

Resolution 21-100, CD1 Testimony

MISC. COM. 398



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT RESOLUTION 21-100, CD1

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

To: Chair Waters and Councilmembers

From: Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman, Co-Chairs

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Resolution 21-100, CD1. Standardized collection of data on race and ethnicity is critical to ending disparities in the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.¹ Resolution 21-100, CD1 is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in social service programs within Honolulu County and the state.

Data disaggregation allows government entities 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, disaggregated data will also provide government entities the ability to leverage and incorporate the data in federal grant applications and compliments the mission of government agencies to serve and care for all its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure

Amy Agbayani/Pat McManaman

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Amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

¹ Covid-19 in Hawai'i: Addressing Health Equity in Diverse Populations, March 16, 2021 at <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Race-Ethnicity-Equity-Report.pdf>;



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT RESOLUTION 21-100, CD1
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH**

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

To: Chair Waters and Members of the Committee

From: Liza Ryan Gill, Chair of The Legal Clinic, Advocacy Committee

As the only organization solely dedicated to providing legal services to low-income, foreign-born individuals in the state, The Legal Clinic **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Resolution 21-100, CD1.

During the pandemic our organization received over \$350,000 in CARES Act funding, through the City and County of Honolulu, to distribute to low-income Limited-English Speakers (LEPs). Through that process we witnessed, firsthand, the need for better data collection within Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. Some of these communities were hit dramatically by the virus with infection rates far outpacing other communities that would have been lumped together under the same title. Without specifically knowing how each of these groups was suffering we would not have been able to marshal resources, bring on native speakers to conduct outreach, and address the specific concerns and needs of each particular community to stop the spread of the virus.

Standardized collection of data on race and ethnicity is critical to ending disparities in the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.[1] Resolution 21-100, CD1 is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in social service programs within Honolulu County and the state.

Data disaggregation allows government entities 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, disaggregated data will also provide government entities the ability to leverage and incorporate the data in federal grant applications and compliments the mission of government agencies to serve and care for all its residents.

This is especially critical in a state such as Hawai'i, with a majority minority population that is exceptionally heterogeneous. To lump the majority of our population under one title such as "Asian" would render the designation meaningless. Disaggregating data in this county would allow government agencies and community services organizations to better meet the needs of the people they are seeking to help. Mahalo for the chance to testify in support of this resolution.

In solidarity,

Liza Ryan Gill, Chair
Advocacy Committee, The Legal Clinic

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of Resolution 21-100, CD1
Urging the State of Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu to disaggregate
governmental data collection and reporting beyond federal minimum standards.**

City Council, City and County of Honolulu

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Councilmembers,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights SUPPORTS Resolution 21-100. Disaggregated data beyond federal minimum standards is important for immigrant communities and for Hawai'i as a whole. Resolution 21-100 is a critical step for health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state.

It is well documented that state agencies let down various Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities during the early days of the pandemic. The Department of Health's decision to delay releasing disaggregated COVID-19 morbidity and mortality data was an unnecessary barrier to addressing health inequities and curbing the pandemic.¹ And the consequences were deadly, as Pacific Islanders were twice as likely to be killed or hospitalized by COVID-19.²

Data disaggregation concerns are not limited to the work of the Department of Health. Many individuals were unable to access Unemployment Insurance at Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) due to language access, technology access, and even initial confusion about COFA eligibility.³ Many state- and county-level agencies saw an increase in demand for social services when the pandemic hit, even as COVID-19 made them more difficult to access. Without the release of disaggregated data, we have no way of understanding the overall extent of the consequences of departmental challenges, beyond community stories of NHPI and other immigrant families unable to access benefits for which they were qualified.

¹ See, e.g., Anita Hofschneider, *Health Officials Knew COVID-19 Would Hit Pacific Islanders Hard. The State Still Fell Short*, Civil Beat, August 17, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/health-officials-knew-covid-19-would-hit-pacific-islanders-hard-the-state-still-fell-short/>; Anita Hofschneider, *DOH Says Native Hawaiians Have A High COVID-19 Rate. But How High?*, Civil Beat, April 29, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/native-hawaiians-have-a-high-covid-19-rate-but-how-high/>.

² Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Pacific Islanders Are Twice As Likely to Be Hospitalized for COVID-19*, Civil Beat, November 20, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/11/hawaii-pacific-islanders-are-twice-as-likely-to-be-hospitalized-for-covid-19/>.

