



Health Security and Resiliency in the Blue Continent

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Positionality Statement

- Born and raised in Hawai'i
- Professor at UH JABSOM and UH Cancer Center
- Active Clinical Physician
 - Medical Student and Resident Physician Training
- DUO Citizen: RMI and US
- Lived RMI 9.5 years 1982 - 1991
 - Med Director for Preventive Health RMI
 - Programs to Care for Nuclear Weapons Testing Affected People
- Worked Across Region
 - Cancer Council of the Pacific Programs
- PACE (Cervical Cancer), Cancer Registry
- Research: NIH Grants



Resiliency

- “The ability to successfully adapt to stressors- to “bounce back” from difficult experiences / trauma.
 - not a trait that people either have or don’t have
 - involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions that can be learned and developed in everyone.
 - being adaptable flexible
 - recognizing that we’ve got strengths and assets
 - there are metrics, can build
- “Resilience is related to processes and skills that influence good individual and community health outcomes, in spite of negative events, serious threats and hazards.” - WHO



Health Security

- public health security
 - activities required, both proactive and reactive
 - to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people's health
 - across geographical regions and international boundaries. –WHO
- measures taken to protect and promote the health of individuals, communities, and nations from threats and hazards.
 - encompasses a range of activities aimed at preventing, detecting, responding to, and recovering from health emergencies, including:
 - Prevention:
 - Surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases
 - Vaccination programs
 - Promotion of healthy behaviors (e.g., nutrition, exercise)
 - Biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of dangerous pathogens



Intersection of Health Security and Resiliency

- Resiliency of Health Systems
 - Health Care Delivery
 - Prevention, Primary Care, Secondary and Tertiary
 - Emergency Response
- Resiliency of Populations
 - Complete Health wellbeing – physical, mental , spiritual
 - Cultural Constructs
 - Organizational Constructs
 - Climate Change
 - Economic and Food Security
- Resiliency of Individuals
- Resiliency of Blue Continent



Resiliency and Research

- Health Care
 - Research – Observation , Data, Discovery, Problem Solving, Solutions, Evaluation- Problem Solve- New Solutions
- Benefit
 - Capacity Building
 - New Ways
 - Adapting New and Old Technologies
 - Addressing More effective ways to screen , treat, alleviate suffering
 - in the context of culture, resources , setting



Resiliency

- Research Grants
 - Several Grants
 - NIH - U54 x 2
 - Infrastructure
 - CDC – PACe
 - Funded by US Gov
 - What happens when grant ends:
 - Grants are not forever and come to either a natural end
 - Grants are terminated because values or directives change



Resiliency

- Nuclear Weapons Testing
 - Was and Is a Weapons Research Program
- What Happened , What were Health and Social Consequences, What is happening today, tomorrow, and in the future --- for health
- Not my issue ? Not my children's and peoples issue??
- We don't know what we don't know!

