The COVID-19 pandemic was both an economic and health crisis that left thousands unemployed and struggling to put food on the table. At the same time, food producers saw a decrease in revenue as tourism industry-dependent hotels and restaurants closed. Farm to Food Bank programs, which provide funding for food banks to purchase locally produced food for distribution, picked up momentum during the pandemic as a way to provide food for hungry people and keep food producers employed.

While demand for emergency food distribution surge during emergencies and natural disasters, people face hunger year-round. Institutional support will ensure families in need receive nutritious food and create a more resilient and sustainable food system.

**A WIN-WIN PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES & FARMERS**

**Provides Nutritious Food**
Feeds hungry families, individuals, keiki, and kupuna healthy food. Farm to Food Bank programs can increase the volume of nutritious food distributed by food banks.

**Supports Local Food System**
Farmers are paid the fair-market value for their product. Supporting farmers will increase local food production and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system.

**Reduces Food Waste**
More than 237,000 tons of food is wasted annually. Farm to Food Bank programs allow food banks to purchase excess produce from farmers.

**HOW WOULD IT WORK?**
Office of Community Services administers the program by awarding money to food banks out of special fund.

Food banks use the money to purchase fresh, locally-grown food from farmers.

Food banks distribute healthy, local food to families in need!
FOOD INSECURITY & HEALTH

Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. This struggle can force people make impossible choices between food and other necessities like rent, transportation, or childcare. Food insecurity is intricately tied to health:

Food insecurity is linked with diet-related chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Serious health complications can arise when people facing hunger must choose between spending money on food or medicine/medical care.

Not having enough healthy food can affect children’s development, with serious implications for their physical and mental health.

HUNGER IN HAWAI‘I: By the Numbers

1 in 6 people in Hawai‘i face hunger

2nd Hawai‘i’s state ranking for highest child food insecurity rate in 2021.

$97,005,000 cost to feed all people facing food insecurity just enough to meet their needs

DA BUX & FARM TO FOOD BANK

Complementary programs feeding Hawai‘i

DA BUX and Farm to Food Bank both help feed hungry Hawai‘i residents high-quality, nutritious food and support the local food system. The main difference? DA BUX, or double up food bucks, is for SNAP recipients and allows them to get 50% off when purchasing local produce at participating grocery stores and farmers’ markets. Farm to Food Bank provides funding for food banks to purchase food from local producers for distribution to people in need.

CONTACT

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