Feeding Families During COVID
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Abstract

By analyzing data science and utilizing connections, I want to feed families who are not as fortunate as we are and are undergoing tough times during the COVID pandemic. Although I would like to be able to help as many families as possible, at this moment, I am looking towards Waimea Middle School students to be the receivers of the groceries and food supplies that I can hopefully bring in.

Introduction and Goals

Because of the amount of families that are struggling, as well as the amount of suppliers that are struggling, I want to start small and look to Waimea Middle School. Because my sister is currently a student at Waimea, I know that they are not able to attend in-person classes and probably will not as the year progresses. Many of these middle schoolers qualify for free or reduced lunches and breakfasts. I want to look to these students as candidates for food donations first, and then expand to giving food to all students at Waimea. If all goes well, I would like to expand to giving food to as many people as possible.

Implementation and Challenges

As for feeding families, I want to implement a system similar to the company "Pa'ina by Ocean" in which we create boxes and deliver to those families at Waimea who need it the most. These boxes will be free of charge and will contain food sourced from local companies. My grandparents sell to Pa'ina so I know that they pay for the produce they receive. Because the boxes I want to deliver are free, I don't think that paying for produce or groceries is viable. One plan I have is to contact multiple farms and restaurants and ask for small donations from each to hopefully accumulate a large stockpile that can be packed into boxes. I also want to ask the leaders of the Hongwanji community meal how they receive donations and explore their methods as well. I think that I could implement data into this project by looking at the amount of families and looking at the amount of members in each. From there, I could create boxes with contents based on family size to best use the resources that I am given. If everything comes together and I am able to provide boxes to Waimea students, I hope to look at the data from the first couple weeks and see if there is room to expand the movement further. Some challenges I foresee are the volume of donations I hope to accumulate. I think that Pa'ina works well because it benefits the suppliers. I know that providers of donations might be reluctant to donate supplies, especially on a weekly basis. Knowing this, I want to see if I can apply for grants to be able to pay farmers and providers for their food.

Impact and Legacy

I hope that this project will be able to impact other people who are struggling during this time. My family was fortunate enough to get their jobs back but I know that there are a lot of families out there who are not as lucky. I hope to help them and share the fortune that my family was given. As mentioned earlier, I think that I'll have to start with Waimea Middle School because of my lack of experience. If my project can progress, I hope that the project will evolve and create new opportunities for other families.