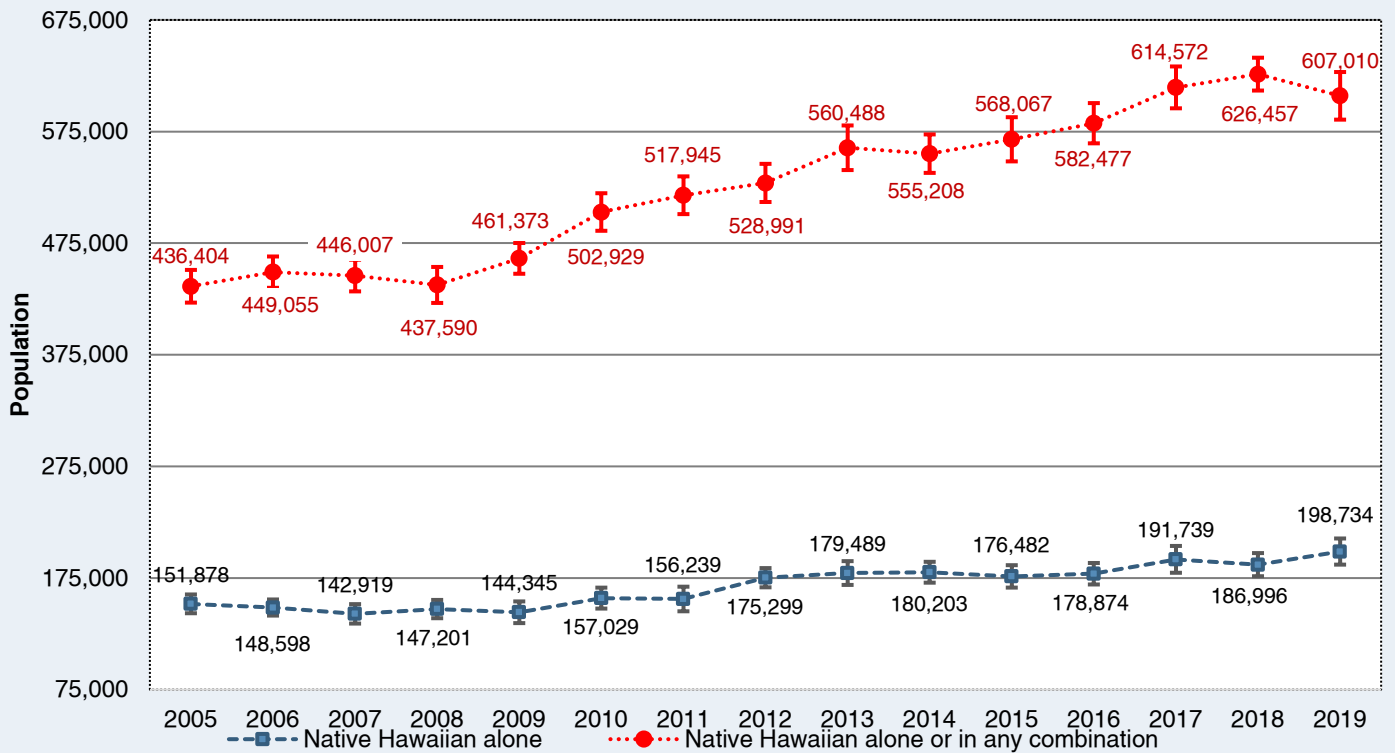




## Native Hawaiian Population in the United States (American Community Survey (ACS) US Census Bureau): 2005-2019

### Native Hawaiian Population in the United States: 2005-2019



**Source:** US Census Bureau. 2005-2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. S0201: Selected Population Profile in the United States

**Race:** The US Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with guidelines provided by the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture. (US Census Bureau)

**American Community Survey (ACS):** Every year, the US Census Bureau contacts over 3.5 million households across the country to participate in the American Community Survey. The detailed socioeconomic information once collected by the Census questionnaire is now collected by the ACS. The survey is conducted annually to provide up-to-date information about the social and economic needs of communities, rather than once every 10 years.

**Decennial Census:** The decennial census has been conducted in years ending in "0" since 1790, as required by the US Constitution, Article I, Section 2. Accordingly, a census is taken every 10 years, currently conducted by the US Bureau of the Census (commonly referred to as the US Census Bureau), US Department of Commerce.

