

For Immediate Release

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Chef Hui

Chef Hui Launches Give and Go Community Meal Program to Support Local Restaurants

Honolulu, HI (May 6, 2020)—Chef Hui, a project of Pili Group LLC, has partnered with various businesses in Hawaii to provide financial assistance to local restaurants that feed our communities. Inspired by the tradition of sharing food, breaking boundaries and connecting with one another, Chef Hui created the Give and Go Community Meal Program to address the current hardships facing our restaurant industry and the simultaneously increasing need to feed our communities.

Through the Give and Go Community Meal Program, local restaurants who are currently offering takeout or delivery options have been invited to produce a set amount of additional meals to be donated to communities in need. With support from partners such as the Johnson Ohana Foundation, American Savings Bank, Wholesome Wave, Altres, Hawaii Life, World Surf League, John John Florence and many individual donations the Give and Go Program has already raised nearly \$100,000. These funds will provide each restaurant with a stipend for the community meals they create.

“Restaurants and farmers need our support now more than ever. They are doing their best to stay open for their community and their employees, but their sales are nowhere close to where they need to be. Our hope is that this program will provide some financial relief so that restaurants and farms can continue to employ their staff and hopefully even bring back additional staff. It’s like a triple bottom line. It supports farmers, restaurants and it feeds people. We hope that if restaurants know they will have a set amount of sales each week it will give them a little more confidence in staying open, purchasing ingredients from local purveyors and keeping their staff employed,” says Amanda Corby Noguchi, Co-founder of Chef Hui.

Participating restaurants are also promoting this program to their networks with a “buy one give one” program. By purchasing a meal from a participating restaurant a portion of the proceeds will go towards community meals so customers can support their community by supporting their local neighborhood restaurant. Proceeds from each purchase will go back to fund the collaborative effort and keep the Give and Go Program going.

With initial funding, the Give and Go Community Meal Program will support a small group of restaurants from across the state. The program is slated to run for the month of May with an opportunity to continue and grow to other restaurant partners if funding allows. The program will give priority to locally owned restaurants who are already serving their community through takeout options and who are already committed to purchasing food from local farmers, ranchers, and food producers. In this way, the fund will support those who are struggling to access affordable, nutritious food and those who are challenged in bringing food to market due to COVID-19.

“Working together, we hope to keep Hawai‘i farmers farming and cooks cooking while providing prepared meals for those in need,” says Corby Noguchi.

If both the need for the program and funding pursues, Chef Hui hopes to extend to additional restaurants and for additional months to support meeting the statewide need for emergency feeding efforts.

Chef Hui is currently looking for additional funding to grow these efforts. Any interested businesses can email ChefHuiHi@gmail.com or reach out via their website. Individuals can also donate to their cause through their Hawaii Community Foundation [Chef Hui Fund](#).

Participating Restaurants: Open Kitchen O‘ahu, Mad Bened, Nui Kealoha Catering, Koko Head Cafe, XO Restaurant, Kaimuki Superette, Town, Mud Hen Water, Cakeworks, Mark’s Place (Kauai) and a growing list of restaurants on Hawaii Island. For a full list and more information visit chefhui.com/giveandgo.

Meal Distribution Partners: Papakolea Community Center, Salvation Army Women’s Shelter, Halau Ku Mana Charter School, Susannah Wesley Community Center, North Shore Foodbank, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Child and Family Service, Hau‘ula Community Center, Palolo Valley Community Center, Ke Kula Nui O Waimanalo and many more.

“With food as a vessel, we at Chef Hui aim to cultivate experiences and educational opportunities that connect us to our own unique heritage and provide a sense of place,” says Amanda Noguchi, co-founder of Pili Group and Chef Hui. “Especially here in Hawai’i, as we share food, we also share aloha, and perhaps now during our current pandemic, this simple act will be what keeps us healthy, resilient and connected”.

At the end of the day, the Give and Go Community Meal Program reminds us to honor the multitude of positive outcomes created from the simple act of feeding one another. Supporting local efforts to upkeep Hawaii’s economy will not only strengthen our community when the world deems it safe to re-open, but also make us a more resilient group of people. To learn more about and to donate to Chef Hui and the Give and Go Program, visit www.chefhui.com/giveandgo. To participate as a restaurant, email chefhuihi@gmail.com.

About Chef Hui

Chef Hui is a collaboration of local chefs who aim to serve and engage their community through the vessel of food. Created in 2018 by the Pili Group LLC, the Hui stands as a way to deepen connections between the culinary world and the communities they feed. Chef Hui partners with various organizations to educate and inspire a connection to food and the people who produce and prepare it. The mission of Chef Hui is to help connect the culinary world with their community through a strong network of local chefs and produce providers. By gathering chefs and connecting them to education efforts, we strengthen the community as a whole.

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