



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 811 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 811 SD2 HD1 relating to demographic data. The University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes and celebrates the diversity of cultures and languages previously coalesced together in federal reporting under the category of "Asian American and Pacific Islander."

UH fully supports the legislature's intent to catalyze meaningful representation of our population relating to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander ethnic groups. Indeed, UH has been engaged in these efforts for decades to properly distinguish and support the diverse cultures in its student body, staff, and faculty.

UH goes beyond federal requirements in reporting on ethnicity and race data collection for students and employees. UH also currently disaggregates race and ethnicity data for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander groups. Regarding student data, UH deploys ten (10) distinct categories of Asian ethnicities and eight (8) distinct categories of Pacific Islanders, including Native Hawaiians. To determine which Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups to track, UH currently relies upon U.S. Census data for the State of Hawai'i, establishing a threshold of 1% of the state population for residents between the ages of 18 and 25. This led UH to begin separating out Marshallese as a distinct ethnic category last year.

UH is obligated to follow the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in order to protect student privacy rights by ensuring the data it presents cannot be linked to individual students. The current iteration of SB 811, by requiring UH to disaggregate each Pacific Islander category, will routinely produce headcounts small enough to force UH to suppress the data to protect student privacy rights as established under FERPA. In practice, this will render much of the desired data unreportable, such as graduation rates. Additionally, if passed, UH respectfully requests a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025, to allow additional time for implementation and revision of collection tools (e.g., admissions applications) to capture the level of ethnic disaggregation required under this bill.

UH believes it would be helpful for the legislature to include language in the bill that enables the reporting of people of mixed race/ethnicity and considers the question of prioritization. For example, UH has a matrix that sets reporting categories in which the Native Hawaiian designation is the top priority and supersedes all other races and ethnicities in its demographic reporting. The same matrix indicates, for example, that someone who identifies as both Tongan and Samoan should be reported as "Mixed Pacific Islander" and someone who identifies as both Japanese and Chinese should be reported as "Mixed Asian."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/31/2023

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0811, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

Purpose of Bill: Requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data. Establishes a task force to assess demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2112. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 811, SD2, HD1, to standardize the disaggregation categories across all state agencies and offers the following comments.

The Department notes that increased disaggregated categories may result in an increase of non-reportable data depending on the n-size of the data reported for a complex area, school, or grade level, which may not be useful for decision-making. The Department has the responsibility of adhering to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which protects the privacy of student education records. Reporting less than eleven (11) students in any one category must be suppressed under FERPA. Therefore, reporting by the proposed disaggregated categories may result in a decrease of useful, reportable data of the more granular Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander categories as several of the identified populations cited total less than ten (10) students for the Department.

The Department currently collects some, but not all, of the disaggregated categories highlighted in the proposal via its student information system. Therefore, the

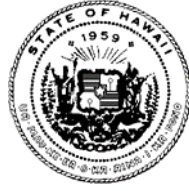
Department will need to modify its student information system and other related systems that include student and personnel data, ensure that all current students and staff complete new information forms, update student and staff records, and modify its reports.

Due to these new requirements, the Department requests an extended implementation timeline to ensure that its data-collecting and reporting systems are properly configured and functional.

The Department also respectfully requests to have representatives serve on the Task Force on Twenty-First Century Data Governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SB 811 SD2 HD1](#) – RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

Hearing: March 31, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure, provides comments, and defers to other impacted Departments.

PURPOSE: The bill's purpose requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data. Establishes a task force to assess demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2112. (HD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Updating language to reflect a more accurate and inclusive representation of major Asian groups and Pacific Islanders;
- (2) Identifying the agencies required to improve processes relative to the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data;
- (3) Establishing a task force on twenty-first Century Data Governance that is required to report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2024;
- (4) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (5) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying the task force on twenty-first century data governance's subject matter scope;
- (2) Inserting a dissolution date of June 30, 2024, for the task force; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD1 further amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that state agencies, boards, or commissions shall not be required to publicly report data if prevented from doing so by federal or state law, but that these entities shall make a good faith effort to redact information that is not available for disclosure so that the rest of the data can be made public; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS appreciates the HD1's amendments and supports the intent of this measure to disaggregate data related to Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders in a standard or uniform manner to make the information available to the public for targeted policy and program development and to maintain government accountability and transparency.

