



# 2022 Food+ Policy Priority Areas

[www.foodpluspolicy.com](http://www.foodpluspolicy.com)

1. Counter dependence on extractive tourism and military presence by making it possible for people to make a living doing small farming for local consumption.
2. Incentivize and support regenerative and Native Hawaiian traditional farming and fishing practices.
3. Create access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods for food insecure communities and demographics.
4. Farm to school for all learners (the 3 parts of farm to school are: production, education, procurement).

## More info:

1. Counter dependence on extractive tourism and military presence by making it possible for people to make a living doing small farming for local consumption.

**Why?** Hawai'i's post plantation era approach to agriculture benefits outside corporations more than it benefits the local economy and local people. Since 1993 the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has been given nearly a quarter of a billion dollars to manage agricultural lands. However, ADC land remains mostly leased to chemical corporations such as Dow, Dupont, and Syngenta/Hartung, who have a history of using chemicals that eventually pollute waterways and surrounding lands. These chemicals include AMPA, DDE (a degradate of DDT), glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and MCPA, to name a few.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the ADC's management has been recently scrutinized by a state audit and a UHERO report.

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<sup>1</sup> [Huge news for Kauai's west side waters – chemical companies take another hit. | GaryHooser's Blog](#)

To ensure the growth of local agriculture and provide local jobs, the government must play a role in fostering a supportive business environment for small farmers and food producers. Rather than basing our strategy for meeting local food production goals on attracting outside capital,<sup>2</sup> we need to build long-term economic stability by keeping money circulating through agriculture and community-based fisheries as an anchor for our local economy.

In response to Covid-19 we should not “return to normal,” in an economic sense, because pre-Covid normal was never sustainable or beneficial to the average Hawai‘i resident or the ‘āina. We need to shift our economy away from extractive tourism and exploitative military presence, and we can do this at the same time that we transition our food system away from dependence on imported food.

<i>Policy Idea</i>	<i>Bills</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i>\$</i>
Increased access to living on farmland in “farm dwellings” for practitioners and their ‘ohana	HB 764 HB 1356 SB 1410 / HB 1356	None Found	N/A
Better and increased access to food hubs and community kitchens (kalo processing to poi, ‘ulu processing, etc.)	SB 338 HB 829	None Found	Costs Money
Colocation of farms and grocery stores	None Found	None Found	Costs Money
Simplify and localize meat and poultry processing	None Found	None Found	Costs Money
Tourism and military taxation for equity in our communities	None Found	None Found	Makes money
Community-based/community-regulated fishing practices (local communities dictate fishing kapu/regulations through experts’ knowledge and kilo)	HB 496 SB 690 SB 2501 (2006) ACT 241 (2006)	None Found	Not sure

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/01/we-need-a-better-vision-for-food-sustainability/>

Fisher unions to consolidate knowledge/power and educate local practitioners	None Found	None Found	Costs money
Prohibit non-farming practices on potentially productive ag land	HB 527	None Found	N/A

**2. Incentivize and support regenerative and Native Hawaiian traditional farming and fishing practices.**

**Why?** Conventional agriculture releases carbon into the atmosphere, accelerates global warming, and contributes to ecosystem damage. Regenerative agriculture counters climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil and creating habitat for diverse species.

In Hawai‘i, regenerative agriculture has a role to play in healing degraded ‘āina from the plantation era. Native Hawaiian traditional farming, fishing and land/water management practices--which are uniquely suitable to these islands--must be part of the way forward as a matter of practicality in facing climate change as well as a matter of justice for Native Hawaiians.

<i>Policy Idea</i>	<i>Bills</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i>\$</i>
Tax breaks for traditional farmers (those who grow at least a certain percentage of traditional staples for local distribution: kalo, ‘uala, ‘ulu, etc.)	SB 341 HB 694	None Found	Costs money
Tax breaks for efficient water management practices	None Found	None Found	Costs money
Incentivize use of cover crops	SB 337 SB 493	None Found	Costs money
Additional taxation for farms that do NOT grow any type of traditional crops for local distribution	None Found	None Found	Makes money
Heavy taxation of any operation cultivating GM seeds	None Found	None Found	Makes money

Financial incentives for those converting conventional-style agriculture operations to organic farms (financial assistance/tax breaks to ensure transition success)	None Found	None Found	Costs money
Prohibition of large agribusiness/chemical company investment into community public schools or organizations as it creates a conflict of interest	None Found	None Found	N/A
Connections between local farmers and city/county recycling and yard waste management (equipment recycling and yard waste/green waste programs that provide lower cost services to enhance sustainable agriculture)	SB 587	Windward Zero Waste Hui	Costs money
Kapu beaches for the use of cultural practices and food harvesting (no tourists allowed)	HB 496 SB 690 SB 2501 (2006) ACT 241 (2006)	None Found	N/A
Homeowner tax breaks for home gardens instead of large grass yards	None Found	None Found	Costs money

**3. Create access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods for food insecure communities and demographics.**

**Why?** Low income families stretch their buying power by purchasing cheap, convenient, but unhealthy food items that usually contain a much higher concentration of sugar, salt and other complex preservatives that are harder for the human body to metabolize. This contributes to the development of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, obesity, allergies, high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes and stroke.

The prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Indigenous and low income migrant families emanates from adopting western diets and being cut off from the ability to grow/harvest and eat healthy, traditional foods.

<i>Policy Idea</i>	<i>Bills</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i>\$</i>
Increase awareness regarding food distribution centers: locations, times, ridesharing for pickups, etc	None Found	None found	Costs money
Information and access to double box programs in each community (especially those known to be “food deserts”)	HB 235/SB 512	Hawaii Food Basket, Da Box, Da Bux	Costs money
Programs such as community gardens and farms that allow/encourage ‘ohana plots (where families can obtain small tracts of ‘āina to grow more culturally appropriate, family staples)	None Found	Community Recreational Gardening Program	Costs money
Kūpuna grocery shopping/cooking assistance	None Found	Kupuna Pantry (CSFP), Kupuna Food Security Coalition (KFSC)	Costs money
Remove tax from healthy foods and add taxes to sugary/processed foods	HB 330/SB541 HB994/ SB1148	None found	NA

**4. Farm to school for all learners (the three parts of farm to school are: production, education, procurement).**

**Why?** Our kids deserve to eat the best food. Farm to School programs enhance the health and nutrition of students and families, teach important life skills, encourage waste reduction, reduce carbon emissions, and help make better connections between food, people, and ‘āina.

Locally sourced food tends to be more nutritious, and because processed foods are known to lack important nutrients, there are health advantages to localizing relationships between schools and producers. By focusing on partnerships that regionalize the menu, keiki will have

access to more culturally appropriate foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes, breadfruit, local bananas, etc.

Farm to School connects keiki to local producers and creates relationships that enhance childrens’ understanding of the food system. Many keiki do not know where or how their food grows, and according to the Windward Zero Waste School Hui, school cafeterias generate outrageous food waste (35.5 tons so far in 2021). As we push to get more kalo and ‘ulu into our school cafeterias, we must ensure our keiki know what these foods are and have some type of pilina with their origin and mo’olelo.

In 2017 the average age of a farmer in Hawai‘i was ~60 years old, indicating farming itself is in danger of experiencing extreme shortages of producers. By creating more opportunities for keiki to become familiar with farming, we can ensure traditional agriculture practices and knowledge do not fade away.

<i>Policy Idea</i>	<i>Bills</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i>\$</i>
Regular and equitable access for every HIDOE student at every level (PreK-12) to ‘āina-based education and locally-grown foods for school meals and snacks.	HB 767/Act 175 HB 817/Act 176	Priority for F2S Hui 2022	Costs Money
Develop a comprehensive HIDOE Farm to School Plan (goals, outcomes, objectives, activities, timelines, positions, budget, metrics) with multi-office (e.g. Curriculum, Facilities, Hawaiian Education, Community Engagement) and public-private-nonprofit partner involvement.	None Found	Priority for F2S Hui 2022	Costs Money
Establish and fund a School Garden Program and dedicated School Garden Educational Specialist position within HIDOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID).	None Found	Priority for F2S Hui 2022	Costs Money
Establish a farm to school grant program within HIDOE OCID to fund school-level farm to school programming around procurement, education, and school gardens/farms.	None Found	Priority for F2S Hui 2022	Costs Money

Increase full-time funded CTAHR farm to school coordinator positions from 2 to 18 in order to serve all Hawai'i communities with farm to school support services.	None Found	Priority for F2S Hui 2022	Costs Money
Local producer partnerships with schools to offer internships that serve as class credits. Students can learn and help manage farm plots simultaneously while satisfying DOE requirements.	None Found	None Found	Costs money
Mini farming systems (FARM IN SCHOOL) based on local producer's farming models, located within schools (for younger students that may not be able to travel, etc.)	None Found	None Found	Costs money
Integrate farming into school STEAM programs	None Found	None Found	N/A

**Food+ Policy** is an internship program that gives Hawai'i students (high school, undergraduate, and graduate) experience in civic engagement, professional work environments, and problem solving through the lens of food systems advocacy. Piloted in 2021, Food+ Policy is a collaboration between Purple Mai'a Foundation, UH West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, and the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA).

**Vision**

A robust network of community actors, educational institutions, foundations and state agencies working in collaboration to achieve sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of all people in Hawai'i.

10-year network goals:

- Generate a stable base of locally-owned and family farms using ecologically-based production practices and local inputs

- Support and grow Native Hawaiian-led biocultural restoration work as it interlinks with the food system and restoring 'āina momona
- Develop marketing and processing practices that create direct links between farmers and eaters
- Secure access for all community members to an adequate, safe, affordable, culturally-appropriate and nutritious diet
- Startup food and agriculture-related businesses that create jobs and re-circulate financial capital within Hawai'i's economy;
- Secure living wages for all people and enhanced working conditions for agricultural and food system laborers
- Expand state food and agriculture policies that promote local and sustainable food production, processing and consumption
- Incentivize and normalize widespread adoption of dietary behaviors that reflect concern about individual, environmental and community health and well being
- Achieve food system resilience to natural and human-caused disasters through planning and infrastructure development

For more info see [transforminghawaiifoodsystem.org](https://transforminghawaiifoodsystem.org)