



## RESOLUTION

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**URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DISAGGREGATE GOVERNMENTAL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING BEYOND FEDERAL MINIMUM STANDARDS.**

WHEREAS, on October 30, 1997, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") issued revised standards for the classification of federal data on race and ethnicity, entitled the "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity: Notice of Decision" ("the 1997 OMB Directive" or "standards"); and

WHEREAS, the 1997 OMB Directive provides standard minimum classifications for record keeping, collection, and presentation of data in federal programs, particularly to enforce civil rights laws by monitoring equal access in housing, education, employment, and other areas; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 OMB Directive established five minimum data categories for race ("American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian," "Black or African American," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," and "White") and two data categories for ethnicity ("Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino"); and

WHEREAS, the standards are used by the U.S. Census Bureau in the federal decennial census, which provides the basis for many federal programs, and federal funding and policy decisions, as well as by the states in implementing federal programs and complying with legislative redistricting requirements for determining Congressional representation; and

WHEREAS, the federal standards are typically followed by the State of Hawaii ("State") and the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), but State and City agencies have the discretion to disaggregate data collection and reporting beyond the 1997 OMB standards; and

WHEREAS, since the 1997 OMB Directive, the U.S. population has continued to become more racially and ethnically diverse; and

WHEREAS, according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau statistics published by the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Hawaii is the one of the most diverse states in the nation, with high numbers of Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders; and



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WHEREAS, under the 1997 OMB Directive, these groups include many people with different cultures, traits, and national origins, as follows:

- 1) The "Asian" category is comprised of all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast, Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including Cambodians, Chinese, Indians, Japanese, Koreans, Malaysians, Pakistanis, Filipinos, Thais, and Vietnamese; and
- 2) The "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" category is comprised of all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands, including Native Hawaiians, Guamanians, and Samoans, Carolinians, Fijians, Marshallese, Melanesians, Micronesians, Northern Mariana Islanders, Palauans, Papua New Guineans, Polynesians, Solomon Islander, Tahitians, Tarawa Islanders, Tokelauans, Tongans, Trukese (Chuukese), and Yapese; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health reports that 2020 life expectancies, disease risks, health access, and other risk factors of Pacific Islanders vary from those of other racial/ethnic categories; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for further data disaggregation of the Asian and Pacific Islander groups for health and social providers beyond the 1997 OMB categories in order to identify and address health inequities among racial and ethnic subpopulations; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report issued by the State Department of Health ("DOH") and a group of academic and community partners (*COVID-19 in Hawaii: Addressing Health Equity in Diverse Populations*, Disease Outbreak Control Division: Special Report), the State's racial and ethnic communities most adversely impacted by COVID-19 have been Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos; and

WHEREAS, the DOH report found that it was difficult for governmental emergency relief and health agencies to pinpoint the larger outbreak among Pacific Islanders because the data collected initially combined data on Pacific Islanders (about four percent of the State's population) with data on Native Hawaiians (about 21 percent of the state's population); and

WHEREAS, the DOH report concluded that "[d]isaggregation of race/ethnicity data is important to better understand the specific issues at a more granular and



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contextualized level and to develop targeted policy actions and public health interventions that can effectively address the causes of these disparities"; and

WHEREAS, the potential benefits of disaggregating data on the basis of race and ethnicity include:

- Allowing for more accurate research;
- Preserving identity and information about the unique experiences of each subpopulation group;
- Increasing knowledge of racial and ethnic inequities in health care delivery;
- Allowing for the creation of policies that will address the underlying economic and health disparities; and
- Providing voters with accurate information in order to hold elected officials accountable;

WHEREAS, the 1997 OMB Directive does not preclude the collection and presentation of additional detailed categories for statistical, administrative, or compliance purposes, stating, "[i]n no case shall the provisions of the standards be construed to limit the collection of data to the [minimum data] categories [and the] collection of greater detail is encouraged"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") finds that it is crucial to disaggregate State and City data collection and reporting beyond the 1997 OMB minimum standards to allow for the formulation of effective public policy, informed representation, and accountable government; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that disaggregating the collection and reporting of State and City population data into the following racial categories, while retaining the ethnic categories of "Hispanic or Latino" and "not Hispanic or Latino", would serve the public interest:

- 1) White;
- 2) Black;
- 3) American Indian or Alaska Native;



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- 4) Filipino;
- 5) Japanese;
- 6) Chinese;
- 7) Korean;
- 8) Other Asian;
- 9) Native Hawaiian;
- 10) Samoan;
- 11) Micronesian;
- 12) Tongan; and
- 13) Other Pacific Islander; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the State of Hawaii and the Administration of the City and County of Honolulu to disaggregate agency data collection and reporting beyond the minimum guidelines established by the 1997 OMB Standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recommends that the disaggregated data include, at a minimum, the racial/ethnic categories set forth above; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

**21-100**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Mayor, and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Artho Uiaiana*  
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*Robert Corbett*  
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**APR 19 2021**

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers