# HAN

With support from the Food Security Equity Impact Fund, Hawai'i Foodbank is partnering with 'Elepaio Social Services and Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center in developing community-led solutions to address systemic inequities. p. 8

**FOOD EQUITY** 

# Subscribing for Dignity





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QUESTIONS?



# Sharing aloha, extending dignity and providing hope



Amy Marvin Hawai'i Foodbank President and CEO

Hawai'i Foodbank has been working to nourish our 'ohana for 40 years now. But what exactly does that mean?

Nourishing our 'ohana isn't just about filling plates. When you feed someone, you're also sharing aloha, extending dignity and providing hope for a better tomorrow. And with the recent wildfires on Maui, this notion of nourishment is profoundly relevant.

Recovery efforts continue, and Hawai'i Foodbank is actively working to support our neighbors on Maui and our partners at Maui Food Bank (read more on page 4). Our hearts are with our Maui 'ohana and everyone impacted by the devastating wildfires that swept across the island in August. It's a stark reminder of how fragile the line between food security and hunger can be.

At the same time, the community's response to the wildfires has demonstrated how strong, compassionate and resilient the people of Hawai'i are.

It never ceases to amaze me, and I feel incredibly fortunate to work for an organization and live in a place where people's first instinct is to take care of one another. We saw it clearly in the immediate relief efforts as the community quickly rallied to provide volunteer support, food and supplies, and monetary donations to support those impacted. And this **compassion extended to Food Drive Day, as well**, where we dedicated our largest community engagement event of the year to supporting our Maui 'ohana (read more on page 7). Your response was astounding.

At the Foodbank, the compassion we are experiencing from our local community and around the world is truly humbling, and it

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 $\textbf{MISSION:} \ \text{At Hawai'i Foodbank, our mission is to nour 'ohana today as we work to end hunger tomorrow.}$ 

Nourish Our 'Ohana is the official newsletter of Hawai'i Foodbank. This publication serves to thank our donors and inform the public about Hawai'i Foodbank events, volunteer opportunities, community partnerships and more. If you do not wish to receive a copy, please email donorservices@hawaiifoodbank.org or call 808-954-7853 to have your name removed from our mailing list.









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keeps us motivated to support our Maui community in every way we can during this time of need.

# Your compassion and partnership are instrumental to the work we are doing – during disaster relief and every day of the year.

It is because of your support that we can respond quickly in the face of emergency while continuing to expand our efforts to combat hunger across all the communities we serve. Hawai'i Foodbank is committed to being a strong, collaborative partner across the hunger response landscape. We are increasing access to nutritious fruits and vegetables, investing in local agriculture and culturally meaningful foods, and broadening our approach to fill gaps and address the systemic reasons people need our services (read more on page 8).

#### Sharing aloha, extending dignity and providing hope for a better tomorrow ...

That all begins with increasing access to safe and nutritious food today. A thriving future is deeply connected to the long-term health of our communities, and **Hawai'i Foodbank is committed to being the healthy option for those experiencing hunger**. More than one quarter of the food Hawai'i Foodbank distributes is fresh, healthy produce. And with your partnership, we look forward to increasing that percentage in the years to come.

I will never forget the compassion and camaraderie we've experienced from our community these past couple of months. Please remember – **your support provides so much more than food**; you're offering invaluable hope to families, keiki and kūpuna all across Hawai'i. When we nourish our 'ohana today, we can end hunger tomorrow.

HAWAI'I FOOD BANK

With gratitude and aloha,

Amy Miller Marvin

Hawai'i Foodbank President and CEO

NOURISH 6'OHANA

## **Staying Prepared During Hurricane Season**

Helpful tips to keep you and your 'ohana safe and stocked



Over the years, Hawai'i Foodbank has built a strong reputation for stepping up to serve Hawai'i in times of need. When Hurricane 'Iniki devastated Kaua'i in 1992, Hawai'i Foodbank responded quickly – establishing Hawai'i Foodbank as an important disaster response organization. Since then, we have learned many valuable lessons about recovery, resilience and the importance of being prepared.

In Hawai'i, hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. As a geographicallyisolated region that relies heavily on imported goods, residents should plan to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks following a natural disaster to hold us over until assistance arrives. Preparing effective plans and emergency supplies ahead of time is the best thing we can all do to ensure the health and safety of our entire community.

I sat down with Rachael Carrell, our emergency planning coordinator, who shared some helpful tips on staying prepared during hurricane season.

# So, what does being prepared look like?

- For those of us who can, create an emergency supply kit with food, water and medication for each member of your 'ohana. Plan to prepare for 14 days without external assistance due to Hawai'i's geography.
- For those with more limited resources, find



ways to store a few extra days' worth of food and other goods to build up your disaster kit.

- For those struggling to obtain or store extra food or supplies, reach out within your community for assistance and learn where you can go for help.
- For those with means to provide additional support beyond your 'ohana, consider donating to organizations that support disaster preparedness and relief – such as Hawai'i Foodbank, Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i, Maui Food Bank or The Food Basket on Hawai'i Island. all of whom work with a broad network of agency partners to provide direct support to communities throughout Hawai'i.

Building a 14-day emergency food and water kit for your household can seem overwhelming, but any additional food and water you can store is a good start.

# Here are some tips for food storage on a budget:

- Look for low-cost foods that are high in protein and calories.
- Stock up on shelf-stable items that you and your 'ohana typically eat – and watch for sales.
- Save extra seasoning packets from bentos or take-out.
- Stock foods that don't require cooking.
- Choose low-sodium options to reduce thirst.
- Opt for foods packaged in single servings to make sure opened food doesn't spoil.
- Consider all relevant health and safety needs, and remember to store baby formula, baby foods and pet foods.

Hurricanes can result in storm surges and tides, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, high surf, rip currents and more. Being mindful of these hazards can help you to develop an effective plan to implement in case of extreme weather. Plan ahead to identify an evacuation location to shelter safely, gather your emergency supplies, prepare for flooding and damaging winds, and stay connected with a cell phone and battery-powered radio. For more information on how to sign up for emergency alerts and details on what to include in your emergency supply kit, visit DOD.Hawaii.gov/HIEMA/ Get-Ready.

When disaster strikes, one of the most important things we can do is be prepared ahead of time. This not only helps ensure our own families are self-sufficient during and following a disaster, but it also supports the entire community by allowing emergency assistance to go to those who need it most

If you or someone you know is in need of support now, please call 2-1-1 or visit HawaiiFoodbank.org/Help to locate assistance nearby.

# Maui Relief UPDATE

Recovery efforts continue, and Hawai'i Foodbank is actively working to support our neighbors on Maui and our partners at Maui Food Bank.

By AMY MILLER MARVIN

ur hearts are with our Maui 'ohana and everyone impacted by the devastating wildfires that swept across the island in August. Throughout the island, the wildfires have displaced thousands of families and drastically reduced their regular access to safe, nutritious food and other important resources. It's a sobering reminder of how precarious the line between food security and hunger can be.

#### Disaster Response and Recovery on Maui

Following the wildfires, our partners at Maui Food Bank immediately sprang into action – providing food at several new distribution points and shelters, as well as sending out significantly more food through their regular network of agency partners. Food was also supplied to partners like Chef Hui, World Central Kitchen and Mercy Chefs to provide hot meals to those impacted by the wildfires and first responders. More than half a million pounds of food were distributed by Maui Food Bank in the first few weeks of response, alone.

The Maui Food Bank team is all safe and doing

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More than 1.3 million pounds of food have been distributed across Maui, including to survivors in Lahaina and Kula.

For families facing hunger, fresh produce is often one of the first things to fall off grocery lists – and this is especially true during disasters. To help, more than 250,000 pounds of fresh produce have been shared with families and neighbors.





HAWAIIFOODBANK.ORG NOURISH OUR 'OHANA NEWSLETTER 5



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an incredible job rising to support the tremendous disaster-related needs across the island. At the same time, they are preparing for the long recovery ahead while also remaining committed to providing ongoing food assistance to those who were already struggling with hunger prior to the wildfires.

#### O'ahu and Nationwide Support

At Hawai'i Foodbank, we are actively working to support our neighbors on Maui. We are providing our partners at Maui Food Bank with remote and on-the-ground staff support – sending between two to six team members each week.

We are also working with local and national companies to source needed food items for Maui distribution while managing the tremendous amount of food donations provided locally and nationally. We have secured additional warehouse space to store all products donated for Maui, and we will continue to send regular shipments of food, depending on what is needed. More

than a dozen containers have been received already, and another 40-plus containers are in the pipeline.

Our sister food banks across the continent have also stepped in with various forms of support. Feeding America, Central California Food Bank, Find Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Second Harvest of the Greater Valley, Feeding San Diego, Santa Barbara Food Bank, Second Harvest Silicon Valley, San Diego Food Bank, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank, Redwood Empire Food Bank, and others have generously provided emergency food donations, staff support and more. Additionally, other food banks like Central California Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Second Harvest of the Greater Valley, Feeding San Diego, and Food Lifeline have offered cross-docking services - an efficient logistics strategy that saves money, reduces shipping time and

maintains freshness of food.

In addition to supporting Maui Food Bank, we are also partnering with Maui County to provide food and technical assistance for their Maui-facilitated distribution sites in Kahului and Kahana. These sites offer food, water and supplies to people who have been impacted by the wildfires.

#### **Long-Term Recovery**

As our partners on Maui actively work to assess the evolving needs, we are committed to providing them support while continuing to meet the nutritional needs of the 1 in 6 Hawai'i residents struggling with hunger across the state.

We are embarking on a challenging journey towards recovery, and we want to express our sincere gratitude to the countless generous contributors who are making it possible for us to continue this vital mission – both now and in the days to come. Alongside our community, Hawai'i Foodbank is committed to standing with our neighbors on Maui every step of the way.



# DRIVE **DAY** 2023

Dedicated to nourishing Maui, Food Drive Day raised food for over half a million meals.







or more than 30 years, Food Drive Day has played an integral role in Hawai'i Foodbank's mission to nourish our 'ohana. This year was especially important, as Food Drive Day was dedicated to supporting our neighbors on Maui and partners at Maui Food Bank.

Together with our extraordinary community and supporters like you, this year's campaign raised more than \$300,000 and gathered 43,000 pounds of food and supplies for the Maui Relief Fund. This makes it possible to provide food for more than half a million meals.

We've learned from many disasters in the past that the road to recovery is long. But with each experience, we've also witnessed the incredible compassion of our community. The results from this year's Food Drive Day speak volumes to that. Your generosity exemplifies the caring community that we are fortunate to be a part of, and we are reminded of the strength that can emerge when we come together to help one another.

To every volunteer, sponsor, partner and supporter – mahalo for coming together to help nourish our 'ohana on Maui, both today and in the long recovery ahead.

With your help, we will continue to support our neighbors on Maui as they recover and rebuild.

# **MAHALO**

#### **SPONSORS**













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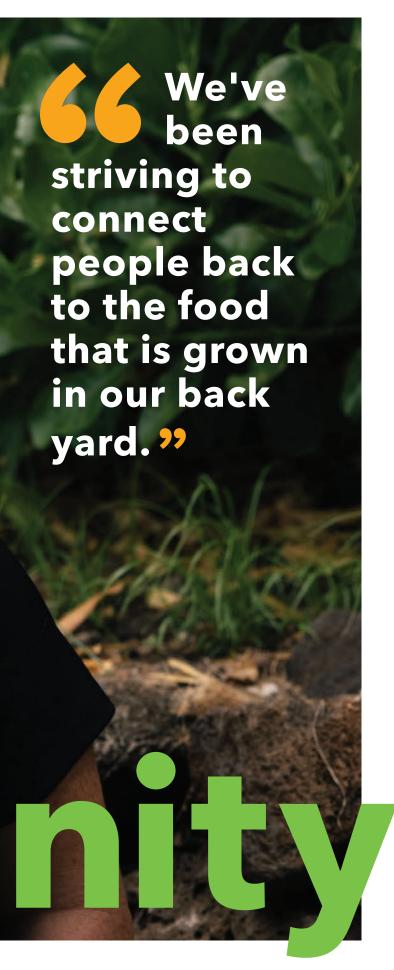
#### **PARTNERS**

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#### **ADDITIONAL** SUPPORT

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Hawai'i Foodbank was recently awarded the Food Security **Equity Impact Fund from** Feeding America. It is granted to organizations and food banks engaged in food justice and equitable access initiatives.

