

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
Talking Points for the 25th Annual ALA Food Show
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 8:00 am ET

- Aloha and welcome to the 25th annual Daniel K. Akaka A-L-A Hawaii food show.
- I am so glad to be with you all as we celebrate 25 years of the food show, which has helped get more than 5,000 local products added to Commissary shelves in Hawaii and around the world.
- I also want to take a moment to recognize Sharon Zambo-Fan and her dedication to local vendors and our military community.
- This event, and its enormous impact, would not be possible without her.
- As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I'm working every day to make sure our servicemembers and our families have the support they deserve.
- Of course, that includes things like safe, quality housing and modern defense technologies.

- But it also means making sure that they have access to the best products and services that can only be offered by Hawaii businesses, at the best prices possible.
- That's one of the many reasons this event is so important.
- And in addition to supporting our military families, this show and the business it generates is also vital to Hawaii's economy.
- Today, sales in Hawaii commissaries account for more than \$250 million every year, and the Pearl Harbor Commissary is ranked first for sales worldwide.
- This is a testament to the importance of this event, and to all of the A-L-A members and Hawaii businesses who have worked to expand the availability of local products in our commissaries.
- Mahalo for all that you do, and for your partnership in our work to support our servicemembers.
- Aloha.