

NATIVE  
HAWAIIAN  
WELL-BEING

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Mahalo to Pete Hsu & Kapi'olani Adams for the mana'o that you contributed to this update.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

# Population Update 2011

## The R&E Annual Update Series

By Jared Nielson

### Introduction

In order to supply program planners, service providers, and policy makers with reliable current estimates and trend data, Kamehameha Schools continuously monitors and reports population statistics, while also collaborating with demographic researchers to periodically conduct specific forecasts of the Native Hawaiian population. This annually occurring Update seeks to provide up-to-date population figures to help inform stakeholders in need of such information. The data within this year's report come mainly from historical U.S. Census counts and the Research & Evaluation Division's most recent population forecasts, conducted in 2008.

As of the time which this update was written, the Census 2010 counts are not yet available. In its place, estimated population projections based on the Census 2000 were used.

### Historical estimates

Figure 1. Historical Native Hawaiian population trends in the Hawaiian islands<sup>12</sup>

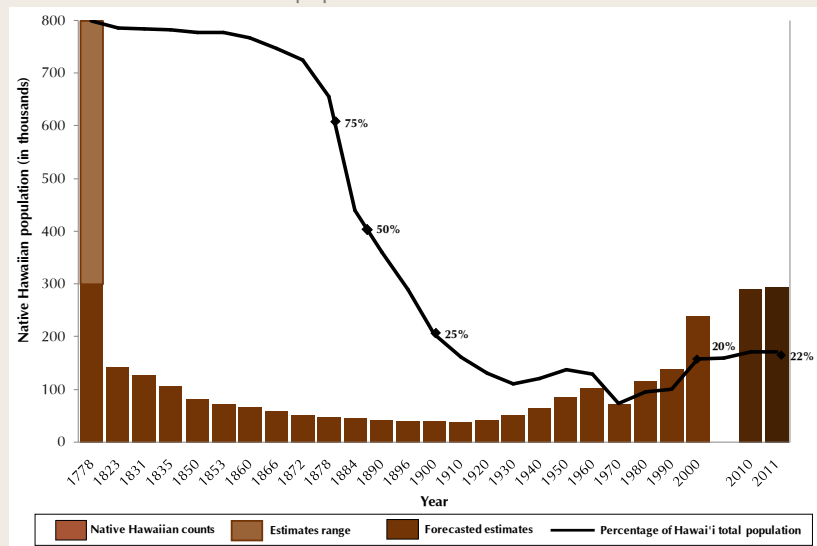


Figure 1 depicts historical estimates of the Native Hawaiian population in Hawai'i since 1778. The population is believed to have increased dramatically during the two centuries prior to contact with Westerners, attaining an estimated peak of 400,000 to 800,000 in 1778.<sup>3</sup> Contact with Europeans subsequently exposed Native Hawaiians to foreign

1 This figure has been updated from prior versions used in the 2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment, and 2010 Population Update to better reflect the different theories of the pre-contact Native Hawaiian population.

2 The abrupt drop in the Native Hawaiian population count in 1970 reflects a change in the U.S. census policy that removed the "part-Hawaiian" category from the list of racial/ethnic identification responses allowed. The surge in the Native Hawaiian population in 2000 is attributable to the Census Bureau's adoption of multi-race/multiethnic reporting, which permits individuals of multiple races/ethnicities to report all of their racial/ethnic affiliations in lieu of choosing a single entry.

3 King's initial estimates suggested the pre-contact Native Hawaiian population to be around 400,000.

diseases which caused death and infertility, leading the population to experience a steady decline in the following century. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Native Hawaiian population diminished to less than 40,000, representing one quarter of the islands' total population at that time. Since the early 1900s, however, a resurgence of the Native Hawaiian population has occurred, with an estimated 294,000 living in the state of Hawai'i and 208,000 on the continental United States in 2011.

**Current estimates**

**State of Hawai'i**

The estimated 2011 distribution of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i among four age groups (keiki, 'ōpio, makua, kupuna) is shown in Figure 2.

Since 2000, the population of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i is projected to have grown at slightly faster rates in the young 'ōpio, older makua, and kupuna age groups as compared to the keiki, older 'ōpio and young makua age groups, with the estimated percentages of Native Hawaiians aged 0-4, 18-24, and over 65 to have increased by 2011.

