
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY STATE
AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Asian Americans,
2 native Hawaiians, and other Pacific islanders represent 48.6 per
3 cent of the State's population. While Asian Americans, native
4 Hawaiians, and other Pacific islanders are often misrepresented
5 as a homogeneous group, they are an extremely diverse group,
6 with ethnicities from over thirty different countries. Asian
7 American, native Hawaiian, and other Pacific islander
8 communities in this State experience diverse social,
9 educational, health, and economic differences that are unique to
10 their respective communities.

11 The legislature also finds that, due to this diversity, the
12 United States Office of Management and Budget's Statistical
13 Policy Directive No. 15, entitled "Race and Ethnic Standards for
14 Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting," separated the
15 "Asian and Pacific Islander" category into two distinct and
16 separate categories, now called "Asians" and "Native Hawaiians
17 and Other Pacific Islanders," and these two distinct categories



1 were used in the 2000 United States Census. The United States
2 Census Bureau currently reports data for more than twenty
3 different ethnicities within these two categories.

4 Despite the federal government's current policy and
5 practice of disaggregating data related to Asian Americans,
6 native Hawaiians, and other Pacific islanders, Hawaii's state
7 agencies do not all keep demographic data in a standard or
8 uniform manner that comports with these prevailing federal
9 standards. Moreover, most state agencies do not make collected
10 demographic data accessible to the public so that regional and
11 local governments, elected officials, decision makers, and other
12 stakeholders can use the information to strategically target
13 programs for those most in need.

14 Given the diversity of languages and cultures, separating
15 data for Asian American, native Hawaiian, and other Pacific
16 islander ethnic groups is imperative and making this data
17 publicly accessible is critical for enhancing understanding of
18 the needs and experiences of these different communities.

19 In particular, the State has unique trust responsibilities
20 with respect to native Hawaiians, which are administered by a
21 variety of state agencies, including, but not limited to, the
22 office of Hawaiian affairs. The uniform collection and sharing



1 of data specific to native Hawaiians is critical to the proper
2 administration of the State's trust responsibilities and the
3 improving the conditions of native Hawaiians through other
4 similar initiatives.

5 The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the proper
6 collection and reporting of demographic data by requiring data
7 disaggregation consistent with federal standards and requiring
8 publication of the data.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
10 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
11 read as follows:

12 "§27- Asian American, native Hawaiian, and other
13 Pacific islander groups; collection of demographic data. (a)
14 Any state agency, board, or commission that directly or by
15 contract collects demographic data as to ancestry or ethnic
16 origin shall use separate collection categories and tabulations
17 for the following:

- 18 (1) Native Hawaiians;
19 (2) Each major Asian group, including, but not limited to,
20 Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Indo-Chinese;
21 and



1 (3) Each other major Pacific islander group, including,
2 but not limited to, Samoan, Micronesian, and Tongan.

3 (b) The data collected pursuant to the collection
4 categories and tabulations described in subsection (a) shall be
5 included in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic
6 origins by a state agency, board, or commission published or
7 released on or after July 1, 2013, unless the report is governed
8 by federal standards requiring the use of other categories and
9 tabulations, then federal standards shall govern. The data
10 shall be made available to the public in accordance with state
11 and federal law, except for personal identifying information,
12 which shall be deemed confidential.

13 (c) State agencies, boards, and commissions shall make any
14 demographic data collected pursuant to this section publicly
15 available, subject to all applicable state and federal laws
16 regarding personal identifying information, by posting the data
17 on the internet web site of the agency on or before July 1,
18 2013, and annually thereafter.

19 (d) To the extent that federal law requires the use of
20 categories and tabulations that are more specific than those
21 contained in subsection (a), the more specific federal standards
22 shall govern.



1 (e) Nothing herein shall limit the ability of any state
2 agency, board, or commission from using categories and
3 tabulations that are more specific than those described in
4 subsection (a) or any other applicable state or federal law."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Demographic Data; State Agencies; Publication; Ethnicities;
Office of Hawaiian Affairs Package

Description:

Requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with
federal standards and requires publication of the data. (HB1983
HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

