



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hawai'i Community College Basic Needs Goal: To make the food security and human needs of our Hawai'i College (Hawai'i CC) students a priority through holistic, consistent and accessible support services which will increase their perpetual self-sufficiency and academic success.



SUMMARY: STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SECURITY AT HAWAI'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE⁸:

2021 The Hope Center Report: The Hawai'i CC response rate for The Hope Report was just 3%, or 73 out of the total 2,430 students invited to complete the questionnaire. However, these responses are comparable to the more representative survey data derived from a nation-wide study of basic needs insecurity at two-year colleges across the U.S. Based on the available survey data, the top three issues identified by Hawai'i CC students were: housing insecurity, food insecurity, and homelessness.

We learned that:

- 50% experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity
- 37% experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
- 31% experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
- 10% experienced homelessness in the previous year

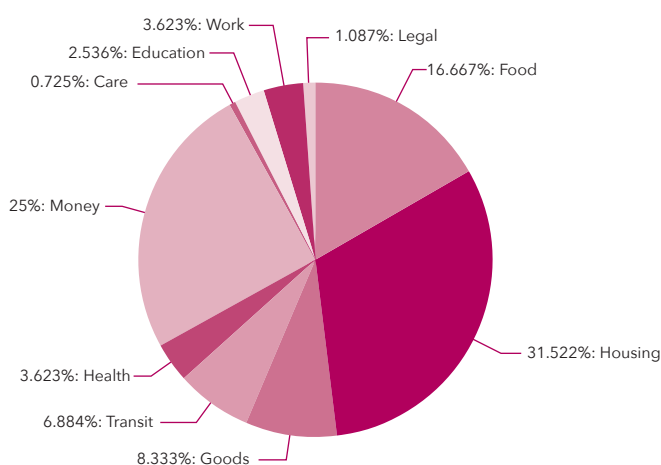
We also learned that:

- 17% had a close friend or family member who was sick with COVID-19, while 2% were sick with COVID-19 themselves.
- 34% of students exhibited at least moderate anxiety.
- 9% of students who experienced basic needs insecurity used emergency aid, but 50% had not heard of emergency aid programs on campus.
- 50% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for campus supports because they did not know how.
- 63% of students experiencing basic needs insecurity received some form of public assistance.

Find Help User Data: Hawai'i CC affiliated users on Find Help have completed 474 searches in the Fall 2021 semester. The top three most popular search terms:

1. Help Pay for Housing - housing (16)
2. Help Pay for School - money (14)
3. Financial Assistance - money (14)

Searches by Category | 2021-08-15 to 2021-12-15



⁸ To be updated approximately every 1-3 years with additional research support from The Hope Center.

EXISTING BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES AT HAWAI'I CC:

Hawai'i CC embraces the concept of Kauhale that traditionally means the Hawaiian village. Envisioned as an “academic village without walls”, Kauhale is an ‘ohana (family) of administrators, faculty, staff, students, their families, and the Hawai'i Island community that contribute measurably to the success of the college mission and outcomes. Hawai'i CC has several basic needs support services currently operated by staff and faculty across our Kauhale.

1. **Emergency Aid:** Hawai'i CC offers temporary emergency aid through HEERF funding. Outreach occurs via the UH system basic needs website, Hawai'i Community College resource page, SNAP outreach through the HINET Ho'ōla 'Ike program, System and campus e-mail announcements and course syllabi statements on basic needs.
2. **Direct Services:** Direct services include a monthly food distribution in partnership with Hawai'i Food Basket, FAFSA and scholarship application support through the Financial Aid office and the Counseling, Advising, and Support Services Center, and there is some access to hygiene and toiletry items. Limited case management with wrap-around support for eligible student groups is available through the 13th Year Program and HINET Ho'ōla 'Ike in collaboration with the Department of Human Services. Additional case management for veterans, former foster youth, and formerly incarcerated students is available through the Special Populations Counselor.
3. **Physical and Mental Health Services:** All students have access to personal counseling via the Mental Wellness and Personal Development Service office. Students with disabilities can receive accommodations and support via Hā'awi Kōkua - Disability Services. Childcare is available for a fee to student parents through the Hawai'i Community College Children's Center.
4. **Cultivating Personal Connections:** In addition, the committed faculty, staff, lecturers, and community members of the Hawai'i CC Kauhale make a practice of getting to know students and their fundamental needs. They often create lasting relationships that stem from a simple encounter at a walk-up window or from a tutoring or academic counseling session. They regularly offer ad hoc support and advice related to applications, finances, goal setting, work, and life. Ad hoc food drives and informational outreach events often take place via student clubs and human services courses.

NEW BASIC NEEDS PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES:

Hawai'i CC staff ranked the student basic needs priority areas through a series of small group and one-on-one discussions. Participants included over fifteen key staff and faculty who work directly with students across campus locations on a range of basic needs support services. The discussions were passionate and the ranking of basic need priorities for the campus proved to be a complex and challenging task. Initial rankings of basic needs priorities changed as Hawai'i CC staff worked through the dynamics of student need and limitations of institutional support. Two items were ranked for each priority level one, two, and three, respectively.

