

# CONTEXT: STUDENT BASIC NEEDS IN HAWAI‘I

The UH Student Basic Needs Master Plan (SBNMP) is intended to serve as a “living document”- responding to measured changes in student basic needs insecurity and resource availability- and direct UH Student Basic Needs Committee priorities, goals and programming. Each UH campus was asked to provide specific campus-level priorities and goals to account for campus environment, culture, and resourcing. This document will serve as the UH System strategic plan for student basic needs from 2024-2027.

As “Hawai‘i’s University for Today and Tomorrow,” UH adopted a new Strategic Plan 2023-2029 to fulfill its mission and responsibility to the people of Hawai‘i. The emerging strategic imperatives are grounded in four main areas: (1) Fulfill kuleana (responsibility) to Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i; (2) Develop successful students for a better future; (3) Meet Hawai‘i’s workforce needs of today and tomorrow; and (4) Diversify Hawaii’s economy through innovation and research. Specifically, the imperative to Develop successful students for a better future aims to educate more students, empowering them to achieve their goals and contribute to a civil society. In recognizing the impacts of basic needs security on student academic achievement, well-being, and lifetime earnings, UH has developed objectives aimed at increasing access, opportunity, and addressing the basic needs of our diverse student body by:

- Increasing participation in post-secondary education statewide;
- Providing necessary support for student success, including addressing barriers to access, basic needs (such as food and housing insecurity) and holistic health and wellness; and
- Improving campus infrastructure to develop successful students, and a vibrant, inclusive, and safe environment on campuses across the UH System.

The UH System Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs in collaboration with the UH Student Basic Needs Committee (UHSBNC) consisting of representation from all ten campuses, guided by the UH Student Basic Needs Master Plan, and in alignment to the UH Strategic Plan has coordinated a student basic needs initiative that: (1) Ensures the underserved students enrolled in the University of Hawai‘i system have consistent access to support programs that increase food and housing security; (2) Provides opportunities to increase the capacity of each campus to acquire extramural funds for individualized student basic needs initiatives such as emergency aid and child care scholarships; and (3) Coordinates UH System student internships in Social Services to support basic needs and increase campus capacity through non-clinical case management.

**TABLE 1. KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS**

<b>BASIC NEEDS</b>	Students' basic needs include access to nutritious and sufficient food; safe, secure and adequate housing- to sleep, study, cook, and shower; healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being; affordable technology and transportation; resources for personal hygiene care; and childcare and related needs (The Hope Center).
<b>BASIC NEEDS SECURITY</b>	There is an ecosystem in place to ensure that students' basic needs are met. When students are insecure, there is no ecosystem to support basic needs. Basic needs insecurity is not an individual characteristic and instead a structural one (The Hope Center).
<b>BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY</b>	Students experiencing any basic needs insecurity includes those who experienced food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness (The Hope Center).
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	When all students, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life (IFPRI 2019; FAO 2020).
<b>FOOD INSECURITY</b>	Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied by physiological sensations of hunger (The Hope Center).
<b>HOUSING INSECURITY</b>	Housing insecurity encompasses a broad set of challenges that prevent someone from having a safe, affordable and consistent place to live including the inability to pay rent or move frequently (The Hope Center).
<b>HOMELESSNESS</b>	Housing insecurity encompasses a broad set of challenges that prevent someone from having a safe, affordable and consistent place to live including the inability to pay rent or move frequently (The Hope Center).