³ Anita Hofschneider, *Advocates: Lack of Interpreter Services at Unemployment Office is Illegal*, Civil Beat, July 7, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/advocates-lack-of-interpreter-services-at-unemployment-office-is-illegal/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Updates Unemployment Application to Include Pacific Migrants*, Civil Beat, April 14, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-updates-unemployment-application-to-include-pacific-migrants/>.

Finally, disparities in county law enforcement must be taken seriously in Hawai'i. Law enforcement has a history of racial disparities in policing, well known to the community through countless individual stories, but Honolulu Police Department has repeatedly denied existence of racial disparity problems.⁴ The data that does exist is troubling: for example, with the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Micronesians represented 26% of those taken into custody for violating the orders, even though they represent only 1% of the whole state population.⁵ The only way to truly understand the problem is with greater and more transparent disaggregated data.

The importance of data disaggregation beyond federal minimum standards is well studied,⁶ and here in Hawai'i, while there are existing efforts at data disaggregation, they have not gone far enough or come fast enough. Resolution 21-100 is necessary for state agencies to address data disaggregation in a systematic, transparent manner so that Hawai'i can recover from COVID-19 and the economic downturn in as efficient, effective, and equitable way as possible. Data disaggregation is a matter of health equity, racial justice, and civil rights. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Catherine Chen
8083828624
cschen@hawaii.edu

⁴ Christine Jedra & Anita Hofschneider, *'Significant' Disparity In Use Of Force Questioned By Honolulu Police Commission*, Civil Beat, February 3, 2021, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/significant-disparity-in-use-of-force-against-some-groups-questioned-by-honolulu-police-commission/>; Anita Hofschneider, *ACLU Presses HPD To Fix Racial Disparities In Policing*, Civil Beat, July 6, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/aclu-presses-hpd-to-fix-racial-disparities-in-policing/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Honolulu Police Chief Hopes Nationwide Reform Movement Skips Hawai'i*, Civil Beat, Jun. 19, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/06/honolulu-police-chief-hopes-nationwide-reform-movement-skips-hawaii/>.

⁵ Ashley Mizuo, *Racial Disparities Emerge In HPD Enforcement Of Stay-At-Home Violations*, Hawai'i Public Radio, Jun. 29, 2020 at <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/racial-disparities-emerge-hpd-enforcement-stay-home-violations#stream/0>.

⁶ Victor Rubin, et. al., *Counting a Diverse Nation: Disaggregated Data on Race and Ethnicity to Advance a Culture of Health*, PolicyLink (2018).

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 6:17 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Christy MacPherson
Phone	8085543833
Email	iainandaustin@hotmail.com
Meeting Date	06-30-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Disaggregated racial data
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Self
Written Testimony	Representing our ethnically underrepresented groups responsibly and ethically is of the Written Testimony utmost importance. and disaggregating racial data leads to sound policies that impact all.
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i

A Project of the William S. Richardson School of Law
2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
T: (808) 688-3313 / www.mlpchawaii.org

City Council

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Re: Support of 21-100, CD1, urging the State of Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu to disaggregate governmental data collection and reporting beyond federal minimum standards.

Dear Councilmembers,

The Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) represents patients at a community health center with their legal needs. Most of our clients are from Pacific Islander communities and have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. We strongly support Resolution 21-100.

Data disaggregation is necessary to competently and equitably serve and protect all of Hawai'i's residents. Federal minimum standards are insufficient, particularly in Hawai'i. It is now well-documented that state agencies let down NHPI communities during the early days of the pandemic, and the Department of Health's decision to delay releasing disaggregated COVID-19 morbidity and mortality data was an unnecessary hurdle in this fight.¹ The consequences were deadly, as Pacific Islanders were twice as likely to be killed or hospitalized by COVID-19.²

The need for data disaggregation is not limited to the Department of Health but applies to all state- and county-level agencies. First, many NHPI families were unable to access Unemployment Insurance at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations due to language access, technology access, and even initial confusion about COFA eligibility.³ Second, although county law enforcement has repeatedly denied the existence of racial

¹ See, e.g., Anita Hofschneider, *Health Officials Knew COVID-19 Would Hit Pacific Islanders Hard. The State Still Fell Short*, Civil Beat, August 17, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/health-officials-knew-covid-19-would-hit-pacific-islanders-hard-the-state-still-fell-short/>; Anita Hofschneider, *DOH Says Native Hawaiians Have A High COVID-19 Rate. But How High?*, Civil Beat, April 29, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/native-hawaiians-have-a-high-covid-19-rate-but-how-high/>.

² Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Pacific Islanders Are Twice As Likely to Be Hospitalized for COVID-19*, Civil Beat, November 20, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/11/hawaii-pacific-islanders-are-twice-as-likely-to-be-hospitalized-for-covid-19/>.

³ Anita Hofschneider, *Advocates: Lack of Interpreter Services at Unemployment Office is Illegal*, Civil Beat, July 7, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/advocates-lack-of-interpreter-services-at-unemployment-office-is-illegal/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Updates Unemployment Application to Include Pacific Migrants*, Civil Beat, April 14, 2020, at



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disparity problems, the community has long shared stories of racial disparities in policing.⁴ The data that does exist is troubling: for example, with the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Micronesians represented 26% of those taken into custody for violating the orders, even though they represent only 1% of the whole state population.⁵

The advocates at the MLP have heard story after story of these disparities and their harmful effects on families, but where anecdotes are not enough to move policy, we need data. The only way to truly understand the problem is with greater and more transparent disaggregated data, a powerful tool for both community members and state agencies. Resolution 21-100 is an important step in that process, and its passage is a matter of health equity, racial justice, and civil rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony supporting Resolution 21-100.

Dina Shek

Legal Director, Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i

8083712698

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<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-updates-unemployment-application-to-include-pacific-migrants/>.

⁴ Christine Jedra & Anita Hofschneider, *'Significant' Disparity In Use Of Force Questioned By Honolulu Police Commission*, Civil Beat, February 3, 2021, at

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/significant-disparity-in-use-of-force-against-some-groups-questioned-by-honolulu-police-commission/>; Anita Hofschneider, *ACLU Presses HPD To Fix Racial Disparities In Policing*, Civil Beat, July 6, 2020, at

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/aclu-presses-hpd-to-fix-racial-disparities-in-policing/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Honolulu Police Chief Hopes Nationwide Reform Movement Skips Hawai'i*, Civil Beat, Jun. 19, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/06/honolulu-police-chief-hopes-nationwide-reform-movement-skips-hawaii/>.

⁵ Ashley Mizuo, *Racial Disparities Emerge In HPD Enforcement Of Stay-At-Home Violations*, Hawai'i Public Radio, Jun. 29, 2020 at <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/racial-disparities-emerge-hpd-enforcement-stay-home-violations#stream/0>.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 21-100, CD1

CHAIR Tommy Waters
VICE CHAIR Esther Kia’aina

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.

To: Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia’aina, and Members of the Council
From: Lowell Chun-Hoon, King, Nakamura & Chun-Hoon

I am writing to support Resolution 21-100, CD 1. As the head of a small law firm that has historically represented Hawaii’s labor unions and workers, I whole-heartedly endorse the concept of data disaggregation advocated by this resolution.

On one level, data disaggregation is no more than common sense: the information collected by local government on race and ethnicity must be broken down in ways that are as specific as possible so that analysis of disparities in the delivery of health care and other social services can be identified accurately and remedial efforts can be targeted effectively. The broad categories now required by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget are simply not sufficiently precise to provide the necessary data to serve all of Honolulu’s diverse populations.

Resolution 21-100, CD1 provides a meaningful and practical way we can look more accurately at ourselves and act more intelligently for the betterment of our entire community

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:19 AM
Subject: Council Testimony
Attachments: 20210629081900_NHPI3R_DRC_groups_Res_21-100.docx

Written Testimony

Name Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD
Phone 808-634-0256
Email Kaponoch@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-30-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-100 Disaggregated Data
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Organization

Organization 'Ahahui o Nā Kauka, the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians

'Ahahui o nā kauka, the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians, has long supported the disaggregation of Asian and Pacific Islander racial and ethnic groups beyond federal minimum standards, and the importance of this need was highlighted by the unique experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hawai'i in comparison to the continental US. This data disaggregation is key to addressing future public health needs, research, and social determinants of health influencing the health disparities our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities face.

While we fully support the intent of this resolution, several of our members have worked to develop a list of races/ethnicities for data and research purposes as part of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team (3R Team) in collaboration with the Hawai'i department of health. We suggest using the list developed by the NHPI 3R data and research committee instead of the current racial categories proposed in resolution 21-100 as we saw two particular concerns. First, we suggest category 12 currently termed "Guamanian" be changed to "Chamorro" to more clearly represent the indigenous people of Guam as many other racial/ethnic groups, such as Filipinos and Micronesians, who are residents of Guam may also be considered "Guamanian". Second, we suggest category 11 currently termed "Micronesian" be followed by more specific groups to avoid confusion regarding who is considered "Micronesian" rather than category 13 "Other Pacific Islander". We offer the attached table comparing the categories offered by this resolution with those developed by the NHPI3R team as well as the original NHPI3R list (appendix 1).