The Fund is supporting Hawai'i Foodbank and its agency partner 'Elepaio Social Services in developing community-led solutions to address systemic inequities.

by PAUL MORELLO

#### **Alicia's Story**

or Alicia Higa, food access is a part of her family's I heritage. "My grandmother and grandfather were on the first boats that came from Okinawa to work in the plantation fields," she said. Originally working in the fields on Moloka'i, they eventually moved to O'ahu and worked in the pineapple fields. In the 1970's, the family moved to Wai'anae on the Leeward Coast of the island, where many of the other farm workers lived. And despite their proximity – and work - on farms, access to fresh produce was hard to come by.

"The grocery stores that were first started in Wai'anae were based on the fact that a lot of the plantation workers lived on this side," Alicia said. "So, grocery stores were set up knowing that shelfstable food would last them the longest and was the cheapest. Since those days, a lot of the families here have become accustomed to eating shelf-stable food."

Decades later, the strong agricultural tradition of the Wai'anae community continues. Farms in the area produce most of the produce eaten on O'ahu. But, that produce is often too expensive to be purchased locally, or it is sold to hotels or restaurants in Honolulu. "We're a food basket, ironically," Alicia said. "But our community is not familiar with or can't access a majority of the produce grown here."

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Alicia is working to change that.
As the interim executive director of 'Elepaio Social Services, an affiliate of the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Alicia is piloting a food subscription program in partnership with Hawai'i Foodbank and with support from Feeding America's Food Security Equity Impact Fund.

"One of the things we're trying to do is connect people back to the food that is grown in our backyards."

To that end, 'Elepaio's pilot program provides \$250 per month for participants to use at two local farmers markets to purchase fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables, local protein, poi, and honey.

"The food subscription program started with the idea of giving autonomy back to people in our community," Alicia said. "It helps in ensuring people have access to food they normally might not, especially our cultural foods like poi and 'ulu. Having access to those things is really important not just for mental health but for physical health, as well."

As part of the program, Alicia and her team are tracking the health outcomes of participants to help quantify the impact of fresh produce on one's overall health.

"A majority of the health disparities we see in our community are related to nutrition and diet," she said.

'Elepaio is measuring quality of life for the heads of households, including stress and anxiety. They're currently analyzing data from the first cohort of participants, and while Alicia doesn't have hard data yet, she's incredibly hopeful.

"The participants have found the program helpful in reducing stress and causing healthy weight loss," she said. "But more importantly, it's giving dignity back. At a time when it's so hard to provide for your family, to be able to provide good food for your family does feel good."

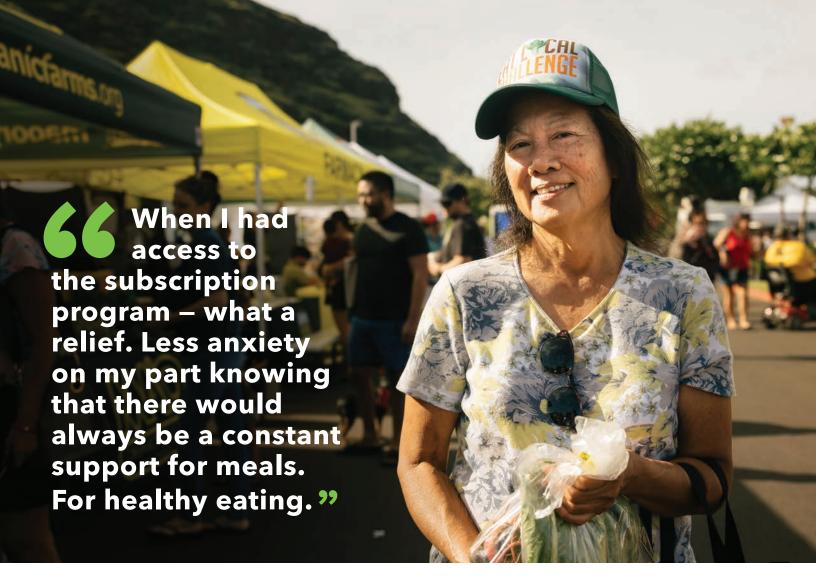
#### **Alyson's Story**

Chances are, you'll find Alyson Hiapo in her māla.

