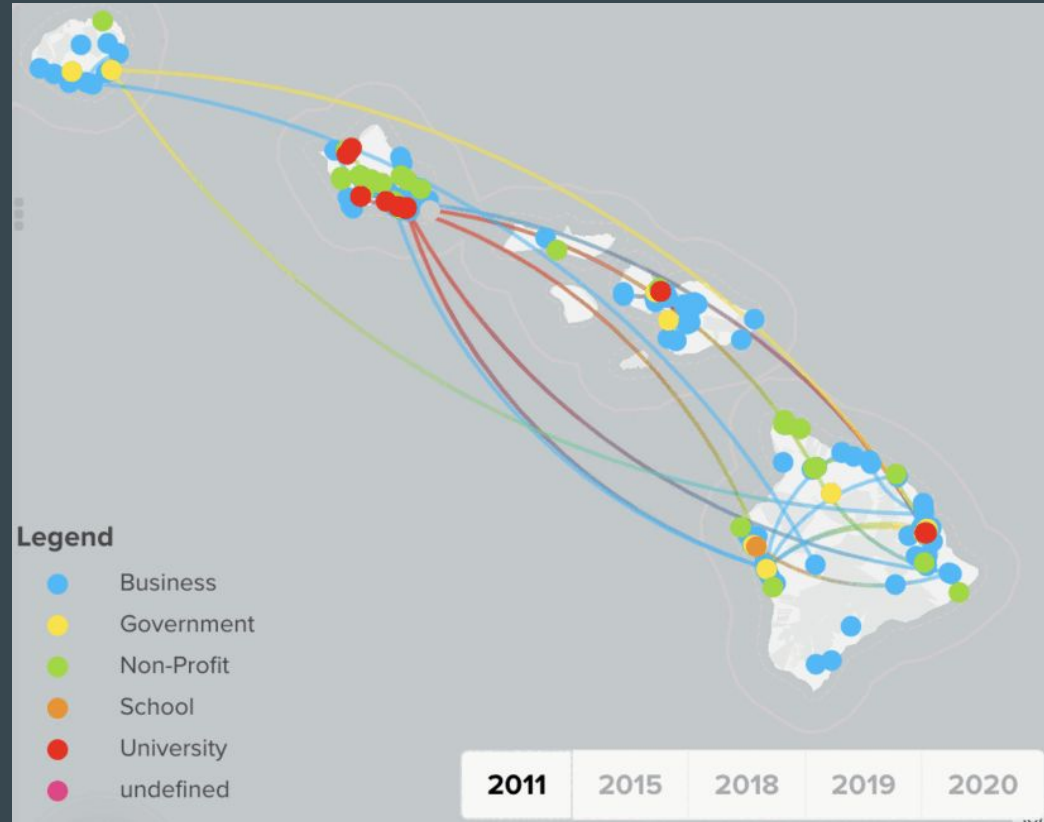
Immediate Deliverables for Act 239 Report

Resource Identification & Coordination (SB1186 §163D-B(c)(3))

- Comprehensive stakeholder mapping
- Infrastructure inventory
- Coordination opportunity matrix

Implementation Planning & Progress Measurement (§163D-B(c)(5))

- Baseline metrics establishment
- Real-time tracking systems
- Progress monitoring framework



Policy Impact Analysis Tools (§163D-B(c)(6))

Decision Support Infrastructure

- Land use policy modeling: Updated LSB impacts on production capacity
- Market impact analysis: Local purchasing policy scenarios
- Supply chain resilience assessment: Policy effects on system robustness

County Coordination Mechanisms (§163D-B(c)(2) & (4))

- Data integration systems: County-state information sharing protocols
- Communication platforms: Stakeholder coordination and knowledge transfer
- Joint implementation planning: Aligned county and state food system goals

Long-term Visions

Coordinated Network Architecture

- State-county alignment
- Producer-purchaser coordination
- Innovation-implementation pipeline

