Three decades after Hurricane ‘Iniki devastated Kaua‘i, the memories of the storm remain fresh — but the lessons carry Hawai‘i Foodbank’s mission forward  p. 4

‘Iniki Remembered
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CONNECT WITH US!
Remembering the past as we look toward the future

The holidays are a time for reflection. As I reflect back over the last year and a half since I’ve been at Hawai’i Foodbank, one word comes to mind: connection.

At Hawai’i Foodbank, food is a way for people to connect. Food is about comfort, celebration and spending time with loved ones. This feels most evident during the holidays, and it holds especially true here in Hawai’i – where food connects us to family, celebrates our island cultures and is essential to thriving communities.

Currently, 1 in 6 Hawai’i residents continues to struggle with hunger. With inflation rates and grocery costs continuing to rise, a lot of Hawai’i families are facing extra challenges putting food on the table this year. The need is not waning, but your support enables us to meet it every step of the way. You’ve helped us expand on programs this year like Food 4 Keiki, Kūpuna Fresh and Farm to Foodbank. As a result, we distributed food for more than 14.5 million meals, including nearly 5 million pounds of fresh produce.

This last year also marked 30 years since Hurricane ‘Iniki made landfall on Kaua’i as a Category 4 hurricane. It was the costliest and most powerful storm to hit Hawai’i in modern history. At Hawai’i Foobank, ‘Iniki reshaped the way we think about hurricanes and how we prepare for emergencies. With the anniversary upon us, ‘Iniki also reminds us of the depth of aloha that exists across the islands – where, amid adversity, our community’s first instinct is to always take care of one another.

I am incredibly humbled to be a part of this community, and I am so grateful for your trust in our mission. Your support provides so much more than food – you help build connections between people, communities and families alike. I look forward to continuing our work together and building more connections in 2023.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season,

Amy Miller Marvin
Hawai’i Foodbank President and CEO
Emerging Advocacy

Hawai‘i Foodbank teams up with MAZON to focus on ending hunger in Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i Foodbank is pleased to announce its partnership with MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a leading national anti-hunger organization, to further its efforts to end hunger in Hawai‘i. Hawaiian Foodbank is one of four new partners in Hawai‘i and one of 13 new partners across the United States in MAZON’s Emerging Advocacy Fund. This initiative supports a nationwide effort to expand grassroots anti-hunger work in the states most impacted by hunger.

Through this partnership, Hawai‘i Foodbank recently hired Kina Mahi, a consultant with extensive philanthropy and nonprofit management experience, to lead advocacy initiatives and facilitate the creation of an umbrella network for Hawai‘i’s four largest food banks: Hawaiian Foodbank, Hawai‘i Foodbank Kaua‘i, Maui Food Bank and The Food Basket on Hawai‘i Island. Kina will also work collaboratively with the three other MAZON partners in Hawai‘i, all of whom are well-versed in anti-hunger advocacy – Hawai‘i Children’s Action Network, Hawai‘i Public Health Institute and The Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice.

Food banks are primarily recognized as distributors of food to those in need. However, food banks across the country are examining their role in their communities and expanding their efforts to make systemic changes in the fight against hunger. Looking ahead, Hawai‘i Foodbank remains committed to its role in meeting the urgent hunger needs of our community today – while also recognizing the importance of new initiatives to reduce long-term food insecurity. The Emerging Advocacy Fund will better enable Hawai‘i Foodbank and its statewide partners to advocate for the programs, funding and public support needed to end hunger across the islands.

MAZON has been developing strategic initiatives to end hunger for more than 37 years. In particular, they focus on promoting systemic change at all levels of government and on providing resources and training to organizations in states where food insecurity rates are the highest.

“We are thrilled to partner with MAZON to find long-term solutions to food insecurity for future generations in Hawai‘i,” said Hawai‘i Foodbank President and CEO Amy Miller Marvin. “The opportunity to hire staff to focus on these efforts and to be part of a cohort of organizations also working to end hunger both in Hawai‘i and across the United States is truly incredible.”

Honolulu Country Club Foundation

Honolulu Country Club Foundation (HCCF) recently donated $100,000 in support of Hawai‘i Foodbank’s mission. The check was presented by Tomio Taki, former chair and CEO of HCCF. Taki established HCCF in 2005 to give back to the community. During his tenure, HCCF has helped provide food for more than 700,000 meals.

Fifth Judicial Circuit Court

The Fifth Judicial Circuit Court presented Hawai‘i Foodbank Kaua‘i with a check for more than $1,600 after a successful Halloween bake sale organized by Kelii Barsness. This effort outdid their previous May bake sale by 35%. Combined, the donations from both efforts will help provide food for more than 5,700 meals.
5 Food Waste Tips for the Holidays
Helpful ways to reduce food waste at home while still celebrating the season

Between holiday parties, family obligations and the pressure of finding that perfect gift — this time of year can certainly go by in a flash. Amid the bustle of the holiday season, planning a family gathering can already be hard enough. The last thing we need to worry about is all the holiday leftovers. But, unfortunately, food waste this time of year can be a big problem.

Discarded food contributes to household waste increases by more than 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Locally, even as Hawai‘i residents pay some of the highest food prices in the country, more than half a billion pounds of food go to waste each year. This comes out to almost 1.5 million pounds of food waste per day across the islands — or more than 26% of the available food supply.

Food waste happens across every sector of the food system, but individuals are responsible for the most significant amount of food waste. Hawai‘i residents throw away approximately one quarter of all food and beverage purchases, which equates to a loss of about $700 per person per year. The accumulative food waste has a big impact on our community, our local economy and our environment.

Luckily, there’s plenty we can do to reduce food waste at home. Here are five tips that may help you focus even more on caring and celebration this season, and could even reduce the strain on our personal budgets and the environment.

1. Rethink Your Shopping List: If you’re not hosting guests this year, buy what you need to feed your family and match their tastes. For example, if they cannot stand cranberry sauce — skip it. They like ice cream more than pumpkin crunch? Swap it out. Your holiday dinner will still be perfect without those “traditional” foods. And you can avoid overbuying by shopping for what you’ll want to eat.

2. Take ‘Um Home: Provide or ask guests to pack up leftovers. Instead of loading them up with a little bit of everything, ask them what they enjoyed eating and let them pick. That way, you can avoid those leftovers reaching someone else’s rubbish.

3. Get Experimental: Leftovers reheated in the microwave are great. But after a few days, that can get humbug. So, try mixing it up with some new recipes — like loading up those fixings onto a holiday sandwich or panini.

4. Compost: You can compost many ingredients of your holiday meal. Fruits, vegetables, eggshells and coffee grounds make great compost. You can compost safely at home in your backyard or in an indoor compost bin.

5. Donate Unopened Ingredients: After the holidays, we often see a sharp decline in food donations. To help, you can donate your unopened canned and shelf-stable ingredients. Get your family, friends and neighbors involved by making a food drive out of it! Check out our online Food Drive Toolkit for fun ideas and how to get started.

More than 522 million pounds of food go to waste each year in Hawai‘i — or more than 26% of the available food supply.”
30 years after Hurricane ‘Iniki devastated Kaua‘i, the memories of the storm remain fresh — but the lessons carry Hawai‘i Foodbank’s mission forward

Story by WES PERREIRA, HAWAI‘I FOODBANK KAUA‘I DIRECTOR

Sept. 11, 1992 – It’s hard to believe it has been 30 years since that cataclysmic day. When Hurricane ‘Iniki visited Kaua‘i, it changed everything. Packing winds in excess of 145 mph, ‘Iniki swept across the island, leaving behind the worst disaster in the history of the State of Hawai‘i. ‘Iniki was fierce, and it really presented giant problems for our tiny island.

Six deaths. More than 100 people injured. Thousands of tourists stranded. Nearly 1,500 homes destroyed, and more than 90% of the island’s buildings damaged. Billions of dollars in losses. The Category 4 hurricane ripped off roofs, uprooted trees and knocked out utility pulls – cutting off water, electricity and all communications systems islandwide. It took months to restore power, and many families spent the holidays in the dark.

For all of us on the Garden Island, we’ve become intrinsically connected to this storm in one way or another. Myself, I’ll never forget the blare of the warning sirens, the boarded windows, the frantic lines of unmoving cars, and the grocery stores packed with people – but barren of groceries.

There are tens of thousands of stories to tell about that day and the events that followed. I cannot tell you how many families have told me about how they huddled together in the bathtub or under a mattress, praying for the storm to pass. You might hear stories like Richard’s (pictured lower right), who had to live in a discarded trailer with a makeshift roof after losing his home. Folks might recall the Shell House (pictured lower left), the popular Hanalei spot frequented by locals and visitors alike – until it was destroyed by ‘Iniki. And then there are Aunty Maria and Aunty Eugenia (pictured on the cover), who patiently waited for hours by the roadside every single week after the storm to receive food at Līhu‘e Lutheran Church.

For Hawai‘i Foodbank, ‘Iniki is a story of beginnings.

Prior to ‘Iniki, there weren’t any food banks on Kaua‘i. This brought to light an extremely important issue that surfaced in the days, weeks and months following the storm: Kaua‘i’s food infrastructure wasn’t adequately prepared for an emergency of this proportion. Tremendous amounts of food were lost because there was no electricity to power the island’s refrigerators and freezers. Local restaurants, grocers and distributors raced to give away most of their cold-storage products, but that could only sustain the community for so long without power.

The day before ‘Iniki struck, Hawai‘i Foodbank, which was operating primarily out of its O‘ahu warehouse on Kalani Street, was already beginning to anticipate and prepare for emergency. The team implemented a disaster relief plan and initiated a statewide food collection effort with drop-off locations at all fire stations continued on page 6
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and many banks. Incredibly, in just a few days, the food drive collected nearly 1.7 million pounds of food — exceeding the capacity of the warehouse at that time. With help from the governor, Hawai‘i Foodbank secured an additional 150,000 square-foot building near the airport. This location would serve as an integral staging, sorting, packing and shipping facility for the ‘Iniki relief efforts.

With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, Hawai‘i Foodbank immediately palletized and shipped 1.5 million pounds of food to Kaua‘i. Over the course of the next year, Hawai‘i Foodbank distributed roughly 5 million pounds of food to an average of 12,000 people each month – a quarter of the population of the Garden Island. For more than 70% of those people, this was the first time they ever had to ask for food assistance.

This was all accomplished in cooperation with the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and more than 20 other voluntary organizations.

In collaboration with these partners, a food distribution network was created on Kaua‘i along with five emergency distribution sites to provide extra aid.

Hawai‘i Foodbank’s ‘Iniki relief efforts garnered national attention and set a model for food bank disaster relief across the country. This laid the groundwork for Hawai‘i Foodbank to work with America’s Second Harvest – now known as Feeding America – in establishing food banks as legitimate and necessary partners in emergency food distribution at both the local and state levels. The response to ‘Iniki has also resulted in lasting relationships between Hawai‘i Foodbank and the County of Kaua‘i, the State of Hawai‘i, FEMA and the National Guard.

‘Iniki is also a story of long-term commitment.

Since ‘Iniki’s unprecedented landfall on Kaua‘i in 1992, the State of Hawai‘i has endured volcanic eruptions, historic flooding and landslides, major swells, a government shutdown and even a global pandemic. Every one of these events has taught us valuable lessons on preparedness, relief and recovery. As we look towards the future, we aim to build upon this experience and prioritize disaster preparedness as a pillar of our mission. Here’s a closer look at what we’re doing to strengthen our role as an essential emergency relief organization:

• As a member of the Hawaii State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) network since 2004, we work with a variety of other nonprofits, faith-based groups, community organizations, and other private sector and government partners to voluntarily provide disaster-related services throughout the State of Hawai‘i.

• We’re continuing to build upon our own extensive network of more than 200 agency partners, which makes us uniquely prepared to respond in the event of a disaster or emergency. We are investing in emergency response training and equipment not only for our own staff but also for appropriate agency partners.
• We are working with the American Red Cross to provide food when emergency refuge centers are open during a disaster. For example, during the Kona Low in December 2021, Hawai‘i Foodbank worked to provide water and snacks to sheltered families at four refuge centers on O‘ahu.

• As a member of Feeding America, we have access to valuable nationwide resources in the case of disaster. Feeding America is ready to distribute emergency food, supplies and equipment to food banks in affected communities. Furthermore, Feeding America is dedicated to providing long-term disaster recovery to its member food banks and the communities they serve.