"In Hawaiian, 'māla' means garden," she explains. "In my garden, I like to propagate native Hawaiian plants. I collect seeds or cuttings wherever I go."

At her home in Wai'anae, Alyson walks through her māla, pointing to pots big and small, with Hawaiian plants sprouting from each. She stops near a large leafy kalo plant – its giant heart-shaped leaves lazily swaying in the breeze.

"Kalo is a traditional Hawaiian crop,"



Alyson explains. "Native Hawaiians have grown it for thousands of years. We make poi from it."

Born and raised on O'ahu, food was an important part of Alyson's experience growing up.

"When my mother did buy poi, I was the one who would help her stir it in the bowl," she said. "She taught me how to take it out of the bag the right way."

Alyson has fond memories of eating poi and other traditional Hawaiian foods with her family.

"I don't want to lose that comfort feeling of eating those foods," she said.

But after her husband passed away, and Alyson retired last June, she was faced with the possibility of not being able to afford local, fresh produce – because of how much it costs while living on a fixed income.

"It's a loss of security," Alyson said. Yet, through that loss, Alyson found gain. She signed up for the pilot food subscription program through 'Elepaio Social Services, which is working with Hawai'i Foodbank to provide access to fresh, locally grown produce to people in the Wai'anae community.

"It was such a relief," she said.
"Knowing that I would have that
constant support for healthy eating."

In the program, Alyson received \$250 per month to use at two local farmers markets to purchase whatever produce she wants – which is not something she'd be able to do otherwise.

Despite being an ancient Hawaiian farming community, much of the produce grown in Wai'anae now goes to high-end restaurants or resorts on the island, making locally grown produce hard to find or prohibitively expensive.

"A lot of the produce that does get consumed [in Wai'anae] comes from

the mainland," said Alicia Higa, the interim executive director of 'Elepaio Social Services. "One of the things we're striving to do is to connect people to food that's grown in our own backyard." For Alyson, access to locallygrown produce at the farmers market not only means healthy food – it means reconnecting with native Hawaiian food

"My mom would always buy some special food for our birthday dinner," Alyson remembers. "And we got to tell her what we wanted, and I always asked for poi. It's a native food, but it's one of the most expensive items on the island. I didn't buy poi before being on the subscription program."

And, it means more time in her māla. "I'm trying to make my body stronger because I want to continue working in my garden and continue going on hikes. So I need to eat right."

### **Leaving a Legacy**

#### Through planned giving, you can make a big impact with a future gift



As we enter the fall season, we have an extraordinary gift to share with you. Hawai'i Foodbank is delighted to offer you the opportunity to use FreeWill, a remarkable platform that empowers you to create a lasting impact through planned giving. This is our way of expressing deep gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission.

We believe that philanthropy should be accessible and effortless, which is why we're thrilled to provide you with FreeWill – an invaluable online resource that allows you to create your estate plans easily and at no cost. By using FreeWill, you can ensure that your wishes are fulfilled and make a lasting difference in the lives of our 'ohana facing hunger.

Planned giving is a remarkable way to leave a legacy of compassion and generosity. If you choose to include Hawai'i Foodbank in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy, you can make a profound impact on our ability to nourish our community for years to come. Your gift will help us continue our vital work in alleviating hunger and providing nourishment to those in need.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week takes place in October, and it serves as a timely reminder of the importance of thoughtful estate planning. It's the perfect occasion to consider how you can make a lasting impact by including Hawai'i Foodbank



in your estate plans. This month, as we celebrate the spirit of generosity and the power of planning, we invite you to explore the remarkable benefits of planned giving.

