COVID19, Food Systems and Public Health in Hawai'i

Susan P Mercado MD MPH
Director, Food Systems and Resiliency
Hawai'i Public Health Institute
CIVET CAT - SARS
2003-2004
37 COUNTRIES
8000 SICK
744 DEATHS

CAMEL - MERS-COV
2012-2015
27 COUNTRIES
2000 SICK
720 DEATHS

BAT - SARS-COV2
2019 - PRESENT
220 COUNTRIES
248 M SICK
5.0 M DEATHS
PRESENTATION FLOW

What is food security?
Some facts on food security in Hawaii
Factors and forces driving food security
Policies, action and resources needed
Reflection
What is food security?

"...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."

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
4 PILlARS OF FOOD SECURITY

ACCESS

AVAILABILITY

UTILIZATION

STABILITY
Hawai‘i is one of the most geographically isolated and food insecure places in the world.
90% OF FOOD IS IMPORTED
5-7 DAYS

AT ANY POINT IN TIME THE FOOD SUPPLY FOR THE STATE
76% of food insecure families cited lost employment income due to the pandemic.
1 OF 3
CHILDREN ARE FOOD INSECURE IN HAWAI'I
26% OF FOOD IS WASTED
WHAT WE GROW

WHAT WE EAT

- Sharon Hurd, HDOA, 2021
Is our food system making us sick?

41% - prediabetes
13.1% diabetes
24% obese

Estimated direct medical expenses
$1.1 B / year
WHAT WE GROW

WHAT WE EAT

-Sharon Hurd, HDOA, 2021
Driving forces of the global food system

GLOBALIZATION

CLIMATE CHANGE

HUNGRY & BROKEN

ECONOMICS
INVEST IN PRODUCTION OF LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES - CANNOT DO THAT WITHOUT LAND AND WATER
INVEST IN PROCESSING OF FOOD FOR ADDED VALUE
SUPPORT BACKYARD AND COMMUNITY GARDENING
SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASING OF LOCAL PRODUCE
INVEST IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY
EAT MORE PROTEINS AND VEGETABLES FROM THE SEA
The Hawaii Public Health Institute is committed to increasing food access in the places where people live, learn, work and play.
KUPUNA FOOD SECURITY COALITION

FARM TO SCHOOL HUI

TRANSFORMING HAWAII'S FOOD SYSTEM TOGETHER
If we fix food, we fix everything.