REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

Voting Members:
Radiant Cordero, Chair; Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice-Chair,
Esther Kia'āina, Augie Tulba

Committee Meeting Held
June 15, 2021

Honorable Tommy Waters
Council Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Health which considered Resolution 21-100 entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DISAGGREGATE RACIAL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING BEYOND FEDERAL MINIMUM STANDARDS,"

introduced on April 19, 2021 reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to urge the State of Hawaii and the Administration of the City and County of Honolulu to disaggregate agency racial data collection and reporting beyond the minimum guidelines established by the 1997 OMB Standards.

Your Committee considered and approved a posted CD1 (OCS2021-0578/6/9/2021 9:38AM) version that makes the following amendments:

A. Amends the title to substitute "RACIAL" for "GOVERNMENTAL."

B. Adds two new WHEREAS clauses at the beginning of the resolution regarding OMB Directive No. 15, as context for the revisions made by the 1997 OMB Standards.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JUN 30 2021

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C. Changes all references to "the 1997 OMB Directive" to "the 1997 OMB Standards."

D. In the fourth WHEREAS clause, adds "racial and ethnic" to describe the kind of data presented in federal programs according to the 1997 OMB Standards.

E. In the seventh, fourteenth, and eighteenth WHEREAS clauses, adds "racial" to the description of the kind of data collected.

F. In the seventh WHEREAS clause, substitutes "required to be followed" for "typically followed" to clarify that the federal Standards are required to be followed by the State of Hawaii and the City.

G. Amends the sixteenth WHEREAS clause to read as follows:

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

- Enforcing civil rights laws by monitoring equal access in health, housing, education, employment, and other areas;
- 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, housing, education, employment, and other areas; and

- Allowing for the creation of policies that will address underlying disparities in such areas; and"

H. In the last WHEREAS clause, amends the racial categories to add two new categories of "Vietnamese" and "Chamorro."

I. Amends the final BE IT RESOLVED clause to read as follows:

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii; the Mayor; the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; the State Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Human Resources of the City and County of Honolulu."

J. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

At your Committee's meeting on June 15, 2021, three individuals testified remotely in support of, and an individual offered comments on, the Resolution.

Your Committee received five written testimonies in support of the Resolution. The Center of Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies submitted comments on the Resolution.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

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Your Committee also received testimony in support of the Resolution from the following institutions, organizations, and governmental agencies:

- Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
- InterAgency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services (IAC)
- Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- King Nakamura & Chun-Hoon
- Pacific Gateway Center
- The Legal Clinic
- Ke One O Kākuhihewa
- 'Ahahui o nā kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians)
- Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Pouhana Consultation Services and Asian Pacific Island Health Forum(APIHF)

Your Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Health is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 21-100, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 21-100, CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Elefante, Kia'āina, Tulba – 4; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,

Radiant Cordero
Committee Chair

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JUN 30 2021

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 183

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. **21-100, CD1**

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, on May 12, 1977, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") adopted "Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting" ("OMB Directive No. 15"), which defined minimum standards for collecting and presenting data on race and ethnicity for all federal reporting in order to provide consistent data on race and ethnicity throughout the federal government and to assist in the enforcement of civil rights laws; and

WHEREAS, the OMB Directive No. 15 established four minimum data categories for race ("American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian or Pacific Islander," "Black," and "White") and two data categories for ethnicity ("Hispanic origin" or "Not of Hispanic origin"); and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 1997, the 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 Standards" or "Standards"); and

WHEREAS, the 1997 OMB Standards provide standard minimum classifications for record keeping, collection, and presentation of racial and ethnic 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 Standards 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 required to be 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 racial data collection and reporting beyond the 1997 OMB standards; and

WHEREAS, since the 1997 OMB Standards took effect, 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 racially diverse states in the nation, with high numbers of Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, under the 1997 OMB Standards, 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 Islanders, 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 racial 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 racial 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 contextualized level and to develop targeted policy actions and public health interventions that can effectively address the causes of these disparities"; and

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

- Enforcing civil rights laws by monitoring equal access in health, housing, education, employment, and other areas;
- 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, housing, education, employment, and other areas; and
- Allowing for the creation of policies that will address underlying disparities in such areas; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 OMB Standards do 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 racial data collection and reporting beyond the minimum 1997 OMB Standards to allow for the formulation of effective public policy, informed representation, and accountable government; and

RESOLUTION

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;

4) Filipino;

5) Japanese;

6) Chinese;

7) Korean;

8) Vietnamese

9) Other Asian;

10) Native Hawaiian;

11) Samoan;

12) Micronesian;

13) Tongan;

14) Chamorro; and

15) Other Pacific Islander; now, therefore,

RESOLUTION

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 racial 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

No. **21-100, CD1**

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii; the Mayor; the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; the State Department of Human Resources Development; and the Department of Human Resources of the City and County of Honolulu.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'āina

Radiant Cordero

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

April 19, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers