



Recommended Standards for Collecting Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Data in Hawai'i

February 2023

Summary:

The **Hawai'i Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response, Recovery, & Resilience (NHPI 3R Team)** strongly recommends that all organizations and agencies in the state who collect race data use the following detailed 14 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroup categories: Native

1997 OMB Standards Minimum Race Category	State of Hawaii NHPI Race Categories (14) What is your race? (Check all that apply)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Native Hawaiian
	Chamorro/CHamoru
	Chuukese
	Fijian
	I-Kiribati
	Kosraean
	Marshallese
	Palauan/Belauan
	Pohnpeian
	Samoan
	Tahitian
	Tokelauan
	Tongan
	Yapese
Other Pacific Islander (please specify)	
* It is a misconception that the federal 1997 OMB Standards preclude the collection of more detailed information. This is not the case; in fact, the 1997 OMB standards encourage states to disaggregate further as appropriate. More detailed information should be collected as long as data collected can be rolled up to the minimum categories. The recommendations provide guidance on how each category aligns with the federal standard categories.	
** Refer to the methods section below for an explanation of the disaggregated Pacific Islander categories included in this list.	

Hawaiian, Chamorro/CHamoru, Chuukese, Fijian, I-Kiribati, Kosraean, Marshallese, Palauan/Belauan, Pohnpeian, Samoan, Tahitian, Tokelauan, Tongan, and Yapese. For all other Pacific Islander subgroups, the category of “Other Pacific Islander” can be used. The DRC further recommends that data collection methods allow respondents to select as many racial categories as necessary.

Recommended Standards for Collecting Race Data in Hawai'i:

To address the inadequacies of the federal minimum standards, the DRC convened a Data Standards Workgroup to develop a statewide standard for the collection of race data that would satisfy federal reporting requirements and more importantly, local needs.

Recommendations:

- Racial categories specify as much detail as possible.**
- Data collection allows respondents to select more than one race (e.g., check all that apply, mark one or more boxes).**
- Race selection is based upon self-identification (except in instances where consultation with others such as a family member for identification purposes is more practical or necessary, e.g., responding to EMS in an emergency or completing a death certificate).**

4. Allow participants who select “Other Pacific Islander” or any “Other” category to write in their specific race.

In support of the implementation of recommendation #1 to specify as much detail as possible, the Data Standards Workgroup has developed a Comprehensive Race Categories list with fourteen (14) identified groups, respectively.

Cultural Guidance:

No Kākou, Na Kākou (For us, by us) - Engage with NHPI community, including NHPI and NHPI-serving expertise in data collection, analysis, and reporting to inform timely decision-making. Engagement includes ensuring diversity among staff and training staff members that will be working with the data.

In acknowledgement of the complexities associated with processing and reporting multi-racial data, the NHPI 3R Team’s DRC is developing a technical guidance document.

Background & Methods:

The reliance on the OMB Standard race categories¹ early in the pandemic as the minimum racial categories reinforced longstanding unnecessary barriers to (1) characterizing the experiences of specific NHPI communities, to (2) identifying disparities and the structural inequities and social determinants that contribute to the inequity, and (3) to taking effective, efficient and acceptable action to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on historically underserved and marginalized communities within the state.

Having access to accurate and detailed demographic information is essential to equitable allocation of resources and effective implementation of in-language and culturally appropriate interventions. Therefore, the NHPI 3R Team created recommendations for standardized race data collection for the diverse NHPI communities in Hawai‘i. This effort is intentionally centered on disaggregation of NHPIs, but the methods could be adopted by other communities that would benefit from more granular race data collection and reporting. The detailed document regarding methodology can be found [here](#).

The methodology used for creating this list of categories and the recommendations for data collection reflect considerations of multiple factors to achieve a balance of meaningful representation, practical application and basic protection. The categories expand the Pacific Islander group to include any group that represents at least 100 persons in the State of Hawai‘i population alone or in combination, based on the most recently available complete decennial census count. This initiative is not a one-time solution, but the start of a collaborative and community-informed process of transformation to advance equity in our state.

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¹ Office of Management and Budget. Revisions to the standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity. Federal Register 62FR58781-58790, October 30, 1997. Available from:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html>