Figure 3 provides a breakdown of the estimated Native Hawaiian population at the county level in Hawaii. According to U.S. Census data, in 2000, 63.9% of Native Hawaiians in the state of Hawai'i lived in the City and County of Honolulu, 17.9% in Hawai'i County, 5.6% in Kauai County, and 12.5% in Maui County. During the intervening years, Native Hawaiian populations on all of the neighbor islands are projected to have risen at slightly faster rates than on O'ahu, resulting in 2011 estimated percentages of 62% living in the County and County of Honolulu, 18.5% in Hawai'i County, 5.8% in Kaua'i County, and 12.8% in Maui County.

**Entire United States**

Figures 4 and 5 graphically illustrate the estimated age distributions of the current Native Hawaiian populations in the state of Hawai'i and on the continental United States. Each pair of bars represents the percentage of the total Native Hawaiian population in the state or on the continent comprised of a particular 5-year age group, partitioned by gender.

Both areas display a similar pattern, with expanding bases and smaller proportions of older Native Hawaiians. In particular, the youngest two age groups combine for over one-fifth of the total Native Hawaiian population in the U.S., with 23.9% of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i and 23.4% of Native Hawaiians on the continent estimated to be less than 10 years old. Additionally, males constitute higher percentages of the younger generations and females of the older generations across the country. For both Hawai'i and the mainland, males comprise a higher percentage than females for all age groups up to age 39, and females comprise a higher percentage than males for all age groups above age 40.

However, David Stannard suggests the total Native Hawaiian population to range from 800,000 to 1 million inhabitants.

Figure 2. Age group distribution of Native Hawaiian population estimates, 2011, State of Hawai'i

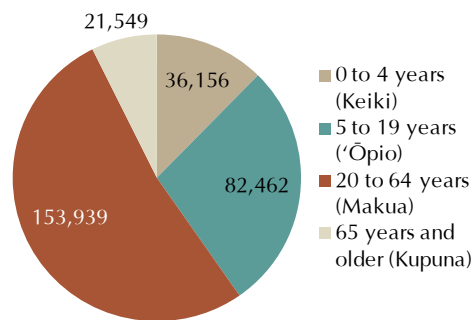


Figure 3. County level distribution of Native Hawaiian population estimates, 2011, State of Hawai'i

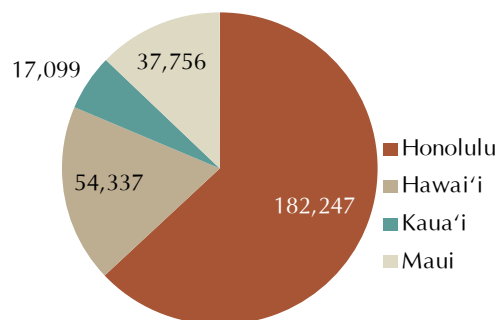


Figure 4. State of Hawai'i population pyramid, 2011

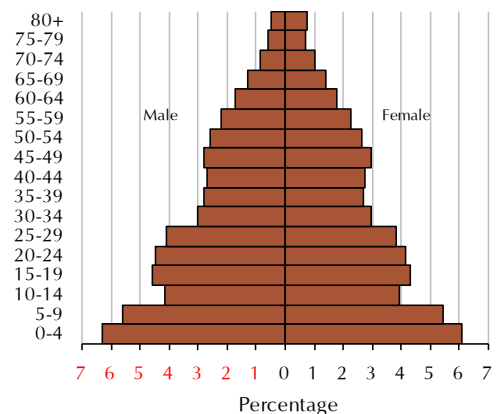
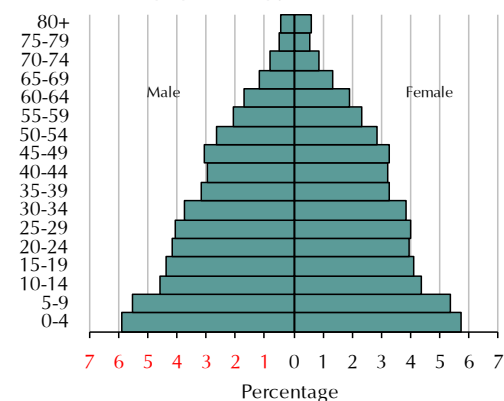


Figure 5. Continental U.S. population pyramid, 2011



**Future estimates**

The Native Hawaiian population in Hawai'i is projected to experience significant growth in the coming decades. Figure 6 segments the population growth projections by four age groups (keiki, 'ōpio, makua, and kupuna). Of these four, 'ōpio are projected to experience the slowest growth rate from 2000 to 2050, with an average 5-year growth rate of 6.9%. Keiki and makua are projected to experience average 5-year growth rates of 8.8% and 8.0% respectively, and the kupuna age group is expected to expand at the expeditious average 5-year growth rate of 15.8%. All age groups except 'ōpio are expected to double in size from 2000 to 2050.

