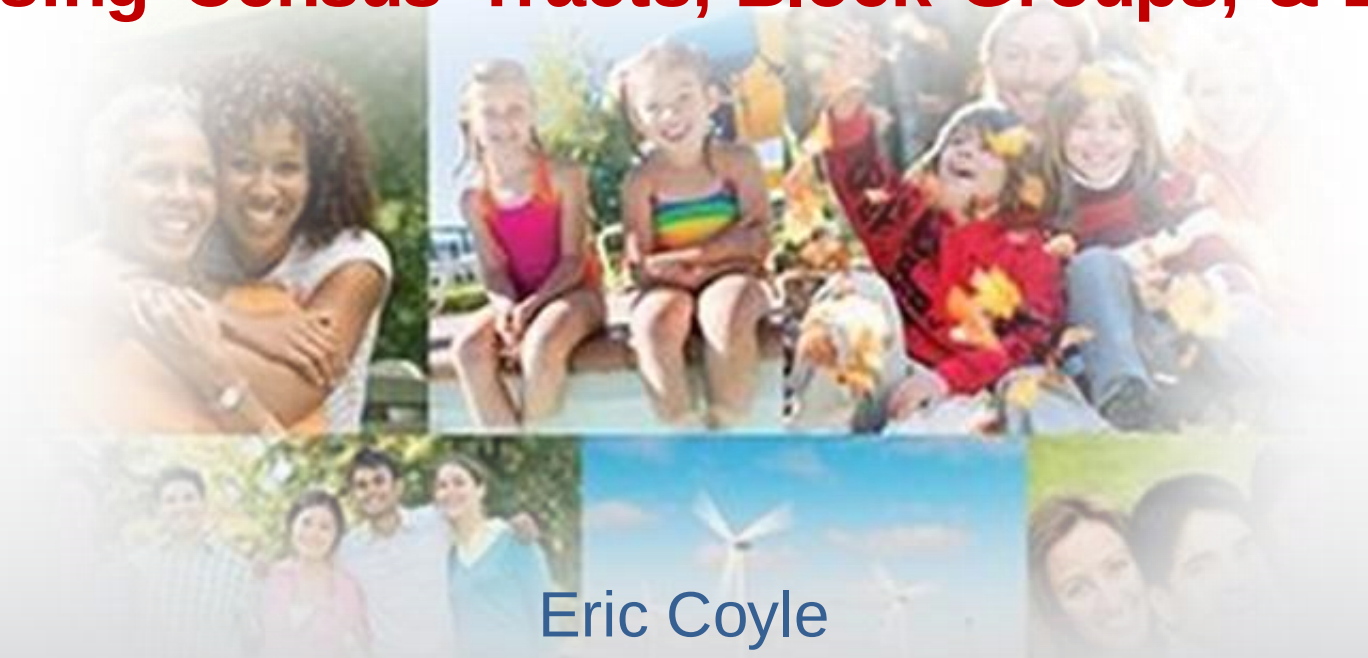
Your Neighborhood by the Numbers:
Accessing Census Tracts, Block Groups, & Blocks



Eric Coyle
Data Dissemination Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau

Agenda

- ACS vs. Decennial Census
- Overview American Community Survey (ACS)
- Census Geography
- Accessing ACS Products
- Resources
- Questions

2010 Census vs. ACS

2010 Census

100 % Data

How many people live in the U.S.?

Point in time
April 1, 2010

Count - People, Housing units,

American Community Survey = **2000 Long Form SF3 & SF4**

Sample Data

How do people live in the U.S.?