Written
Testimony

O wau iho no me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD - 'Ahahui o nā kauka Advocacy
Committee

Testimony Attachment	20210629081900_NHPI3R_DRC_groups_Res_21-100.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Resolution 21-100 list	NHPI 3R Data & Research Committee list https://www.nhpicovidhawaii.net/
1) White;	1. White or Caucasian
2) Black;	2. Black or African American
3) American Indian or Alaska Native;	3. American Indian 4. Alaska Native
4) Japanese;	8. Japanese
5) Chinese;	6. Chinese
6) Filipino;	7. Filipino
7) Korean;	9. Korean
8) Other Asian;	5. Asian Indian 10. Vietnamese 11. Other Asian (please specify _____)
9) Native Hawaiian;	12. Native Hawaiian
10) Samoan;	14. Samoan
11) Micronesian;	18. Marshallese 19. Chuukese 20. Kosraean 21. Pohnpeian 22. Yapese 23. Palauan 24. Nauruan 25. Kiribati
12) Guamanian;	13. Chamorro
13) Other Pacific Islander;	15. Tongan 16. Fijian 17. Tahitian 26. Other Pacific Islander (please specify _____)
	27. Other (please specify _____)
	28. Unknown

Appendix 1 - NHPI 3R Data & Research Committee

Race/Ethnicity Data Collection Long Form

1. What is your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

1. White or Caucasian
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian
4. Alaska Native
5. Asian Indian
6. Chinese
7. Filipino
8. Japanese
9. Korean
10. Vietnamese
11. Other Asian (please specify _____)
12. Native Hawaiian

13. Chamorro
14. Samoan
15. Tongan
16. Fijian
17. Tahitian
18. Marshallese
19. Chuukese
20. Kosraean
21. Pohnpeian
22. Yapese
23. Palauan/Belauan
24. Nauruan
25. Kiribati
26. Other Pacific Islander (please specify _____)
27. Other (please specify _____)
28. Unknown
29. Refused/Prefer not to answer

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 9:56 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Samuel Kippen
Phone	808-386-0918
Email	sakippen@ksb.edu
Meeting Date	06-30-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-100, CD1
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Kamehameha Schools
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 12:32 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Thaddeus Pham (he/him)
Phone 8085511917
Email Tediousmonkey@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-30-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-100 CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony As a concerned community member and public health professional, I strongly support this important resolution to disaggregate racial data collection beyond minimum federal requirements.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Administrative Testimony

Testimony of Sylvia M. Hussey Ed.D.

Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

Honolulu City Council

Special Meeting

Resolution 21-100 CD1

**URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO
DISAGGREGATE GOVERNMENTAL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING BEYOND
FEDERAL MINIMUM STANDARDS**

June 30, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Council Chamber

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** Resolution 21-100 CD1, which would provide needed disaggregated data to more specifically and accurately inform effective policymaking, and also proposes suggested amendments to include groups who have led efforts to disaggregate data and who may be most impacted by data disaggregation and data governance practices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted longstanding data challenges faced by state, county, and private entities throughout Hawai'i. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are broad—affecting our community's health, employment, and housing security, for example—and may also include more nuanced, secondary effects such as increases in domestic violence. Unfortunately, efforts to better understand and address the significant and unique impacts of the pandemic on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have been stymied by insufficient and inconsistent demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing by and between critical government entities and programs. Notably, these data governance challenges have been a source of concern for many years, even prior to the pandemic, and have long inhibited the development of data-driven, fact-based, and tailored policies and interventions to address the varied and unique needs of our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

Part of data governance includes the methodologies in which data is collected, processed, and shared. Data disaggregation is one way to ensure that the data collected will provide the needed specificity and accuracy to best inform policymaking decisions. OHA has advocated for disaggregated data through various legislative efforts, including its most recent data governance resolution (SCR5) that passed this 2021 legislative session. SCR5 seeks to address these longstanding data challenges by: (1) requesting that certain state agencies, the county police departments, and the Judiciary compile and share existing disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders; (2) urging those same entities to work with OHA and the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team (NHPI 3R Team) to develop

procedures and agreements for improved data collection, processing, retention, and sharing; and (3) urging the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Collection to assess the current data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges across state agencies.