Resilient Economic Foundation

- Diverse production base
- Robust supply chains
- Adaptive capacity

Sustainable Growth Model

- Dual Circulation economy
- Regenerative systems
- Community resilience



Implementation Framework: Portfolio Approach

Strategic Balance

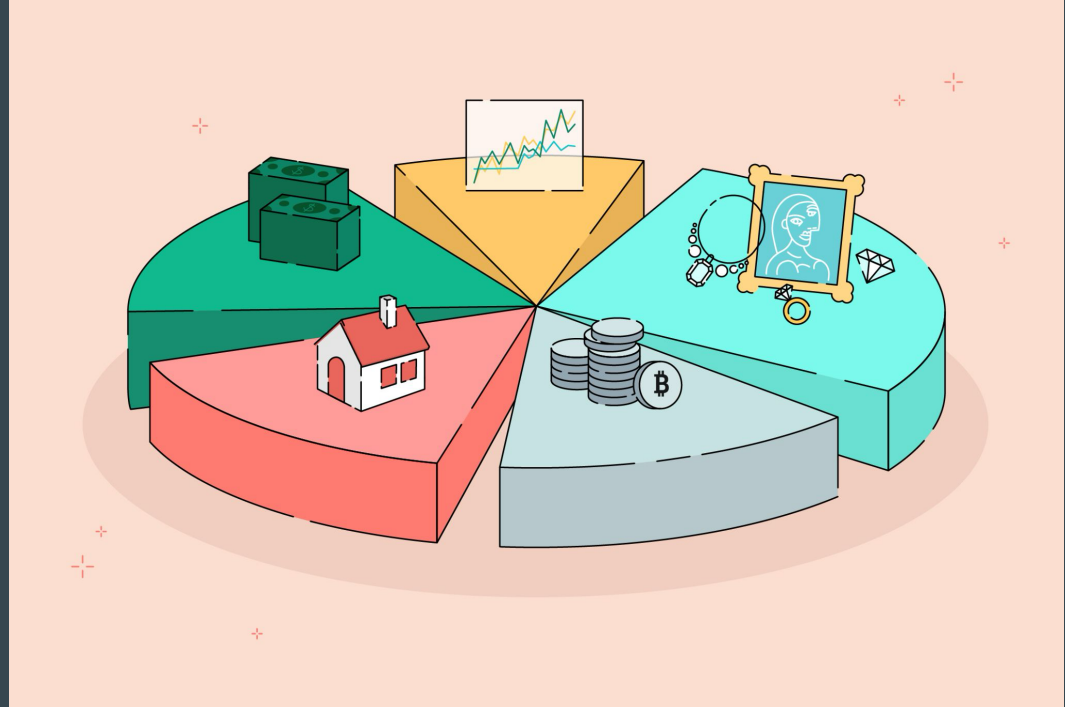
- Anchor operations
- Distributed capacity
- Network coordination

Risk Management

- Supply chain diversification
- Economic resilience
- Infrastructure redundancy

Adaptive Management

- Continuous learning
- Iterative improvement
- Future-oriented planning



Next Steps: Partnership Implementation

Immediate Actions (Next 4 Weeks)

- Finalize Act 239 report contributions: Data analysis, recommendations, metrics framework
- Coordinate with DBEDT/ADC: Ongoing collaboration on commodity coordination
- County project integration: Align Honolulu and Hawaii County work with state systems

Medium-term Development (2026)

- Tool deployment and scaling: Market intelligence, decision support, coordination systems
- Policy development support: Legislative session preparation, regulatory framework
- Stakeholder engagement expansion: Producer, purchaser, community coordination

Long-term Partnership (2026-2030)

- Mandate achievement: Coordinated approach to production, purchasing, resilience goals
- System optimization: Continuous improvement, adaptive management
- Model replication: Hawaii regional successes as food system innovation example

Questions & Discussion

Key Discussion Areas

1. Resource prioritization: Which tools and analyses most valuable for immediate implementation?
2. Partnership structure: How to formalize ongoing DBEDT/ADC collaboration?
3. County coordination: Integration mechanisms with ongoing county food system planning?
4. Legislative alignment: Priority recommendations for Act 239 report?

Available Resources

- Technical expertise: Data analysis, policy research, stakeholder coordination
- Network connections: Food hubs, farmers, counties, federal agencies
- Proven tools: Market intelligence, land use analysis, coordination systems
- Implementation experience: County projects, federal grant applications, legislative analysis

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Hunter Heavlin

**Political Agroecologist.
Geographer.
Planner.**

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REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE (2026 REGULAR SESSION)
REPORT OF THE INTERAGENCY FOOD SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP
IN RESPONSE TO ACT 239 (2025)

Prepared by:

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ADC)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (HDOA)

December 2025

DRAFT

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10. Recommendations & Proposed Legislation
11. Appendices (Meeting Minutes, Data Inputs, Workplan Template)

Executive Summary

Act 239 (2025) establishes a **Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team** and a **formal Interagency Food Systems Working Group (WG)** housed at ADC, co-chaired by DBEDT and HDOA. The WG is charged with:

- Developing governance and operating protocols
- Coordinating with county and community-led food systems planning
- Identifying resources
- Designing communication systems
- Creating time-bound implementation plans and metrics
- Conducting policy impact analysis

This report outlines early implementation progress, initial coordination activities, and alignment between Act 239 and the SR111 Food Systems Working Group Framework (2024), which established statewide priorities around governance, data systems, biosecurity, land/water infrastructure, and institutional purchasing.

