What is Food Security?

The US Department of Agriculture defines food security as

“Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life.”

Food insecurity occurs when people have limited or uncertain access to adequate food.
Causes of Food Insecurity?

According to Feeding America, a non-profit organization focused on hunger-relief across the United States, the causes of food insecurity are complex and include:

- **Poverty, unemployment, or low income**
- **Lack of affordable housing**
- **Chronic health conditions or lack of access to healthcare**
- **Systemic racism and racial discrimination**
5 Reasons Students on College Campuses are Struggling to Afford Food

● **Cost of tuition continues to rise** (25% in last decade)
● **Cost of college meal plans** (*average plan costs $4,500 per year, $18.75 a day)
● **Even with a meal plan, food isn’t always available** (limited dining hall hours, lack of affordable meal options near campus when dining halls are closed)
● **Changing student demographics** (average age now 26, 1 in 5 students are now caring for a child, many as single parents)
● **Colleges don’t know the extent to which students are going hungry**

*At UHM a 7 meal a week plan costs $4,042 for fall 23 and spring 24. This does not include summer. In summer 23, the most affordable meal plan was $1,345 for a 10 meal a week plan during the SS1/SS2. The most affordable plans therefore total $5,387 per year.

Pantry
Pantry Distribution - Food VS Toiletries

Total of 23,575 lbs distributed through FVH pantry (Fall 22 - Spring 23)

Toiletries (lbs) 6.0%
Food (lbs) 94.0%
The months of August, December, January, and May are semester opening and closing (partial) months. In March we were closed during Spring Recess but implemented higher limits the week before Spring Recess to allow students to stock up for the extra week.
The days in the bar chart indicate the number of days the pantry was open by month.
1,383 Total Unique Students Served @ Pantry

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Law - 16
1.2%

Graduate
34.6%

Undergraduate
64.2%

479
888
UHM Student Housing Resident

1,302 includes Commuters and students who reside in EWC Housing
Food Drop
Food Drop @ the Campus Center Courtyard

SLD partnered with the Hawai‘i Food Bank & Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center to sponsor Food Drop @ the Campus Center Courtyard.

After a brief pause during covid, Food Drop @ Campus Center Courtyard returned in February 8, 2023.

32,982 lbs of food was distributed through the Food Drop events to 732 unique UHM students and 55 unique community members.
Food Drop @ The Campus Center Courtyard

Total of 33,982 lbs food distributed in Spring 2023

- May: 9,056 lbs (26.6%)
- April: 8,500 lbs (25.0%)
- March: 8,851 lbs (26.0%)
- February: 7,575 lbs (22.3%)
Food Drop Participants

Total Participants - 1,094
February - May (2023)

94.8% self-identified as UHM students (1,037)
Food Drop Unique Participants

Total Unique Participants - 787

Non-student Participants
7.0%

Student Participants
93.0%
Food Drop Household Impact

Total Household Members - 3,146

*Total number calculated by adding adults and children reported in household on registration form
Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Meal Program

In fall 2022, FVH partnered with Sodexo to offer students in need a Thanksgiving meal at Hale Aloha Cafe.

140 Thanksgiving meals were claimed on Thanksgiving Day.

FVH and Sodexo split the cost.
Summary Data
Total of 57,557 lbs of Food and Toiletries

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

- Food Drop: 33,982 lbs (59.0%)
- Pantry: 23,575 lbs (41.0%)
Total of 46,926 Meals Distributed*

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

- Thanksgiving: 140 Meals (0.3%)
- Food Drop: 28,318 Meals (60.3%)
- Pantry: 18,468 Meals (39.4%)

*A meal is calculated as 1.2 pounds of food by Feeding America.
### Year 1 to Year 2 Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pantry Distribution (in pounds)</th>
<th>Total Entries</th>
<th>Total Unique Students at the Pantry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Toiletries</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 In-Person</td>
<td>5,833</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>6,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 In-Person</td>
<td>22,162</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>23,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Increase</td>
<td>279.92%</td>
<td>241.55%</td>
<td>277.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion and Looking Forward
Discussion

➢ COVID interrupted the pantry’s pilot program therefore the pilot was extended to allow for 3 in-person years. Year 1: 2018-19, Year 2: 2022-23, Year 3: 2023-24.

➢ Based on use from Year 1 to Year 2, it is expected that demand for service from the pantry will continue to rise in Year 3.
   ○ Food distribution increased 279.92% from Year 1 to Year 2.
   ○ Toiletry distribution increased 241.55% from Year 1 to Year 2.
   ○ Entries increased 311.84% from Year 1 to Year 2 at the pantry.
   ○ Undergraduate student use increased 208.33% from Year 1 to Year 2.
   ○ Graduate student use increased 738.98% from Year 1 to Year 2.

➢ Only 5.9% (81) of pantry users are residents in Student Housing Services

➢ 36% (8,024.9 lbs) of the food distributed from the pantry in 22-23 came from donations. 64% (14,137.1 lbs) came from direct purchasing.

➢ 73% (1,025.3 lbs) of the toiletries distributed from the pantry in 22-23 came from donations. 27% (387.7 lbs) came from purchasing.

➢ Additional opportunities were created to help alleviate demand at the pantry. This includes Food Drop @ the Campus Center Courtyard
Food Drop @ the Campus Center Courtyard is held on 2nd Wednesdays of the month. Wednesdays are the busiest foot traffic day in the Campus Center Complex.

More food was distributed in 22-23 through Food Drop @ the Campus Center Courtyard than at the pantry.

Food distributed from the Food Drop is provided by the Hawaii FoodBank.

The ability to secure, train, and provide staff hours when student employees are not in classes impacts the hours of operation at the pantry.

The ability to secure volunteers for the Food Drop who can commit at least 2-3 hours was challenging. A couple of faculty and/or retirees have provided dependable, consistent coverage.

The Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB) provided funding for the food and toiletry purchasing in fiscal year 2023 and FVH will seek continued support for fiscal year 2024.

The Campus Center Board continues to provide space, set-up, and other operational support for FVH initiatives.
Looking Forward to 2023-24

➢ Complete Year 3 of the in-person pilot project in 23-24 (pantry)
➢ Continue offering expanded services (Food Drop, Thanksgiving Meal Program- no Sodexo sponsorship)
➢ Expand to offer period products in the Campus Center Complex
➢ Expand to offer the FVH Meal Swipe Program with Sodexo sponsorship and assistance
➢ In Spring 2024, gathering of a representative from ASUH, CCB, SAPFB, and SLD to review data, discuss progress and challenges during the pilot, and discuss next steps.
FVH Sustainability

Volunteer

- Volunteer with Aloha Harvest, a food recovery non-profit organization that provides FVH with produce and bread from nearby farmers markets.

Donate Food and Toiletries

- Donate unexpired, manufacturer packaged, non-perishable food and toiletries to SLD at CC208

Donate $

- Donate $ via FVH’s UHF Account: https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/12909704
MAHALO to all FVH supporters

Aloha Harvest, Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Campus Center Board, Cathedral of St. Andrew, Hawaii FoodBank, Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center, Holy Nativity Church, KeikiAde, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Student Activity and Program Fee Board, Student Life & Development, all FVH donors, all SLD and FVH staff, and all FVH volunteers.
For More Information

Visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/foodvaulthawaii

Follow us on Instagram at @foodvaulthawaii

Email us at fvh@hawaii.edu or sld@hawaii.edu

Call us through SLD at 808-956-8178

Support us at https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/12909704