This resolution is an important step towards ensuring that policymaking for COVID-19 recovery efforts are based upon community-specific data. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders is particularly crucial to understanding how and to what extent these communities are specifically impacted by COVID-19, so that resources can be allocated efficiently and effectively. Looking beyond the current pandemic, this resolution will continue to provide needed disaggregated data to best inform policymaking that will benefit all of our island's communities.

Through our advocacy for disaggregated Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander data, OHA has built upon existing relationships with various community stakeholders, including the NHPI 3R Team. It is through our efforts and experience with SCR5, that we know (1) the importance of working with groups like the NHPI 3R Team who have been in the process of creating a standardized list of disaggregated groups reflective of Hawai'i's population, and (2) the importance of consistent and ongoing consultation, particularly with groups most disparately impacted.

Should the City Council decide to adopt this resolution, we offer the following suggested amendments to Resolution 21-100 CD1:

- (1) Suggested amendment language to the second "be it resolved" clause (recommended new language is underlined):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recommends the disaggregated data include, at a minimum, the racial/ethnic categories set forth above, and be further developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team;

and

- (2) Suggested new language, to be inserted after the second "be it resolved" clause (recommended new language is underlined):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council urges ongoing, consistent, and equitable consultation with the groups most disparately impacted or represented in disaggregated data to ensure the accuracy and

OHA Testimony on Resolution 21-100 CD1
City Council Special Meeting
June 30, 2021
Page 3

integrity of data collection and reporting, while incorporating due sensitivities to not further stigmatize any one group; and

Therefore, OHA urges the City Council to **ADOPT** Resolution 21-100 CD1.
Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sterling Wong
808-594-1888
sterlingw@oha.org

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 7:12 PM
Subject: Transportation, Sustainability and Health Testimony
Attachments: 20210629191158_IAC_TESTIMONY_IN_SUPPORT_RESOLUTION_21_Full_Council.docx

Written Testimony

Name Terrina Wong
Phone (808) 762-5952
Email terrina@pacificgatewaycenter.org
Meeting Date 06-30-2021
Council/PH Committee Transportation, Sustainability and Health
Agenda Item Resolution 21-100CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization InterAgency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210629191158_IAC_TESTIMONY_IN_SUPPORT_RESOLUTION_21_Full_Council.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT RESOLUTION 21-100 CD1

Chair Tommy Waters

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

To: Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee

From: Darrin Sato, Chair; and Terrina Wong, Co-Chair of the InterAgency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services (IAC)

The IAC STRONGLY SUPPORTS Resolution 21-100 CD1 to disaggregate racial data and reporting beyond the revised federal minimum standards established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards published in 1997.

Standardized collection of data on race, ethnicity, and primary language is critical to ending disparities in the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.¹ Resolution 21-100 is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in social service programs within Honolulu County and the state.

We urge the Committee to expand the data collected for racial categories for Asians to include all key ethnic Asian groups in Hawaii; that is, e.g., Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Okinawan, Vietnamese, Thai, Lao, Korean, Chinese, Japanese; and all key Pacific Islander ethnic groups to include Native Hawaiians, Chuukese, Marshallese, Yapese, Palauan, Tongan, Samoan and Guamanian. Hawaii is America's only majority AAPI state and has the highest NHPI population in the country. Alternatively, creating a write in option for Asian and Pacific Islander categories not otherwise identified in the data collecting tool would be advantageous to the state data collection.

In a recent example, the InterAgency Council is supporting outreach to hard-to-reach targeted immigrant populations for Covid-19 vaccinations. The hawaiiicovid-19.com site provides data on Native Hawaiians, but all other Pacific Islander data is aggregate; there is specific data on Filipino, Chinese and Japanese but *Other Asians* data is all aggregate. In our attempt to reach out to specific *gap groups* within the Asian and Pacific Islander groups to urge and educate them to vaccinate, there is no data to guide us in terms of the percentages of each of those targeted populations may have already been vaccinated. Strategic thinking is severely hampered without such disaggregate data.

¹ Covid-19 in Hawai'i: Addressing Health Equity in Diverse Populations, March 16, 2021 at <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Race-Ethnicity-Equity-Report.pdf>;

In sum, data disaggregation allows government entities 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, disaggregated data will also provide government entities the ability to leverage and incorporate the data in federal grant applications and compliments the mission of government agencies to serve and care for all its residents.

We know first-hand that without disaggregate data, we are neither properly servicing nor ensuring equity for all persons in our community

We appreciate this opportunity to testify on this critically important measure. Mahalo.