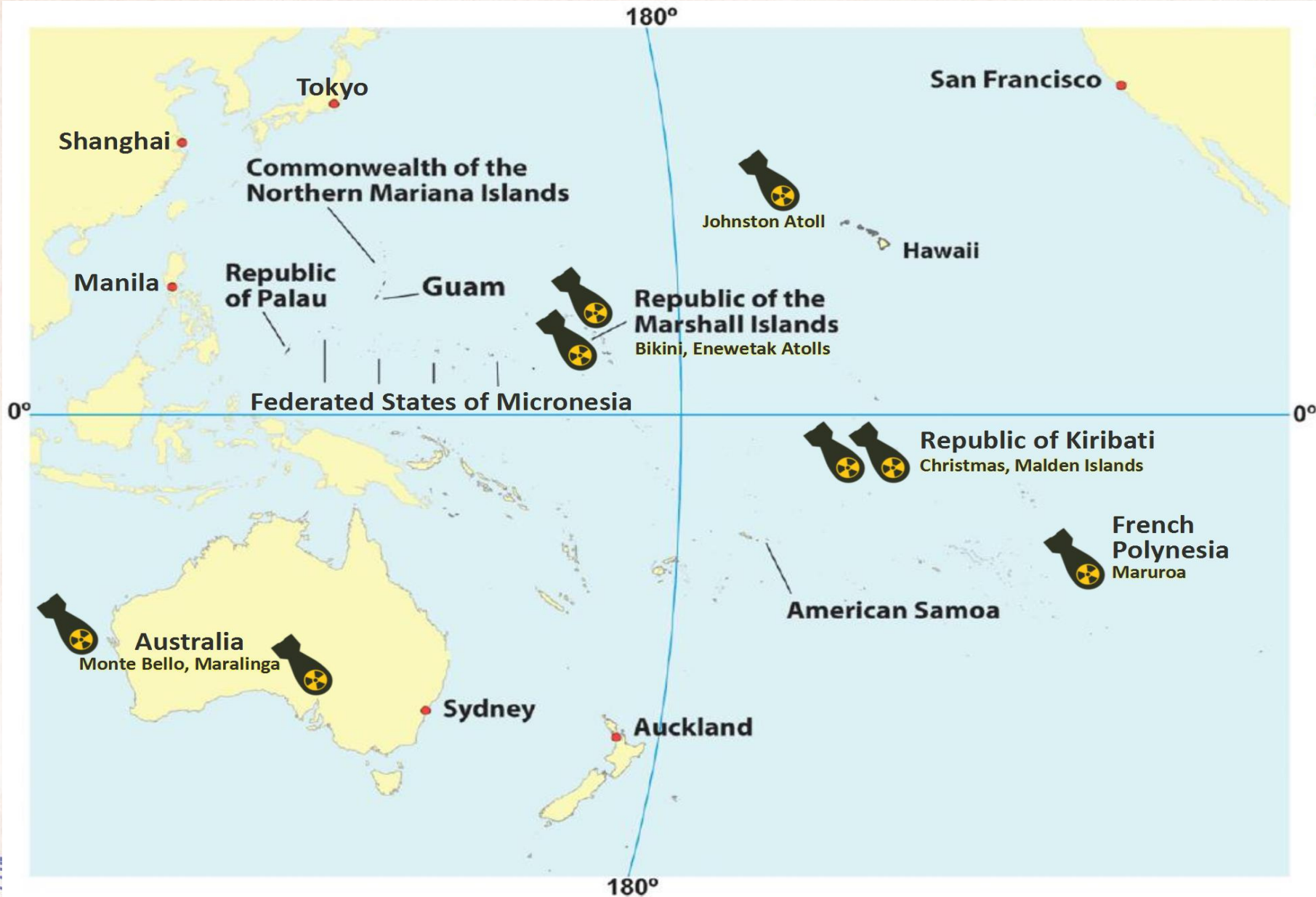


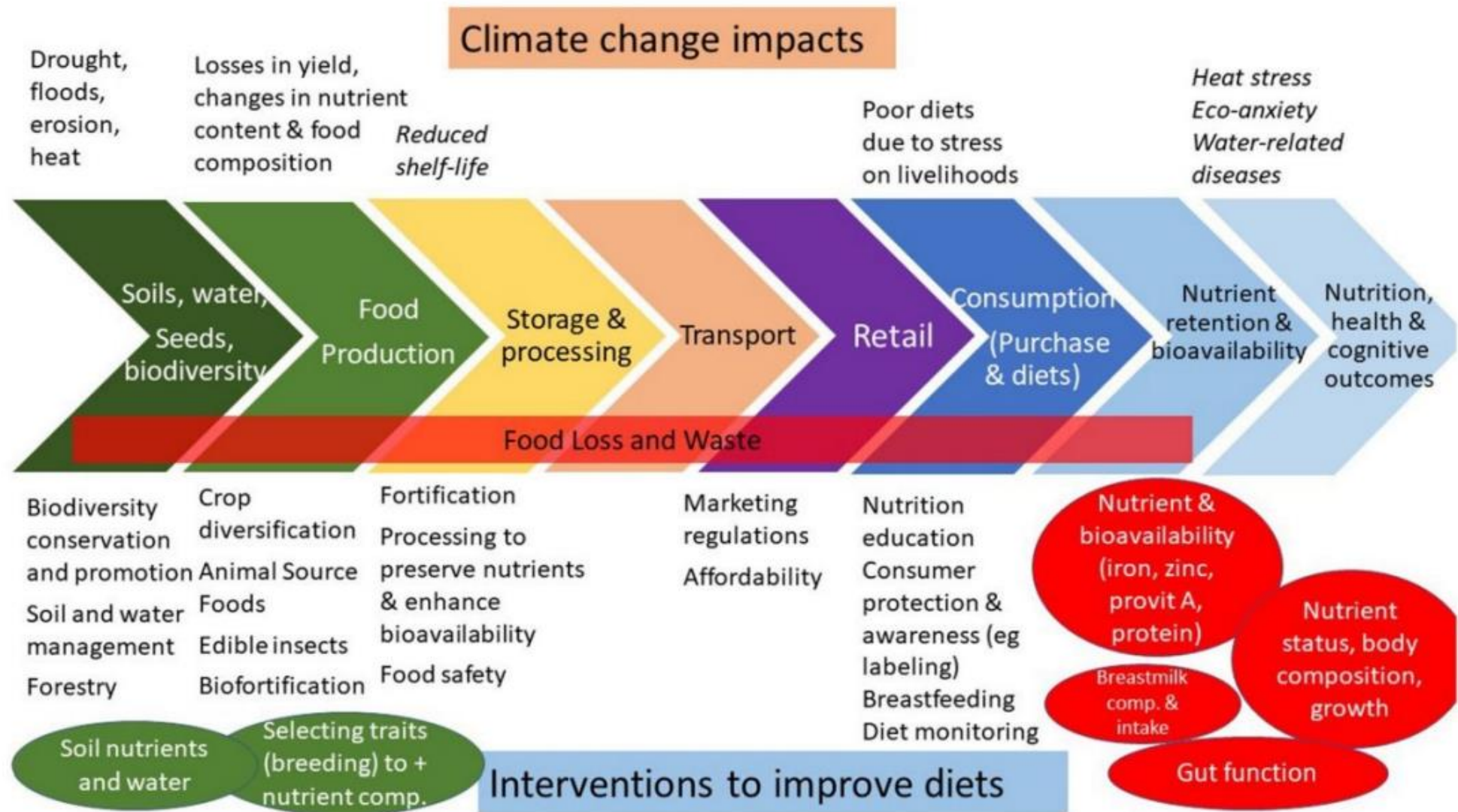
Figure 1: Nuclear weapons testing sites in the Pacific Islands and atolls (Simon et al., 2006, p. 50)



Resiliency and Health Security

- Adaptability
- Understanding assets and barriers
- Interdependence (relationships)
 - Not Dependence
- Priorities
- Structures and Frameworks will follow
 - Leadership
 - Capacity Building

Figure 1: Climate change impacts on micronutrient status



Source: V. Owino, C. Kumwenda, B. Ekesa, et al., "The Impact of Climate Change on Food Systems, Diet Quality, Nutrition, and Health Outcomes: A Narrative Review," *Frontiers in Climate* 4 (2022): 941842, doi: 10.3389/fclim.2022.941842.



2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

<https://forumsec.org/2050>