• In 2021 and 2022, Hawai‘i Foodbank took part in an assessment and helped develop a statewide Disaster Response Plan in partnership with a cohort of other organizations that effectively respond to emergencies. This plan optimizes our ability to communicate and collaborate with voluntary, county, state and federal entities during an emergency.

• This year, we established a new partnership with the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management, designating Hawai‘i Foodbank as their lead agency for emergency feeding before, during and after a disaster.

‘Iniki is a story of courage, resilience and love in action.

When we look back at ‘Iniki, it is important that we remember the devastation, trauma and heartache.

But as we reflect upon those painful memories, we must also remember to be courageous and never forget how far we have come in our resilience. ‘Iniki taught us many lessons. It reshaped the way we think about hurricanes in Hawai‘i, and it has helped us better prepare for the future. But more than anything, Sept. 11, 1992, showed us that the people of Hawai‘i don’t hesitate to take action when it comes to taking care of one another. At Hawai‘i Foodbank, we’ve seen it in our mission every day ever since. JoAnn Yukimura, Kaua‘i Mayor during ‘Iniki, said it best, “Hawai‘i Foodbank demonstrates love in action.”
Preparedness, Response and Recovery
Hawai‘i Foodbank Partners with the Department of Emergency Management

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, our organization responded immediately by sending 1.5 million pounds of food to relief sites across the island. Our contributions to the ‘Iniki relief efforts garnered statewide and national recognition – establishing Hawai‘i Foodbank as an important disaster response organization.

Accordingly, emergency preparedness, response and recovery have become integral pillars of Hawai‘i Foodbank’s mission. When disaster strikes, Hawai‘i Foodbank is on the ground and ready to provide food assistance and emergency supplies where they are needed most. With this in mind, we are excited to announce a partnership with the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management (DEM), who coordinates emergency response training, coordinate with other agency partners in the area and organize emergency response volunteers.

For more information and to support Hawai‘i Foodbank’s Emergency Relief Fund, please visit HawaiiFoodbank.org/ emergency-relief.

GIVE THE GIFT of Preparedness
from the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management

This holiday season, our friends at DEM are promoting disaster preparedness by encouraging Hawai‘i residents to “give the gift of preparedness.” Check out these practical, budget-friendly gift ideas that can become a part of your family’s or friends’ disaster supply kit.

Stocking Stuffer Gifts for Less Than $5
- Foldable Water Bottle
- Mini Food Plastic Bag Sealer
- Hand Sanitizer
- Travel-Size Disinfecting Wipes
- USB Phone Charger

Gifts for Less Than $10
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Water Purification Iodine Tablets
- Reusable Eating Utensil Set
- Portable Food / Water Bowl for Pets
- Basic First-Aid Kit
- Basic LED Lantern

Gifts for Less Than $20
- Personal Water Filter
- Five Gallon Water Jug
- Collapsible Water Bucket
- Freeze-Dried Food
- Reusable Coffee / Tea Cup
- Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- Enhanced First-Aid Kit

Gifts for Less Than $30
- Portable Water Filtration System
- Mess Kit
- Cooler on Wheels
- Headlamp
- Backpack for “Go Bag”
- Sleeping Bag

These gifts address important disaster preparedness needs such as water and water storage, food and utensils, health and safety, communications, and personal necessities. For the full list, more information on building your disaster supply kit and creating a family emergency plan, visit Honolulu.gov/dem.
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NOURISH OUR ‘OHANA NEWSLETTER
Food Drive Day

We want to extend our gratitude for your support around this year’s annual Food Drive Day campaign and event. It felt great to be back together in person for the first time in two years. We received such a wonderful response from the community with more than 450 volunteers across our eleven sites on O‘ahu and Kaua‘i – where we collected more than 20,000 pounds of food donations in less than 24 hours. On top of that, the statewide fundraising campaign generated more than $125,000. Combined, this will help ensure that we can provide our community with food for more 285,000 meals. From all of us at Hawai‘i Foodbank and the communities we serve, “Mahalo.”
As we celebrate this holiday season, thousands of Hawai‘i families will be unable to put food on the table for their loved ones. You can help fill plates and hearts for the holidays. See all the ways you can nourish our ‘ohana at HAWAIIFOODBANK.ORG.