HCR3/SCR5 (OHA-4)
Seeking 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking

This resolution seeks to obtain critical data necessary for effective and targeted responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and to assess and modernize governmental data collection, processing, retention, and sharing practices for fact-based policymaking.

Developing the most effective and efficient responses to COVID-19’s impacts requires timely, clear, and detailed information, particularly for those communities whose prior socioeconomic circumstances may have rendered them most vulnerable to the pandemic. Tailored, data- and fact-based responses will best ensure the recovery and continued resiliency of these communities, and by extension, our islands as a whole.

Unfortunately, efforts to develop effective policies and interventions to address the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Native Hawaiians as well as on Pacific Islanders have been stymied by insufficient and inconsistent demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing by and between certain critical government entities and programs. These data challenges have also highlighted the longstanding need to improve the consistency and sufficiency of data collection practices throughout state government, to enable fact-based policymaking that can advance our overall social goals more effectively and efficiently.

This resolution seeks disaggregated Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander data and improved data governance practices (collection, processing, retention, sharing, etc.) critical to helping our communities recover from COVID-19’s impacts, and further seeks a “snapshot” assessment of the state’s data governance practices and infrastructure.

The resolution would:

1) Urge the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Human Services, county police departments, and the Judiciary to share existing and disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the general public in an expeditious manner;

2) Urge the same departments to work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the NHPI COVID-19 Hawai‘i Response, Recovery & Resilience Team to develop procedures and agreements for improved data collection, processing, retention, governance, and sharing with respect to Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other relevant demographics, with a report on the procedures and agreements to be submitted to the 2022 Legislature; and
3) Urge the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance consisting of representatives from the Office of Planning, the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and other relevant agencies to be identified by the Task Force, to develop a “snapshot” survey to assess the current data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges across state agencies, with a report and recommendations to be submitted to the 2023 Legislature.

Why does disaggregated data and data governance matter?

- Disaggregated data for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders will identify critical and immediate community-specific needs and impacts, allowing COVID-19 recovery resources to be allocated effectively and efficiently. Disaggregated data can also inform tailored policies and interventions to further promote the recovery of these hard-hit communities.

- The best COVID-19 response plans are also based on data that are clear, timely, and consistent. Data governance agreements that improve critical state agencies’ data practices will likewise allow for fact-based policymaking strategies that can shorten our islands’ long road to recovery.

- A “snapshot” assessment of the state’s overall data governance infrastructure is also the first step towards better and more efficient fact-based policymaking over the long term.

Without disaggregated, community-specific data on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, we are silenced and invisible.