Period in Time
1yr, 3yr, 5yr

Characteristics
Income, Poverty, Education

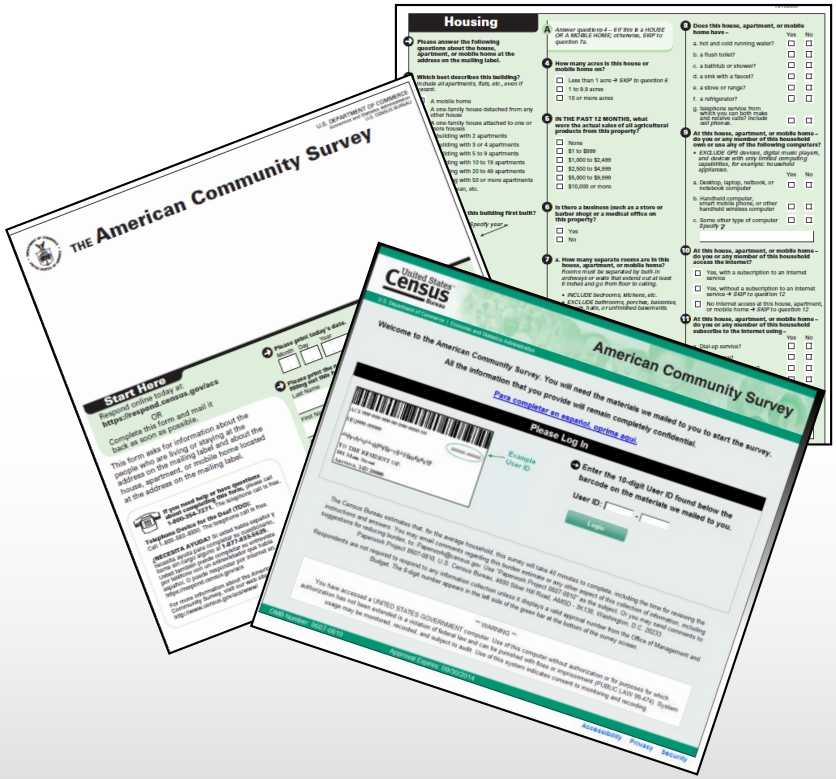
ACS Overview

An ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses

- Data collection through four modes: Internet, Mail, Telephone, Personal Visit

Annually produces 1-year and 5-year period datasets:

- Detailed population and housing estimates previously collected on the decennial long form
- *Critical information on small areas and small population groups*
- Over 11 billion estimates for over 35,000 communities



American Community Survey

Items in red were also collected on the 2010 Census

Demographic Characteristics

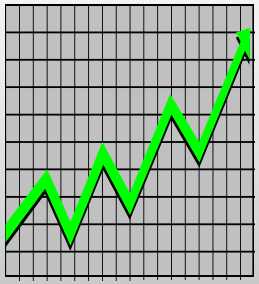
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Household Relationship
- Group Quarters

Social Characteristics

- Families
- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry/ Tribal Affiliation

Economic Characteristics

- Income
- Poverty
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work



Housing Characteristics

- Tenure (Rent/Own)
- Occupancy
- Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/ Monthly Rent

ACS Data Products

Data Product	Description
Data Profiles	Provide broad social, economic, housing, and demographic profiles.
Narrative profiles	Summarize the information in the data profiles using concise, nontechnical text.
Comparison profile	Compares over 5-year period selected enhancements.
Selected population profiles	Provide broad social, economic, and housing profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, and country/region of birth groups.
Detailed tables	Provide access to the most detailed ACS data and cross tabulations of ACS variables.
Subject tables	Similar to data profiles but include more detailed ACS data, classified by subject.
Ranking tables	Provide state rankings of estimates across 86 key variables.
Geographic comparison tables	Compare geographic areas other than states (e.g., counties or congressional districts) for key variables.
Quick table	Predefined table with frequently requested information for a single geographic area.