Two meetings of the Act 239 Working Group (10/17/25 and 11/21/25) produced foundational agreements on:

- Report structure
- Section assignments
- Coordination needs across land, water, data, biosecurity, infrastructure, and institutional purchasing
- Priority commodities and data gaps
- Engagement with county plans and food access coalitions
- Alignment with federal funding and resilience efforts

Many of SR111's recommendations—such as establishing governance processes, mapping county priorities, identifying infrastructure needs, and designing a statewide coordination framework—have already been partially completed through Act 239 implementation to date.

1. Introduction

Act 239 advances Hawaii's commitment to:

- Doubling local food production by 2030 (Act 151)
- Meeting institutional local purchasing mandates (Acts 175 & 176)
- Improving access to healthy food and reducing food insecurity
- Strengthening resilience to climate change and federal supply chain disruptions

Act 239 became effective July 1, 2025 and appropriated **\$100,000** to initiate statewide coordination via ADC and DBEDT.

The Act 239 Working Group began meeting in October 2025 and follows a structure modeled on the **SR111 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group**, whose report and framework guide this first-year implementation plan.

2. Statewide Food Systems Planning and Mandates

Hawaii's current mandates relevant to Act 239 include:

- **Act 151 (2019):** Double local food production and increase exports
- **Act 175 (2021):** DOE must reach 30% local meals by 2030
- **Act 176 (2021):** All state departments must hit 10% local procurement by 2025, 18% by 2030
- **Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan:** Legally mandated guiding plan

Act 239 forms the **implementation backbone** connecting these mandates to operational plans, data systems, and agency coordination.

3. Background: Conditions, Barriers & Opportunities

Consistent across SR111 research and Working Group Meetings:

Key Barriers

- Invasive species & biosecurity threats
- High production, labor, and land costs

- Lack of processing and cold storage infrastructure
- Limited inter-island logistics data
- Fragmented data systems across HDOA, DOE, DBEDT, DOH
- Need for land/water infrastructure and irrigation repairs

Opportunities

- Regional kitchens (DOE) and FPIN facilities (DBEDT/ADC)
- County-level agricultural plans and food access plans
- Off-grade produce utilization and value-added innovation
- Export mechanisms that can backstop local production
- Federal grants for resilience and food security

Act 239 is positioned to solve coordination gaps SR111 identified.

4. Alignment Between Act 239 & SR111 Deliverables

The SR111 Working Group delivered a **Food and Agricultural Interagency Coordination Framework (2025–2026)** containing:

- Governance models
- County integration
- Data and metrics priorities
- Biosecurity/land/water strategies
- Institutional purchasing pathways

Act 239 has already accomplished several SR111 recommended steps:

SR111 Requirement	Status under Act 239	Evidence
Establish governance framework	Under development, assigned to WG	10/17/25 Minutes: governance section assigned, protocols drafted
Identify interagency coordination priorities	Completed – Act 239 mandates + WG themes	Meetings emphasize data, land, water, biosecurity, procurement

SR111 Requirement	Status under Act 239	Evidence
Incorporate county plans	Underway	Counties presented (Hawai'i, Honolulu, Maui, Kaua'i) via SR111
Map data gaps & establish metrics	In progress	WG identified need for data systems, commodity maps, dashboards
Infrastructure roadmap	Launched	ADC presented slaughter, egg-breaking, irrigation, FPIN facilities
Policy impact analysis tools	WG mandated to develop tools	Act 239 p.5 requirement
Act 239 formalizes the long-term governance structure SR111 recommended.		

5. Working Group Governance & Process

Modeled on the SR111 structure and supported by Act 239 statutory requirements:

Membership

As defined in Act 239:

- HDOA Chair (Co-Chair)
- DBEDT Director (Co-Chair)
- One House designee
- One Senate designee
- Experts invited by co-chairs

Governance Development

At Meeting #1 (10/17/25):

- WG confirmed scope aligned to Act 239
- Assigned drafting of Governance, Coordination, Implementation, Data, and Legislative sections
- Adopted structure mirroring SR111 Report

SR111's Appendix A governance frameworks will be integrated into Act 239's final model.