DHS strives to collect all pertinent client information, including racial and ethnic data, based on self-reporting. Self-reporting is the best practice for collecting racial and ethnic data from the people we serve. DHS has disaggregated fields for both racial and ethnic data. To make the demographic data meaningful to understand better the needs of specific ethnic groups, the data governance, including data standards, must first be established for all state agencies to follow for uniformity. In addition, in Hawaii, many households are of mixed race and ethnicity. This diversity complicates the data extract and summary of how to present the extracted data. Without the standards, there is a high likelihood that the data report may be skewed.

The work to develop state data governance is ongoing through several efforts. DHS actively participates in these efforts. For example, Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 (SCR5), Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2021, formed a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance, led by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and consisting of several state agencies, including the Chief Information Officer of the Office of the Enterprise Technology Services. The purpose of the SCR5 was to facilitate effective and efficient fact-based policymaking in the 21st century by

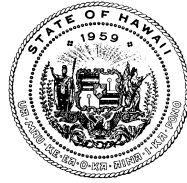
developing procedures and agreements for improving data collection, processing, retention, governance, and sharing for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other relevant demographics and to submit a report on findings based on surveys, interviews, and collections of the procedures and agreements to the Legislature.

Another effort to note is Act 167, SLH 2022, Relating to Government Data. The purpose of Act 167 is to establish within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services a chief data officer and a data task force to develop, implement, and manage statewide data policies, procedures, and standards. The chief data officer is responsible for leading the effort to develop, implement, and manage statewide data policies, procedures, and standards under section 27-44.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and to facilitate data sharing across state agencies. The task force is to begin this year.

Of note, DHS currently posts some disaggregated data on its website. However, collecting additional race and ethnicity data will require additional workforce and fiscal resources and time for multiple record systems to begin to collect requested data uniformly. For example, one data governance roadmap recommends the addition of data analysts or data stewards. In addition, DHS is experiencing vacancies across programs, including IT, and does not have staff or resources dedicated to broader system-wide data analytics or comparative analysis. DHS will also need to determine protocols aligned with federal program requirements, preserve the integrity of the programs – as data can be easily misinterpreted or misused, and be especially mindful of protecting residents' information from being re-identified.

Lastly, DHS notes that any reports published in July 2023 would likely be based on data collected before the disaggregated collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P.O. Box 3378
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 811, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 31, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 308
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) has not yet assessed the cost of
2 conducting a department-wide assessment of all data collection systems, including data
3 collection purposes and methods, data quality and standardization, relevant regulatory and policy
4 requirements, and the costs of publishing data online. The DOH is planning to conduct a formal
5 assessment of data collection systems, for the purposes of improving public health.

6 **Department Testimony:** The DOH appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 811, Senate Draft 2,
7 House Draft 1 (S.B. 811, S.D. 2, H.D. 1) and the amendments that consider federal and state
8 regulations that may restrict releases of the data. The purposes for data collection by the DOH
9 are diverse, reflecting the vast mission of the DOH to promote and protect the physical,
10 psychological, and environmental health of the people of Hawaii through assessment, policy
11 development and assurance. Data collected for the various objectives of the Department are
12 bound by federal and state regulations and by internal policies for quality and standardization,
13 and to prevent misinterpretations and protect the privacy of individuals living in the state.
14 Records received by the DOH may also have gaps when external entities while complying with
15 federal reporting requirements do not consistently collect Hawaii specific demographic
16 race/ethnicity data. The DOH expects this to be a time-consuming and worthwhile process to
17 assess data collection systems, evaluate and implement methods for protecting resident privacy,
18 and refine the available data for public health use and reporting.

1 The DOH currently publishes some of the public health data online for members of the
2 public to query to create customized data reports, and in contextualized format on the [Hawaii](#)
3 [Health Data Warehouse](#). Improvements continue on data collection and reporting efforts by
4 race/ethnicity and are also published online for example, for [COVID-19 vaccination summaries](#).
5 As noted in previous testimonies submitted by other agencies, assessing, restructuring data
6 collection, and online website data warehouse development entails significant time, capacity, and
7 fiscal commitments. Should the bill move forward, the DOH recommends pushing out the dates
8 in Section 2(b) and (c) since agencies will not have had time to assess and change data collected
9 by July 1, 2023, and significant financial investments and efforts are required for the online
10 release of disaggregated data by July 1, 2024.