To address the basic needs areas that ranked highest, three action areas were identified. The top priorities for Hawai'i CC are Institutional Policy and Staffing. It is the view of Hawai'i CC staff that if new basic needs efforts are to be successful, individual UH campuses will need direction and support in the form of policy mandates and additional funding from the state, UH System and campuses. Hawai'i CC staff articulated the need for dedicated basic needs staff and a broader recognition by the campus community that student basic needs are essential to the academic success of students.

PRIORITY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
1	Institutional Policy: Changes to university policy that serve to address upstream determinants of basic needs insecurity (e.g. tuition, cost, financial aid, etc.)
	Staffing: Adjusting or increasing basic needs staffing and formation of a new Basic Needs Committee.
2	Education for Faculty & Staff: Providing faculty and staff with educational and professional development opportunities to better understand student basic needs insecurity and how best to connect students to basic needs resources.
	Partnerships: Creating partnerships with others outside of the university (e.g. food banks and foundations).
3	Outreach to Students: Communications and programming (e.g. webinars) directed toward UH students intended to raise awareness and connect students to resources and services that will support basic needs security.
	Direct Services: Implementation of provisioning programs that will directly support student basic needs security (e.g. food pantry).
7	Emergency Aid: Providing emergency financial aid on a need basis.
8	Measuring Impact: Measuring the efficacy of basic needs programming.

In order to continue to investigate, advocate, outreach, and provide direct services in the basic needs arena, Hawai'i CC will form a new Basic Needs Committee that will help shape these vital efforts. The committee acknowledges the necessity to destigmatize the use of basic needs resources for students and to position the campus as a place to access support, camaraderie, and community resources as well as education.

Hawai'i CC is excited to continue the development of a One-Stop basic needs center that will offer systematic support to increase accessibility of basic needs services for all students. The center will offer direct services and direct connections to partner agencies in key areas of financial literacy, food insecurity via SNAP support and a food pantry, housing, mental health and wellness, services for special populations, digital technology support, and workforce preparation. The campus has already secured grant funding for a five-year structural renovation plan to create a welcoming facility which can house basic needs staff and host visiting partner agencies. Next steps involve facility design and seeking immediate grant funding for basic needs support staff.

Hawai'i Community College: Basic Needs Best Practices and Priorities

The top three new priorities are detailed further below and placed within an estimated timeline for implementation.

PRIORITY 1: INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND STAFFING				
				FALL 2023
To advance basic needs initiatives and expand basic needs staffing, Hawai'i CC needs an institutional foundation that recognizes basic needs as core to student academic success. By Fall 2023, Hawai'i CC will integrate student basic needs into the mission/philosophy of the campus.				Basic needs security integrated into the Hawai'i CC mission and philosophy.
PRIORITY 2: CREATION OF THE HAWAI'I CC BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE; EDUCATION FOR FACULTY & STAFF; PARTNERSHIPS				
FALL 2021	SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Collect Kauhale input regarding student basic needs. 2) Create an informal Basic Needs Committee.	1) Write and submit a proposal to the College Council to create a formally sanctioned Basic Needs Committee. 2) Explore and implement methods to attract students back to Hawai'i CC as a community resource including events, social media announcements, and centralized basic needs referral information.	1) Continue implementation of student outreach and centralized basic needs referral information. 2) Enhance efforts to make basic needs training opportunities available for faculty and staff. 3) Collaborate with faculty to integrate basic needs resource awareness components into First Year Experience curriculum.	1) Create an implementation plan for the initial phase of the food pantry. 2) Explore partnerships for student housing support with groups such as UH Hilo, the Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development, and Hawaii Public Housing Authority.	1) Implement the initial phase of the food pantry. 2) Continue student housing discussion and solidify agreements with new partners. 3) Continue planning for the Hawai'i CC Community Garden Cooperative and solidify agreements with internal and external stakeholders.

PRIORITY 2: CREATION OF THE HAWAI'I CC BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE; EDUCATION FOR FACULTY & STAFF; PARTNERSHIPS

FALL 2021	SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
	3) Advocate for institutional philosophy that centers basic needs and resilience factors as key to academic success.	5) Confirm campus-wide use of basic needs syllabus statements.	3) Research and develop concept for a Hawai'i CC Community Garden Cooperative in partnership with the Agriculture Department, Culinary Department, Sustainability Committee and external organizations.	

PRIORITY 3: OUTREACH TO STUDENTS; DIRECT SERVICES VIA DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC NEEDS ONE-STOP CENTER

FALL 2021	SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023
1) Engage Kauhale including students, faculty, and staff to collect input into the design of the center. 2) Seek grant funding to hire a One-Stop Center Project Coordinator and Care Coordinator.	1) Continue one-stop planning and design discussions with Kauhale, including students, faculty, and staff.	1) Select a facility Design Consultant. 2) Create grant funded Project Coordinator and Care Coordinator Positions.	1) Kauhale follow-up consultation on center design. 2) Hire for Project Coordinator and Care Coordinator Positions.	1) Compile all design inputs and set a date to share with Kauhale. 2) Project Coordinator and Care Coordinator to implement and scale up enhanced basic needs support services.