6. Summary of Meetings & Accomplishments

Meeting #1 – October 17, 2025

Key Outcomes

- Agreement on report sections and drafting assignments
- Adoption of SR111-aligned structure
- Identification of cross-sector themes:
 - Biosecurity
 - Infrastructure gaps (cold storage, processing, regional kitchens)
 - Data gaps (commodities, off-grade, land/water)
 - Institutional purchasing
- Decision to start with priority commodities: dairy, cattle, selected produce
- County alignment recognized as critical
- Visitor industry identified as emerging institutional buyer
- Legislative report due December 31, 2025

Action Items

- Submit materials to WG inbox
- Begin commodity data and county coordination outreach
- Prepare drafts for November and December meetings

Meeting #2 – November 21, 2025

Key Outcomes

- Approval of prior minutes
- Presentations by Amanda Shaw and Hunter Heavilin on:
 - Governance models under Sunshine Law

- Data systems (trade dashboards, inter-island logistics, price monitoring)
- Dual-circulation economic model (local + export markets)
- Irrigation and land mapping needs
- Role of aggregation and DOE kitchens

Major Themes

- Need for federal resilience funding (due to unstable USDA/FEMA cycles)
- Consideration of biotax as infrastructure source
- Alignment between energy siting and ag land preservation
- Housing proximate to farms to solve workforce needs
- Need for statewide commodity maps, irrigation maps, and processing capacity maps

Action Items

- Provide county plan links
- Submit additional presenters
- Investigate data system upgrades
- Identify models (Maui DOE) for statewide replication
- Evaluate feasibility of resilient relief fund
- Prepare December meetings and finalize draft report

7. Interagency Coordination Framework for 2025–2027 (Act 239 Implementation)

This framework integrates Act 239 requirements with SR111 priorities and Working Group decisions.

I. Governance & Statewide Coordination

- Develop protocols, decision rules, membership criteria (using SR111 Appendix A)
- Formalize MOUs across departments
- Establish PIGs (Permitted Interaction Groups) for:
 - Governance

- Data & Metrics
- Institutional Purchasing
- Land/Water/Infrastructure

II. Data & Metrics

- Restore HDOA's Market Analysis Branch
- Build shared ag data system (production, prices, inter-island traffic)
- Create baseline dashboards for Acts 151, 175, 176 compliance

III. Biosecurity & Invasive Species

- Support Act 231 implementation
- Establish ROE (Rules of Engagement) for interagency response
- Fund Level 3 biosecurity facility

IV. Land, Water & Infrastructure

- Create interagency Land & Water Action Group
- Conduct land inventory & crop suitability mapping
- Support ADC irrigation CIP requests (Wahiawā, Kekaha, East Kaua'i)

V. Institutional Purchasing & Value-Added Infrastructure

- Align DOE regional kitchens with FPIN and ADC processing facilities
- Identify procurement barriers (SPO, DOE, DOH, UH)
- Support Phase 2 of DOE regional kitchen commercialization

8. Initial Deliverables and Progress toward SR111 Requirements

The SR111 Report required:

- Governance structure
- Implementation plan outline
- Alignment with SDGs
- Integration of county priorities
- Proposed legislation

Act 239 Working Group has already fulfilled or initiated all five.

Notably:

- Hawaii County, Maui, Kaua'i and Honolulu priorities are included
- SDG alignment included in tables and actions
- Governance drafting underway
- Interagency Framework from SR111 serves as de facto implementation plan

9. Recommendations & Proposed Legislation (2026 Session)

1. Appropriation to fully fund statewide food systems coordination

Amount: multi-year operational funding for staff at ADC, DBEDT, OPSD, HDOA.

2. Restoration of HDOA data capacity

\$900,000 to restore Market Analysis Branch.

(SR111 & Act 239 working group priority.)

3. Biosecurity infrastructure appropriation

Funding for:

- Level 3 biocontrol facility
- Invasive species rapid response ROE

4. Land/Water infrastructure CIP package

Including Wahiawā Irrigation System multiphase project.

5. Institutional purchasing modernization bill

To:

- Clarify Act 175/176 procurement definitions
- Enable DOE/DOH/DPS/DOD/UH to purchase from regional kitchens and FPIN processors

6. Resilience Fund

Modeled after Meeting #2 discussion:

- Use barrel tax as a backstop for emergency food procurement.

10. Next Steps (December 2025 – June 2026)

December 2025

- Review full report draft
- Approve governance protocols
- Finalize legislative proposals

Q1 2026

- Launch PIGs
- Begin county consultations
- Draft statewide data dashboard framework

Q2 2026

- Submit Act 239 Implementation Plan to Legislature
- Present budget requests for FY27–28
- Complete commodity and land/water maps

Ongoing

- Annual report due 20 days prior to each session
- Continuous alignment with SR111 Interagency Framework