11 The DOH is committed to fulfilling the public health service mission of assessing and
12 monitoring population health, and to conducting investigations and analysis of the data. Along
13 with other agencies and community organizations, the DOH is committed to addressing the root
14 causes that create health inequities. The Office of Health Equity (OHE) is being established in
15 the DOH to have the dedicated capacity to meaningfully use the available health status data. The
16 DOH OHE is committed to work within and with other agencies, organizations, and community
17 members, to collaboratively identify and remove the systemic and structural obstacles that
18 impede advancing health equitably for all race and ethnic groups in Hawaii.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20 **Offered Amendments:** The following amendment is offered:

21 **Section 2(b), page 5, line 2:**

22 released on or after ~~July 1, 2023;~~

23 released on or after July 1, 2026;

24 **Section 2(c), page 6, line 2:**

25 ~~July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter.~~

1 July 1, 2028, and thereafter.

2 **Section 2(d), page 6, lines 3 to 6:**

3 ~~To the extent that federal law requires the use of categories~~
4 ~~and tabulations that are more specific than those contained in~~
5 ~~subsection (a), the more specific federal law shall govern.~~

6 To the extent that federal law requires the use of categories
7 and tabulations that are more specific than those contained in
8 subsection (a), the more specific federal law shall govern;
9 where federal law requires the use of categories and tabulations
10 that are less specific and data is collected from organizations
11 outside government, the task force shall have discretion on the
12 time required for phase-in of the new state standards.

13 **Section 3(c)(4), page 7, lines 3 to 4:**

14 ~~(4) The director of the department of health's office of health~~
15 ~~equity, or director's designee; and~~

16 (4) The director of the department of health, or director's
17 designee; and

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Via Videoconference & Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 811 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DLIR appreciates the intent of this measure and **offers comments**. SB811SD1 proposes to amend Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section, requiring any state agency which collects demographic data as to ancestry or ethnic origin shall use separate collection categories and tabulations when it comes to: Native Hawaiians, each of the major Asian groups, including but not limited to Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and Korean; and each of the other major Pacific Islander groups, including but not limited to Chamorro, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Tahitian, Marshallese, Chuukese, Kosraean, Pohnpeian, Yapese, Palauan, Nauruan, and I-Kiribati. The agency shall disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and shall be required to share such data with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the DOH's Office of Health Equity by publishing the data on the agency's website.

II. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

To comply with federal requirements as a federal grant recipient, the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division is required to ask claimants for their demographic data but cannot compel the claimants to provide the data—except where the information is necessary to determine eligibility for UI benefits.

To accommodate the provisions in this bill, the current mainframe-based UI benefit system must be modified. The UI benefits system that is mainframe based is at the end of its lifecycle and an expansion of the current system could cause the system to crash, resulting in UI benefit payments to claimants coming to a halt. The effort to

restore the system would be tremendous and place an administrative burden on the department, ETS, and the department's mainframe & up-front web application contractors.

If the department is required to collect, disaggregate, and redact data pursuant to state law, the department will require additional funding to do so as federal law prohibits the use of federal grant funds for non-federal purposes.

The department is currently in the midst of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to modernize its Unemployment Insurance system and the provisions of the bill can be incorporated into the requirements of the modernized system. The department would not be capable of posting the data by July 1, 2024.

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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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Time: 3:00 p.m.

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The department is currently in the midst of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to modernize its Unemployment Insurance system and the provisions of the bill can be incorporated into the requirements of the modernized system. The department would not be capable of posting the data by July 1, 2024.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 811, S.D. 2, H.D.1

Thursday, March 31, 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee

From: The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
Co-Chairs Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights works to achieve equity, justice, inclusion, uphold civil rights, and eliminate discrimination. We are in **SUPPORT OF S.B. 811, S.D.2, H.D. 1.**

Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Asian populations is important for immigrant communities and for Hawai'i as a whole. S.B. 811, S.D.2 is a critical step forward to achieving health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state.