Figure 7 displays projections for the state of Hawai'i at the county level. As would be expected, the large majority of Native Hawaiians in the state are estimated to continue living in the City and County of Honolulu through 2050; however, the remaining three counties are all projected to grow at faster rates. The projected average five-year growth rate for Honolulu is 7.8%, compared to 9.2% for Hawai'i County, 9.7% for Kaua'i County, and 9.2% for Maui County. Correspondingly, the percentage of Native Hawaiians in the state of Hawai'i living in the city and county of Honolulu is projected to slightly decrease from 63.9% in 2000 to 60.6% in 2050. All four counties are expected to at least double their census 2000 population count by 2050.

Projected Native Hawaiian population counts in Hawai'i were also calculated as a percentage of projected total state population through 2030, the latest year for which census projections for the total state population were published (Figure 8). The slightly curved upward trend indicates that the growth rate of Native Hawaiians relative to non-Hawaiians is projected to significantly increase during the coming decades.

**Conclusions and Implications**

The 2010 population projections show that the Native Hawaiian population in the United States is young and growing, with keiki and 'ōpio comprising the densest age groups. In addition, the Native Hawaiian population within the state of Hawai'i is projected to double in size from the census 2000 count of 239,655 to 533,832 in 2050, with the kupuna age group expected to increase the fastest.

The nature of population projections requires periodic updating; population data should be continually monitored, as new information is gathered and disseminated through institutions such as the U.S. Census Bureau and products such as the American Community Survey. In addition, increased efforts to gather data specific to Native Hawaiians should be made due to the generalized nature of most census products. Constant data monitoring and re-forecasting will allow for increased reliability and validity of the projected Native Hawaiian population and population trends, which are critical to the long-term program planning efforts of institutions such as Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and other agencies which serve and impact large numbers of Native Hawaiians.

Figure 6. Native Hawaiian population forecasts by age group, state of Hawai'i

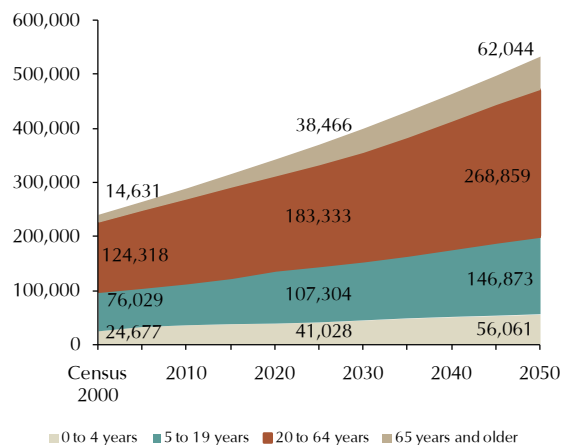


Figure 7. Native Hawaiian forecasts by county, state of Hawai'i

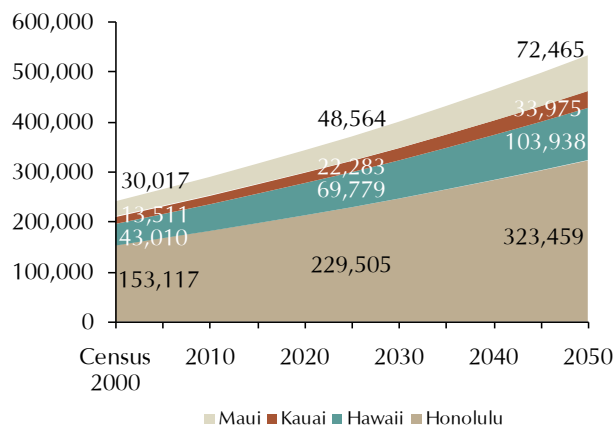


Figure 8. Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the total population, state of Hawai'i

