The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30% of income on housing costs. Households that spend more are considered cost-burdened because they have less to spend on other necessities (HUD, 2014). Figure 1 depicts the percent of Native Hawaiian renters who reported rental costs that exceeded 30% of their household income.

In 2014, 54.8% of Native Hawaiian renters reported spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs and are therefore classified as cost-burdened renters. Compared to 2013, the percent of Native Hawaiians paying 30% or more of their income on rent increased by 3.6 percentage points, while the increase of the total state population was 1.9 percentage points in the same year. Although the median rent paid by Native Hawaiian households decreased from $1,274 in 2013 to $1,245 in 2014, there was no corresponding improvement in the affordability of rentals in Native Hawaiian communities due to the decrease in household income. Native Hawaiian median household income decreased from $65,688 in 2013 to $62,852 in 2014 (4.32% change).

In 2014, trends from the last three years were reversed. This indicator did not meet the annual decrease of 0.6 percentage points necessary to be on track to reach the goal of 50% by 2018.

**FINDINGS**

- In 2014, 54.8% of Native Hawaiian renters reported spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs and are therefore classified as cost-burdened renters.

- **Are Native Hawaiians making progress in this Strategic Result?** No. Compared to 2013, the percent of Native Hawaiians paying 30% or more of their income on rent increased by 3.6 percentage points, while the increase of the total state population was 1.9 percentage points in the same year. Although the median rent paid by Native Hawaiian households decreased from $1,274 in 2013 to $1,245 in 2014, there was no corresponding improvement in the affordability of rentals in Native Hawaiian communities due to the decrease in household income. Native Hawaiian median household income decreased from $65,688 in 2013 to $62,852 in 2014 (4.32% change).

- **Are Native Hawaiians on track to reach the 2018 goal?** No. In 2014, trends from the last three years were reversed. This indicator did not meet the annual decrease of 0.6 percentage points necessary to be on track to reach the goal of 50% by 2018.

OHA Research Disclaimer. The data presented have been vetted for accuracy; however, there is no warranty that it is error-free. The data itself does not represent or confer any legal rights of any kind. Please use suggested citation and report discrepancies to the OHA Research Division.
**American Community Survey (ACS)** is an ongoing statistical survey by the U.S. Census Bureau sent to approximately 295,000 addresses monthly (or 3.5 million per year).

**Cost-Burdened** households are those who pay more than 30% of their income on housing and thus may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

**Gross Rent:** Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials that result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment. The estimated costs of water and sewer, and fuels are reported on a 12 month basis, but are converted to monthly figures for the tabulations. Renter units occupied without payment of rent are shown separately as “No rent paid” in the tabulations (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

**Household Income:** The sum of money income received in the calendar year by all household members 15 years old and over, including household members not related to the householder, people living alone, and other nonfamily household members. Included in the total are amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

**Gross Rent as Percentage of Household Income:** Gross rent as a percentage of household income is a computed ratio of monthly gross rent to monthly household income (total household income divided by 12). The ratio is computed separately for each unit and is rounded to the nearest tenth. Units for which no rent is paid and units occupied by households that reported no income or a net loss comprise the category, “Not computed” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

**Native Hawaiian:** Includes respondents who indicate their race as “Native Hawaiian” or report entries such as Part Hawaiian or Hawaiian. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

**REFERENCES.**

- Site: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_S0201&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_S0201&prodType=table)
- Filter State: Hawai‘i
- Ethnic Group Code #062: Native Hawaiian alone or in any combination (500-503) & (100-299) or (300, A01-Z99) or (400-999).
- Row/Subject: GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS: 30 percent or more