The pandemic underscored the importance of disaggregated race, ethnicity, and spoken language data in the delivery of critical health care information and other services for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, Filipino, and limited English proficient residents. A group that represents close to 50% of all Hawai'i residents.

Data disaggregation will allow government agencies to determine immediate community-specific needs and impacts in any emergency, natural disaster, or health pandemic and to also meet those needs in relevant languages and in a culturally appropriate manner. Importantly, this granular data will also support government agencies in leveraging federal grants and funding.

Disaggregating the data collected by public health, safety, and welfare programs will also allow those agencies to fulfill their missions and enhance their business models for providing care for all of Hawai'i's residents in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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2022-2023 Advocacy Committee

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March 30, 2023

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Group Testimony in Support of SB 811 SD2 HD1

RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. Statistics showing the highest rates of COVID-19 in NHPI residents in at least five states¹ during the pandemic highlighted the importance of disaggregating demographic data for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and other member of our community who have historically all been grouped together simply as Asian/Pacific Islanders. We support SB811 efforts to promote this data disaggregation to promote equity and better health outcomes in our communities. Member of our hui participated in the work of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Response Recovery Resilience NHPI3R that led to SCR5 in 2021. We agree with standards [list](#) for collecting NHPI data completed by the NHPI3R team and recommend inclusion of a member from this team on the task force proposed by this bill.

¹ <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/05/01/nhpi-hardest-hit-by-covid19/>

**Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander
HAWAII COVID-19 TEAM**
Response. Recovery. Resilience.



House Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 31, 2023, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT with COMMENTS for SB 811 SD 2
“RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA”**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Response Recovery Resilience (3R) team testifies in **SUPPORT** of **SB 811 SD 2**, which addresses improving race/ethnicity data governance and release for the State of Hawai‘i. Racial/ethnic diversity is one of the areas in which Hawai‘i has especially unique considerations and features, including the largest state population of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). NHPI communities are particularly impacted by the lack of standards and policies around race/ethnicity data governance established and practiced by the State of Hawai‘i. The stated goals of **SB 811 SD 1** reflect the need to understand the dynamic environment of data statewide, improve data for Asian Americans (AA), Native Hawaiians (NH), and Pacific Islanders (PI), and provide data access so that government and non-government entities alike can analyze data and make data-informed decisions.

Having a more nuanced understanding of AA, NH, and PI groups is valuable in Hawai‘i because these groups, when aggregated, represent more than half of the state population according to [2020 Census data](#). The 3R team appreciates **SB 811** language that builds on resolution [SCR5](#) 2021 Data Governance; Native Hawaiians; Pacific Islanders. The 3R team has provided the legislature and the [Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights](#) (HCIR) with a copy of the completed SCR5 task force report for their review. We recommend that the legislature draw upon the work started with SCR5 and incorporate it into **SB 811** to provide more comprehensive guidance.

We support the bill’s language that calls upon State departments to compile and share existing data so that community stakeholders may understand what is currently collected and assist in identifying and supporting the next steps in a reasonable sequence. In addition, we found that the algorithms applied to race/ethnicity data from unit to unit are not standardized. Given this, we project that the governance and algorithms for race/ethnicity data across other departments and other ethnic groups also lack standardization. Therefore, we recommend that **data dictionaries** from each unit collecting race/ethnicity data be provided to understand data

consistency between different units, which may have implications when secondary analyses are considered.

Additionally, the 3R team has provided the legislature and HCIR with the recommended standards list for collecting NHPI data. The [list](#) was created by NHPI professionals, academics, advocates, and community members, and outlines the mixed methodology used. The inclusion of community members in this work is invaluable, as their insight and guidance are grounded in indigenous/native knowledge and familial ties. Therefore, we recommend using the following race/ethnicity categories **Native Hawaiian, Chamorro/CHamoru, Chuukese, Fijian, I-Kiribati, Kosraean, Marshallese, Palauan/Belauan, Pohnpehian, Samoan, Tahitian, Tokelauan, Tongan, and Yapese**. In addition, the category “**Other Pacific Islander**” should be used for all PI subgroups not listed. Furthermore, we recommend that because this is not an exhaustive list, the task force considers including a check box with a free-write field allowing people to self-identify their race/ethnicity if they do not see theirs represented.