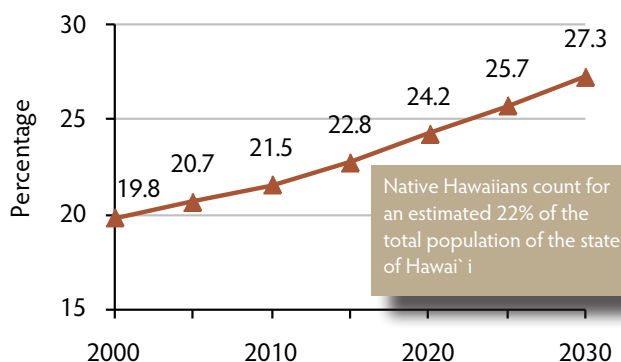


Table 1. Native Hawaiian population estimates by age group, state and national levels

	2000		2005		2011		2015	
	Number	Pct. of total	Number	Pct. of total	Number	Pct. of total	Number	Pct. of total
<b>Native Hawaiian population in the state of Hawai'i</b>								
Total	239,655	100.0%	264,078	100.0%	294,107	100.0%	315,361	100.0%
0 to 2 years old	14,806	6.2%	19,557	7.4%	21,694	7.4%	22,669	7.2%
3 to 4 years old	9,871	4.1%	13,038	4.9%	14,462	4.9%	15,113	4.8%
5 to 8 years old	21,340	8.9%	19,320	7.3%	25,956	8.8%	27,962	8.9%
9 to 17 years old	45,211	18.9%	46,336	17.5%	46,468	15.8%	51,608	16.4%
18 to 24 years old	27,489	11.5%	33,578	12.7%	35,002	11.9%	34,353	10.9%
25 to 64 years old	106,307	44.4%	115,338	43.7%	128,976	43.9%	138,205	43.8%
65+ years old	14,631	6.1%	16,912	6.4%	21,549	7.3%	25,450	8.1%
0 to 17 years old	91,228	38.1%	98,250	37.2%	108,580	36.9%	117,352	37.2%
5 to 17 years old	66,551	27.8%	65,655	24.9%	72,424	24.6%	79,570	25.2%
0 to 4 years old	24,677	10.3%	32,595	12.3%	36,156	12.3%	37,782	12.0%
5 to 9 years old	26,675	11.1%	24,150	9.1%	32,446	11.0%	34,953	11.1%
10 to 14 years old	25,660	10.7%	26,244	9.9%	24,921	8.5%	30,923	9.8%
15 to 19 years old	23,694	9.9%	25,436	9.6%	25,096	8.5%	22,824	7.2%
65 to 69 years old	5,149	2.1%	5,942	2.3%	8,210	2.8%	9,607	3.0%
70+ years old	9,482	4.0%	10,970	4.2%	13,340	4.5%	15,844	5.0%
<b>Native Hawaiian population in the United States</b>								
Total	401,080	100.0%	445,451	100.0%	502,989	100.0%	542,560	100.0%
0 to 2 years old	24,631	6.1%	32,823	7.4%	35,957	7.1%	37,497	6.9%
3 to 4 years old	16,420	4.1%	21,882	4.9%	23,972	4.8%	24,998	4.6%
5 to 8 years old	34,014	8.5%	32,272	7.2%	43,759	8.7%	46,641	8.6%
9 to 17 years old	72,901	18.2%	75,067	16.9%	79,550	15.8%	89,627	16.5%
18 to 24 years old	49,116	12.2%	55,766	12.5%	58,513	11.6%	59,340	10.9%
25 to 64 years old	181,944	45.4%	201,662	45.3%	226,878	45.1%	242,699	44.7%
65+ years old	22,053	5.5%	25,980	5.8%	34,361	6.8%	41,759	7.7%
0 to 17 years old	147,967	36.9%	162,044	36.4%	183,237	36.4%	198,762	36.6%
5 to 17 years old	106,916	26.7%	107,338	24.1%	123,308	24.5%	136,268	25.1%
0 to 4 years old	41,051	10.2%	54,706	12.3%	59,929	11.9%	62,495	11.5%
5 to 9 years old	42,518	10.6%	40,339	9.1%	54,698	10.9%	58,301	10.7%
10 to 14 years old	40,756	10.2%	42,423	9.5%	43,160	8.6%	53,526	9.9%
15 to 19 years old	39,403	9.8%	40,960	9.2%	42,417	8.4%	40,735	7.5%
65 to 69 years old	7,993	2.0%	9,266	2.1%	13,399	2.7%	16,402	3.0%
70+ years old	14,060	3.5%	16,713	3.8%	20,962	4.2%	25,358	4.7%