We understand that making decisions about your estate is deeply personal and requires thoughtful consideration. Our dedicated team at Hawai'i Foodbank is here to support and guide you throughout this process. We can provide information, answer any questions you may have, and offer assistance in exploring different planned giving options that align with your goals and values. Rest assured, your plans are completely confidential.

By taking advantage of FreeWill and including Hawai'i Foodbank in your estate plans, you become an integral part of our John White Legacy Society – a special group of individuals dedicated to securing a hunger-free future for Hawai'i's residents. Your generosity will inspire others to follow in your footsteps and make a lasting impact.

We are immensely grateful for your unwavering support and the trust you place in Hawai'i Foodbank. By utilizing FreeWill, you have the power to create a legacy of compassion that will forever change lives – both for the people we serve and your family. To learn more about planned giving and how to get started with FreeWill, please visit our website or contact Cait Dale, director of strategic giving, at cait@hawaiifoodbank.org or 808-954-7887.

Thank you for your compassion, generosity and commitment to joining us in the fight against hunger. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

# John White LEGACY

John White founded Hawai'i Foodbank in 1983, and he created a lasting legacy that continues to positively impact our communities today.

Your legacy can change lives, too. Planned giving enables you to make a lifetime commitment to nourishing our 'ohana.



To learn more about planned giving, visit HawaiiFoodbank.org/legacy.

### **Passport to End Hunger**

18th Canstruction® raises food for nearly 40,000 meals



For the last 18 years, AIA Honolulu has partnered with Hawai'i Foodbank to help raise food donations and funds through their annual Canstruction® competition. Each year, teams led by architects, builders and allied design and engineering professionals compete and showcase their talents by designing giant sculptures made out of canned foods.

Eight teams put their building skills to the test as they created their sculptures in front of a live, public audience at Kahala Mall. This year's teams were Bowers + Kubota Consulting Inc.; Design Partners Inc., Castle & Cooke and Coastal Construction Co.; Ferraro Choi and Associates Ltd. and Nordic PCL Construction Inc.; G70, Swinerton Builders and Coffman Engineers; MGA Architecture LLC and Canaan Builders: Okahara and Associates Inc.; RIM Architects; and RMA Architects Inc. Each team was challenged to create a "Passport to End Hunger," transporting viewers to a world where hunger is a thing of the past.

Members of the public were invited to participate in Canstruction® by voting for their favorite canned food structures. For People's Choice voting, every dollar donated to Hawai'i Foodbank counted as a unique vote. This year's People's Choice Award was "Unpacking Hunger" by RMA Architects Inc.

Canstruction® combines the competitive spirit of a design and build competition with a unique way to help nourish the community. Monetary donations from the public and all the canned food from the structures and Keiki Corner were donated to Hawai'i Foodbank at the completion of the event. This year's Canstruction® raised over 19,000 pounds of food and close to \$11,000 in donations enough to help provide food for nearly 40,000 meals.

Mahalo nui to the organizers, participating teams, sponsors, volunteers and all those involved in making this year's Canstruction® a success. Hawai' Foodbank is incredibly grateful to be the beneficiary of such an amazing event.

# **Our Community** >>> AT WORK



#### **Summer Fun Program**

Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i helped kick off the County of Kaua'i's Summer Fun Program by delivering more than 3,000 healthy snacks to six participating sites. Each year, Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i partners with the County of Kaua'i's Parks and Recreation Department to support roughly 300 keiki enrolled in the Summer Fun program. "We appreciate the support you folks give," said Parks and Recreation staff. "The kids really love the apples!"



#### Foodland "Together We Give"

To honor the Sullivan family legacy and celebrate its 75th anniversary, Foodland supported six local nonprofits, including Hawai'i Foodbank, through their "Together We Give" campaign. At the end of the campaign, Foodland and its customers raised more than \$380,000 for local nonprofits, and their donation to Hawai'i Foodbank can help provide food for more than 84,000 meals.

#### MAHALO to our Donors

Scan the QR code to see a list of our generous donors from January to June 2023. HawaiiFoodbank.org/donor-list.





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