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FAQs on Census 2020 Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism May 8, 2019

Q1. Why is there a census?

Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution

*The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of **10 years**, in such manner as they shall by law direct.*

Key purpose is apportioning the US House of Representatives.

Q2. What kind of data does the census collect?

On the top of population count, census data also include demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of our population.

Q3. How census data is used at the national level?

The data is used for determining each state's political representation in Congress and the amount of money each state receives from the federal government.

Decennial census data are the base for 138 surveys Census Bureau conduct in the US every year, including the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS). The ACS is part of the 10-year census program that is sent to a small percentage of US households monthly.

Q4. How the census data is used in Hawaii?

The data is used to forecast our population and economic growth, estimate the residential housing need, utility demand, and analyze the demographic changes on our economy. The data are widely used by policy makers, government agencies and businesses in health care, education, employment, transportation planning. The data help to determine where to build new schools, roads, health care facilities, child-care and senior centers, shopping malls, and homes.

Q5. What state programs are impacted by census data?

According to a study done by the George Washington University, Hawaii received \$3.7 billion in FY 2016 based on population count, or \$2,578 per person. Medicaid and Nutrition programs accounted for nearly 64% of the State's allocation.

Q6. What were Hawaii's response rates for the past census?

Hawaii's response rates had been low in the past census. In the 2000 Census, Hawaii's response rate was 66%, lower than the national average of 74%; in the 2010 Census, Hawaii's response rate was 68%, still lower than the national average of 74%. The neighbor island response rate was only at about 54%.

Q7. Was Hawaii population undercounted?

Yes, according to U.S. Census Bureau studies, Hawaii population was undercounted by 2.16% in 2000, and 0.44% in 2010. However, the undercount rate is believed to be much larger. For each percent of undercount, the state will lose \$37 million a year for 10 years.

Q8. What are the challenges in getting an accurate count in Hawaii?

The challenges include:

- *Largest proportion of multi-race population (Hawaii ranked No.1 in the nation, 23.3% vs.3.3%)*
- *Large proportion of foreign born population, (Hawaii ranked No.6 in the nation, 18.6% vs.13.7%)*
- *A large proportion of non-English speaking population (Hawaii ranked the 9th in the nation, 25.8% vs.21.8%)*
- *Multi-generation living (Hawaii ranked No.1 in the nation, 11.1% vs. 5.9%)*
- *Large percentage of homeless population (Hawaii ranked No.3 in the nation, 46 per 10,000 population vs.17)*
- *Special housing arrangements such CPR (Condominium Property Regime) and ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units)*