The 3R team appreciates the proposed task force in **SB 811 SD 2**, as the other items in the bill can also contribute to facilitating future collaborative partnerships. Should the bill pass, and based on the work the 3R team has done, we respectfully request that representatives of the 3R team be included in the task force. In addition, any task force developed should consist of other standing data and research community coalitions within AA, NH, and PI groups that have convened over the last several years.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 811 SD 2**.



Sheri Daniels, Native Hawaiian Co-Lead



Crystal Kionia, Pacific Islander Co-Lead



Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula,
Native Hawaiian Co-Lead



Philios Uruman, Pacific Islander Co-Lead



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House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, March 31, 2023, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: SB 811 SD 2 HD 1 – RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies in **SUPPORT** of **SB 811 SD 2 HD 1**, which addresses improving race/ethnic data governance and release for the State of Hawai‘i. Racial/ethnic diversity is one of the arenas in which Hawai‘i has especially unique considerations and features, including the largest state population of Native Hawaiians. Thus, the Native Hawaiian community is particularly impacted by the standards and policies around race/ethnic data governance established by the State of Hawai‘i. The stated goals of SB 811 reflect the need to understand the dynamic environment of data within the State, improve data for Asian Americans (AA), Native Hawaiians (NH), and Pacific Islanders (PI), and provide data access so that government and non-government entities alike can analyze data and make data-informed decisions. Having a more nuanced understanding of AA, NH, and PI groups is valuable in Hawai‘i because these groups, when aggregated, represent more than half of the State population according to [2020 Census data](#).

We appreciate that the bill language builds upon resolution [SCR5](#) – Data Governance; Native Hawaiians; Pacific Islanders, and calls State Departments to compile and share existing data. We also support the inclusion and full implementation of all seven recommendations listed in the SCR5 Task Force Report submitted to the 2023 legislature on February 2, 2023. The dissemination of data is necessary for community partners to understand what is currently collected by State entities so next steps may be identified in a reasonable sequence, as we have found that the extent of race/ethnicity data collected by the State varies from unit to unit within the Department of Health ([Data Justice: About Us, By Us, For Us](#)). In addition, we found that the algorithms applied to race/ethnicity data from unit to unit were not necessarily standardized. Therefore, we highly recommend that data dictionaries from each unit that collects race/ethnicity data be provided so that entities can understand data consistency between different units, which may have implications when secondary analyses are considered.

Papa Ola Lokahi also appreciates the task force proposed in SB 811 SD 2 HD 1, as the other items in the bill can also contribute to facilitating future partnerships. Should the bill pass, we recommend the task force reach out to the standing data and research community coalitions AA, NH, and PI groups have convened over the last several years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB 811 SD 2 HD 1**.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB811
RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Hearing Date: March 31st, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB811, which requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data. The measure also establishes a task force to assess demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges. The measure requires a report to the legislature, effective 7/1/2112 (HD1). While the report could certainly be useful we would point to the recently released report by the SCR5 Task Force, sent to legislative leadership on Feb. 2nd, 2023. This report goes a long way in describing the current state of demographic data collection, reporting and governance for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. Further investigation may be required into additional populations, including Asian American.

SB811 seeks to address a critical issue facing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the State. It recognizes that these communities are diverse and require different approaches to address their unique social, educational, health, and economic challenges.

The bill requires state agencies, boards, and commissions that collect demographic data to use separate collection categories and tabulations for Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander Groups. This ensures that data is collected in a way that accurately represents the diversity of these communities. It also requires that the data be made publicly available for it to be used to create targeted programs that address the specific needs of these communities.

SB811 is crucial in playing a significant role in addressing the diverse challenges faced by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities by requiring accurate data collection, analysis, and dissemination to ensure that these communities receive the support and resources they need to thrive.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Liza Ryan Gill
Coordinator
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights



HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Defending and Respecting the workers of
Hawai'i

(508) 967-5377
hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com
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March 30, 2023

Hawaii State House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

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Committee of the
Board

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Co-Executive
Directors

Tony Doroño
Sergio Alcubilla III,
Esq.