Survey Year	United States			
	Native Hawaiian Alone		Native Hawaiian Alone or in any Combination	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
2005	151,878	+/- 8,415	436,404	+/- 14,648
2006	148,598	+/- 7,214	449,055	+/- 14,031
2007	142,919	+/- 8,703	446,007	+/- 14,197
2008	147,201	+/- 8,197	437,590	+/- 16,121
2009	144,345	+/- 9,718	461,373	+/- 13,776
2010	157,029	+/- 9,383	502,929	+/- 16,826
2011	156,239	+/- 11,023	517,945	+/- 16,909
2012	175,299	+/- 8,616	528,991	+/- 17,084
2013	179,489	+/- 10,650	560,488	+/- 19,984
2014	180,203	+/- 9,349	555,208	+/- 17,231
2015	176,482	+/- 10,037	568,067	+/- 19,794
2016	178,874	+/- 9,632	582,477	+/- 18,029
2017	191,739	+/- 12,017	614,572	+/- 18,750
2018	186,996	+/- 10,362	626,457	+/- 14,712
2019	198,734	+/- 11,713	607,010	+/- 21,328

**Source:** US Census Bureau. 2005-2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. S0201: Selected Population Profile in the United States

Information on race is mandatory for many Federal programs, it is critical in making policy decisions and developing programs and particularly for civil rights. Race data also are used to promote equal employment opportunities and to assess racial disparities in health and environmental risks. For the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, it is a means to obtain demographic data on the basic socio-economic status for the Native Hawaiian population it serves. The US Census Bureau collects and uses race data in many of its programs: Estimates and Projections, Economic Census, Current Population Survey, Decennial Census, and the American Community Survey.

The concept of race, as used by the US Census Bureau, reflects self-identification; it does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. During the 2000 Census, the US Census Bureau changed the race category of "Hawaiian" to "Native Hawaiian." The change was not a change in definition, but rather a change in terminology resulting from community input. The Bureau also modified the methodology used to collect race data. The Bureau's question on race was revised to allow respondents the option to self-identify themselves by selecting one or more races to indicate their racial identities. Due to the change, data on race is presented using different tabulation options. One option provides data on "race alone," those who reported a single race category. The other option reports those who report a single category and those who reported multiple categories, "alone or in any combination." Due to the change, data on race from Census 2000 and later are not directly comparable with those from the 1990 census and previous censuses.

For the 2000 Census, there were 80,137 reported as "Native Hawaiian alone," and 239,655 reported as "Native Hawaiian alone or in any combination." Those who identified themselves by a single race category does not

indicate they are of a single race. Those who are classified as “Native Hawaiian alone,” does not indicate that they are “full-blooded Hawaiian” or are of “100% blood quantum”; any Census reported data should not be interpreted as such. The “Native Hawaiian alone or in any combination,” grouping is a more inclusive category to tally all Native Hawaiians.

The US Census Bureau employed the new procedure in the 2000 and 2010 decennial censuses, and continues to use it in the annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a nation-wide, weighted sample survey, consequently the results reported are estimates rather than a “complete” count. The results have limitations due to sample sizes, coverage rates, response rates, and other factors. The Census Bureau makes a great effort to ensure that the ACS survey data are accurate and reliable.

There is no standardized definition of “Hawaiian”/ “Native Hawaiian” and no standardization in collecting race data. Caution should be exercised when comparing “Hawaiian”/ “Native Hawaiian” data from one source to another. The Census Bureau has its definition and methodology. Census Bureau data can be used for comparisons for its reports within time periods. Programs within the State and county governments in Hawai‘i may utilize different definitions and methodologies. Often State and County programs within the same department may use different definitions and different data collection methods.

**Margin of Error (MOE):** A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Confidence interval bounds can be created by adding the margin of error to the estimate (upper bound) and subtracting the margin of error from the estimate (lower bound). All published margins of error for the American Community Survey are based on a 90 percent confidence level. (US, Bureau of the Census)

Throughout 2005-2018 time-period the absence of overlapping confidence intervals of the “Native Hawaiian alone” and “Native Hawaiian alone or in any combination” measures indicate that there is a statistical difference between the two measures. Consequently, one must be cautious when choosing a measure to use since it could result in erroneous conclusions.

**Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

Email: [demography@oha.org](mailto:demography@oha.org)

For additional information visit the Native Hawaiian Data Book: [www.ohadatabook.com](http://www.ohadatabook.com)

For additional research reports see: [www.oha.org/research](http://www.oha.org/research)

Trends-Rpt-05 (4/22)

