

**The Hawai'i Foodservice Hui Toolkit is a compilation of resources for independent school food authorities seeking to form partnerships for centralized nutrition program services and procurement.**

## **Hawai'i Foodservice Hui Toolkit: Background**

Hawaii's charter schools historically have served the lowest-income communities in the state, but most charter schools have had difficulty implementing [federal child nutrition programs](#). Schools cite unsustainable costs and complexity of operation as the reasons why their schools do not offer a nutrition program. Charter schools that do offer nutrition programs must subsidize the programs out of their operating budget, diverting resources from their core educational mission.

In 2014, several local schools and community organizations began exploring ways in which the administrative costs and barriers of school nutrition programs could be reduced. After several years of research and planning, the Hawai'i Island Charter Schools Foodservice Hui pilot project was launched in 2017.

The Hawai'i Island Charter Schools Foodservice Hui provided three member schools with centralized nutrition program services including administration, training, compliance, reporting, menu planning and procurement. The hui (partnership) enabled charter schools to reduce the administrative burden and operating costs of their nutrition programs.

The foundation built and the lessons learned during the pilot year can be utilized by schools or organizations throughout the state to support schools in their efforts to offer healthy meals to their students. With that goal in mind, the Hawai'i Foodservice Hui Toolkit for foodservice hui startup and implementation was created. This toolkit is a starting point – we encourage you to build upon it. In addition, we recommend that you (1) seek out appropriate guidance and expertise in implementation, and (2) confirm that all resources are up to date, as school nutrition regulations change frequently.