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB811, RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Dear Chair Rep. Yamashita, Vice-Chair Rep. Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Workers Center envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being. It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for Hawaii's low-wage and immigrant workers.

The Hawaii Workers Center stands in strong support of SB811, Relating to Demographic Data, which requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data.


SB811 seeks to address a critical issue facing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the State. It recognizes that these communities are diverse and require different approaches to address their unique social, educational, health, and economic challenges.

As our organization currently focuses on organizing low-wage workers from nations that are part of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) and the Philippines, the data pulled from these state agencies would be extremely useful in our work.

The bill requires state agencies, boards, and commissions that collect demographic data to use separate collection categories and tabulations for Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander Groups. This ensures that data is collected in a way that accurately represents the diversity of these communities. Gone are the days when Asian/Pacific Islander was the only box to check off despite the vast differences in nationalities and cultures. Maybe that's still expected in other states, but definitely not in a place as diverse as Hawai'i.

SB811 is a step in the right direction in addressing the diverse challenges faced by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities by requiring accurate data collection, analysis, and dissemination to ensure that these communities receive the support and resources they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Sergio J. Alcubilla
Executive Director

SB-811-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:39:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB811 SD2 HD1.

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
FIN (House Committee on Finance)

Budde Cabael, MSW Candidate
PO Box 823
Kahuku, HI. 96731

March 29, 2023

Support for SB811, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 Relating to Demographic Data

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Budde Cabael and I am completing my final year as a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health where I will earn a Master of Social Work with a specialty focus on Child and Family Practice.

I am testifying in support of SB 811, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 for the following reasons:

- Transitioning all state agencies into compliance with federal policy to disaggregate data regarding Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders and making that data accessible will increase the effectiveness of social policy intended to target the disparities most apparent in specific ethnic communities.
- Presenting the disaggregated data will provide factual measures to progress of various agencies designed to support and improve the health and safety of even marginal populations within these groups.
- Disaggregating the data of Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders will support my future colleagues and their affiliated public or private organizations with formulating accurate needs-based assessments and the appropriate extension or development of social services to address those needs.

This disaggregation of data will also reaffirm the unique responsibility that the State of Hawaii shoulders to care for, and nurture the indigenous peoples of this land.

Again, I am in support of SB 811, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

Mahalo me ka oia 'i 'o (sincerest thanks),
Budde Cabael

SB-811-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:30:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and FIN Committee Members

As a public health professional and a concerned citizen, I am writing **in support of SB811 SD2 HD1**, which requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data.

As we saw during the early COVID-19 pandemic, lack of data disaggregation can mask health disparities of communities, thereby making the public health response more challenging (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037a1.htm>). SB811 seeks to address this critical issue which affects Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities that make up the majority of the State. It recognizes that these communities are diverse and require different approaches to address their unique social, educational, health, and economic challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-811-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:08:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Ohta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB811

RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 31st, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I write in support of SB811, which requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data.

The measure also establishes a task force to assess demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges. Lastly, the measure requires a report to the legislature, effective 7/1/2112 (HD1).

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-811-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 5:43:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB811

RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 31st, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I have read the testimony on this bill. Here I would like to state my full support.

Several of my positions as a researcher at RCUH dealt with demographic data as part of the project. I have attended workshops given by the Census in order to strengthen my ability to draw upon this data.

The disaggregated data required by this bill will potentially enable Hawai'i to attract more research funds. We are already valuable to research because of our multiracial population. This bill would enable researchers to write more proposals that would draw upon disaggregated data and bring federal and other research funds into Hawai'i.

It will also enable Hawai'i to provide better services to our varied population. We can look forward to a better social and political environment that provides social justice.

The requirement to establish a task force and provide a public report to the legislature, effective 7/1/2112 (HD1) will yield important data and help influence social policies, expenditures, and services..

Mahalo for your support and consideration,

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Certified Hawai'i Judiciary Spanish Interpreter, Tier 4

SB-811-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 5:53:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB811 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.