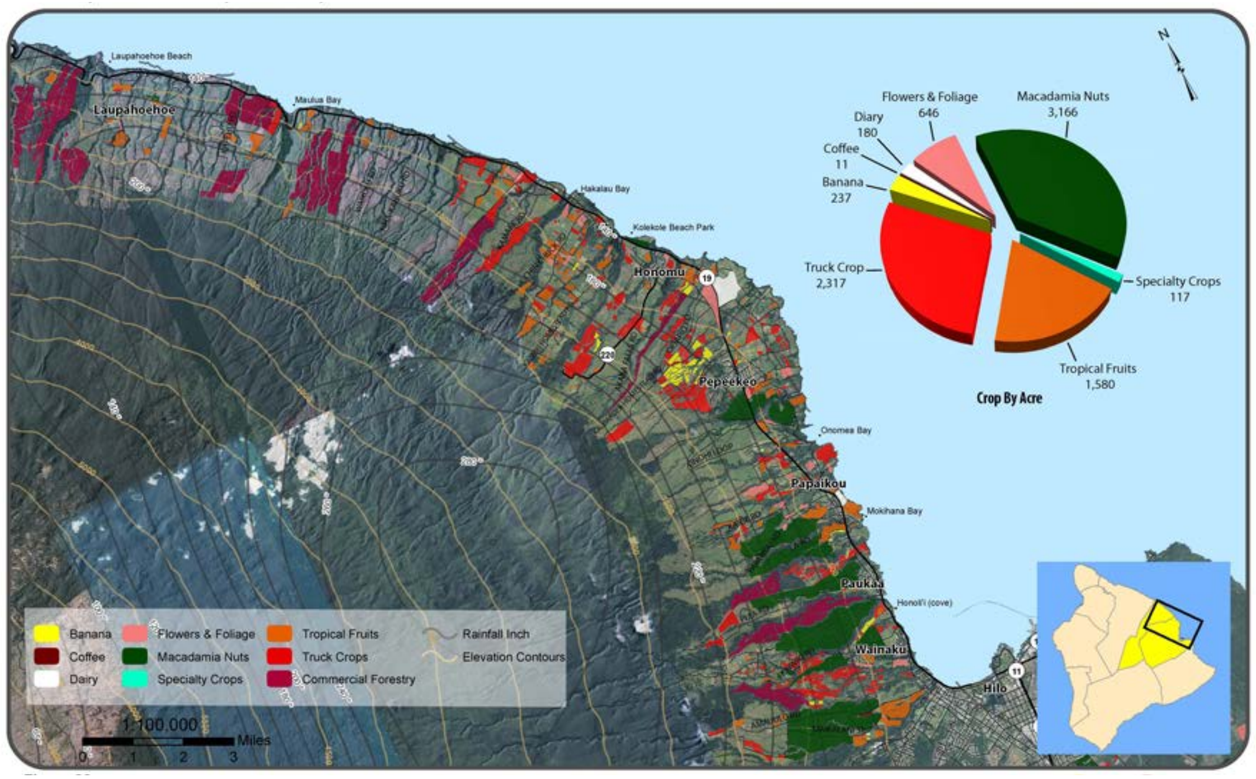
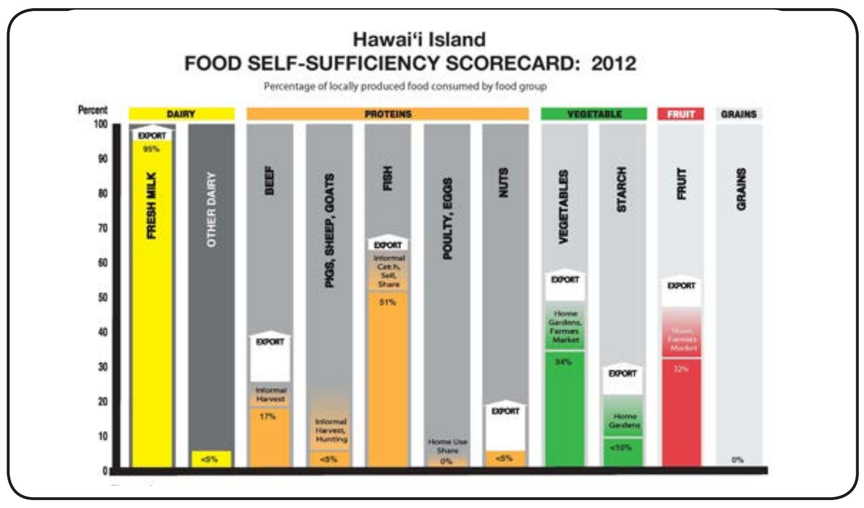
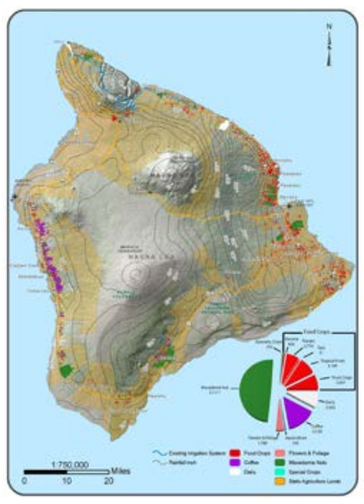
HAWAI'I COUNTY FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY

BASELINE 2012







HAWAI'I COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

JEFFREY MELROSE, ISLAND PLANNING

DR. DONNA DELPARTE, UH HILO GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The 2012 Hawai'i County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline provides a broad, graphic-based look at the state of food production on Hawai'i Island, from ranch and farm to fishing, hunting and gathering. It provides the County of Hawai'i a means to draw a baseline from which to measure future progress towards improving the island's food self-reliance.

The Food Self-Sufficiency Scorecard provides a simple means to display the current state of the Island's food production, exports and imports for a range of food types. By displaying types of food separately, the Scorecard invites more informed conversation about how to move the bars for each type of food. It also acknowledges the informal role of some food production that is sold in a cash economy, caught or hunted in the wild or shared with family and friends.

Using the GIS resources at UHH, the study provided a new digital layer depicting all existing agriculture and related infrastructure on Hawai'i Island using satellite imagery, County RPT, and NRCS data. The result was both a summary of the current state of agriculture on the island and a set of regional maps that help to explain both where Hawai'i farms and what key factors support farming activity.

The Baseline also provides maps and discussion about the key role of real property taxes in supporting food production, and irrigation availability island wide. The report also provides a discussion about what are called Core Crop Lands and the importance of building off the existing farm footprint to expand island food production. There is also a section that provides a list of 100 Things to Do to Increase Hawai'i Island Food Self Reliance.

The APA Awards Jury selected this study for recognition since it provides important baseline data for measuring food production and consumption and agricultural activity as a basis for monitoring food self-sufficiency in Hawai'i County. They noted this as an important effort given national and local concerns regarding agriculture, food safety and security, sustainability, and the effects of climate and environmental change. They found the work innovative, including the creation of a self-sufficiency scorecard and maps depicting agricultural activity throughout the County. Information on area specific food production is particularly useful. The study builds and strengthens partnerships between the County of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and deepens the relationship between planning and agricultural land management as more than 150 people were interviewed in the process. The development of key metrics related to production and consumption is useful and many of the concepts, tools, and findings are transferable to other communities. The inclusion of a list of 100 things to do also can be built upon. The study provides a good foundation for future action affecting agriculture in Hawai'i.

2012 APA AWARDS PROGRAM

HAWAI'I CHAPTER

Sponsored by

HonBlue

INNOVATION IN SUSTAINING PLACES AWARD