

UH SYSTEM STUDENT BASIC NEEDS BEST PRACTICES

• To effectively meet the basic needs of UH students, the UHSBNC understood the importance of establishing a dedicated committee with the necessary resources. This involves ensuring adequate staffing, offering education, and maintaining a comprehensive resource hub for students. A successful approach requires commitment at both the system and campus levels. This document outlines the UH System Student Basic Needs Master Plan designed to address these commitments and the identified needs.

TABLE 2. BEST PRACTICES

BEST PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
<p>Periodically Scheduled Student Basic Needs Electronic Communications</p>	<p>The UH System Student Basic Needs Coordinator continuously manages the distribution of the following electronic communications: reminders for UH faculty to include a basic needs statement in their course syllabi; a schedule of basic needs webinars; a Laulima pop-up window directing students to the Student Basic Needs online clearinghouse; various UH News articles on student basic needs insecurity; and related social media communications during orientation week.</p>
<p>Basic Needs Outreach & Education Events</p>	<p>The UH System Student Basic Needs Coordinator in collaboration with the UHSBNC coordinates and participates in multiple education and outreach initiatives. These efforts include inviting national experts to engage in discussions with the UHSBNC and UH administrative leadership, deliver public talks, and offer strategic guidance to UH and potential funders, including philanthropic and governmental entities. Additionally, a series of system-wide education and outreach events are organized to raise awareness among UH students and staff about student basic needs insecurity. These events also serve to connect students with essential resources and gather feedback to enhance the delivery of food and basic needs programs across the UH System.</p>
<p>Sustain & Update the UH Student Basic Needs Online Clearinghouse</p>	<p>The UH Student Basic Needs online clearinghouse is consistently updated with the latest data, plans, news, and resources. Additionally, the UH Student Basic Needs site is accessible via links on the home pages of all 10 UH campuses.</p>
<p>Campus Level Committees</p>	<p>The UHSBN Committee comprises a dedicated team of counselors, advisors, faculty, financial aid representatives and students from across the UH campuses. Monthly updates from the Campus Level Student Basic Needs Committees provides valuable insight containing information on changes to campus programming, resources, strategic plans and latest developments on our online clearinghouse.</p>

1. LAULIMA & COURSE SYLLABI BASIC NEEDS STATEMENT

To raise community awareness of the issue of student basic needs and destigmatize student basic needs insecurity nationally and within the UH system, the UHSBNC has produced a series of public forums, such as Brown Bags and news articles which showcased each campus and the UH System’s initiatives and programs they have implemented.

In February 2021, the UHSBNC collaborated to create a basic needs statement for course instructors to include in their course syllabi, facilitating easy access to directing students to the UH Student Basic Needs Website. The statement is as follows:

The University of Hawai'i Student Basic Needs website is available for UH students at the 10 campuses statewide to access basic needs—both on and off campus. This includes resources to food and housing, childcare, mental health services, financial resources, transportation, and more. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the [UH System Basic Needs](#) website linked at the bottom of the [Laulima](#) page.

2. UH STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SITE

The UH system student basic needs website launched on February 1, 2021. The purpose of this website is to deliver campus-based resources to those in need within the UH campus communities. The website highlights basic needs resources by campus and connects students to an online clearinghouse of community resources in partnership with findhelp.org. It provides a clear description of the UH Basic Needs Committee, Resource for Administrators section, which includes the student basic needs syllabi statement.

To further destigmatize the use of basic needs supports, the UHSBNC collaborated with Lilinoe Andrews, a faculty specialist at UH-West O’ahu, to provide students with a fully translated version of the basic needs website. Launched in September of 2021, Nā Pono Ola Haumāna, provides every resource in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i for the UH community, and supports the recognition of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language of the State of Hawai‘i.



3. FINDHELP.ORG ONLINE CLEARINGHOUSE OF BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

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In March 2021, the UHSBNC partnered with Findhelp, a comprehensive basic needs database and search engine. Together, a comprehensive online clearing house of basic needs services that featured a range of local and national services were provided. This resource is readily accessible for students, as well as faculty and staff, to utilize in times of need. Findhelp serves the essential purpose of connecting members within the campus community who face basic needs and insecurities to valuable resources that can facilitate access in areas such as food, finances, housing, health care, and more. See how Findhelp and the UHSBNC has provided a quick and easy way to connect our UH students with social care resources throughout Hawai'i with [Impact in Action: Empowering students with resources for achievement at University of Hawai'i](#).

4. CAMPUS LEVEL COMMITTEE

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Each campus' committee members can be found on their campus homepage on the Basic Needs Site. The campus committee brings together diverse perspectives and expertise from various fields, fostering

holistic problem-solving and innovation. By integrating different viewpoints, they ensure that complex issues are addressed more comprehensively, leading to more effective and sustainable solutions. Additionally, interdisciplinary committees promote inclusivity and a broader understanding of campus-wide challenges, enhancing the overall educational and research environment. This collaborative approach not only benefits the institution but also prepares students for the multifaceted challenges they will face in the real world.

UH BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT: 2022-2024

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The University of Hawai'i Student Basic Needs Committee (UHSBNC), established in 2019 by UH President David Lassner, aims to address food insecurity and other essential needs affecting students. The committee's work focuses on understanding the prevalence of these issues and implementing strategies to ensure all students have access to the necessary resources for academic success and well-being. Through research, education, outreach, and strategic planning, the UHSBNC addresses challenges such as housing, food, mental health, and financial stability. Their efforts contribute to improved student retention, academic performance, and graduation rates, fostering a more supportive campus environment.