ACS Data Sets

CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE

- **Areas with a population 65,000+:** 1-year estimates

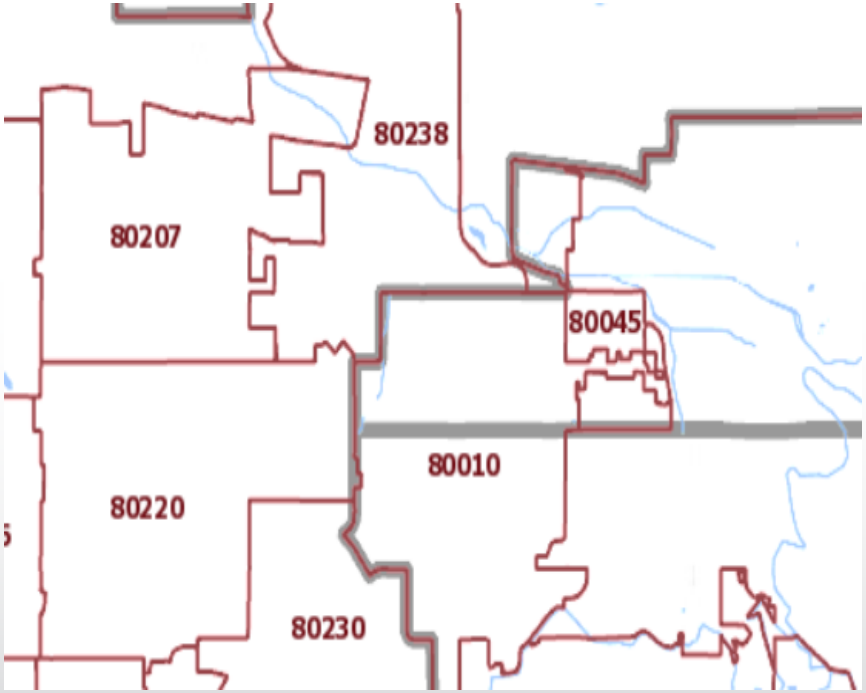
(2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

All areas (incl. census tracts & block groups): 5-year estimates

(2005-2009, 2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-2012, 2009-2013, 2010-2014, 2011-2015)

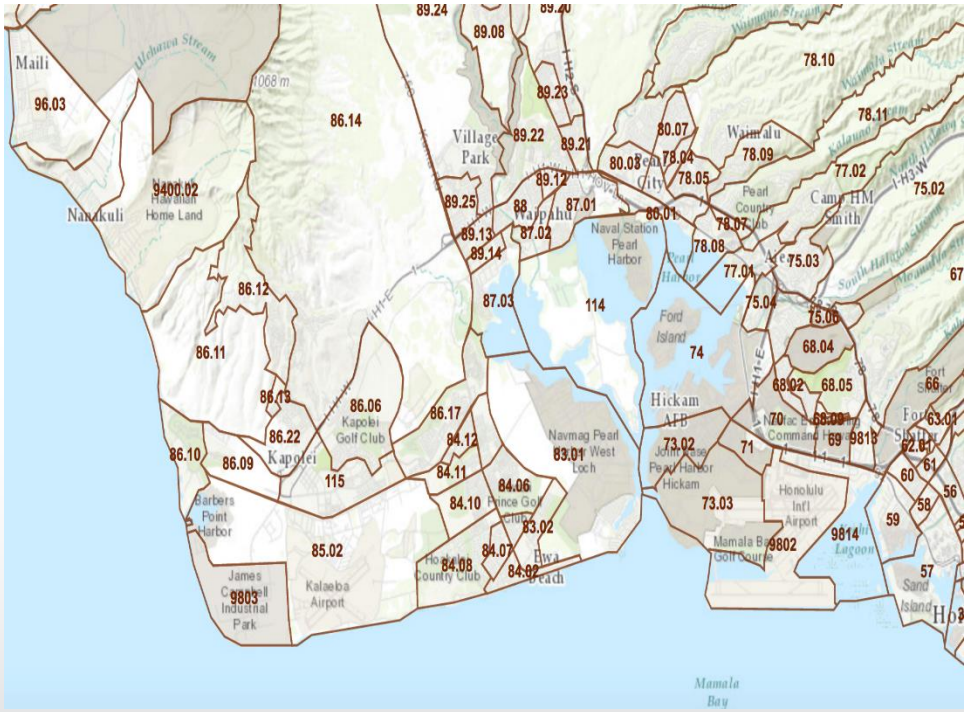
Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Legal Areas

- Nation
- States
- Counties
- Incorporated Places
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Congressional Districts
- School Districts
- Zip Codes

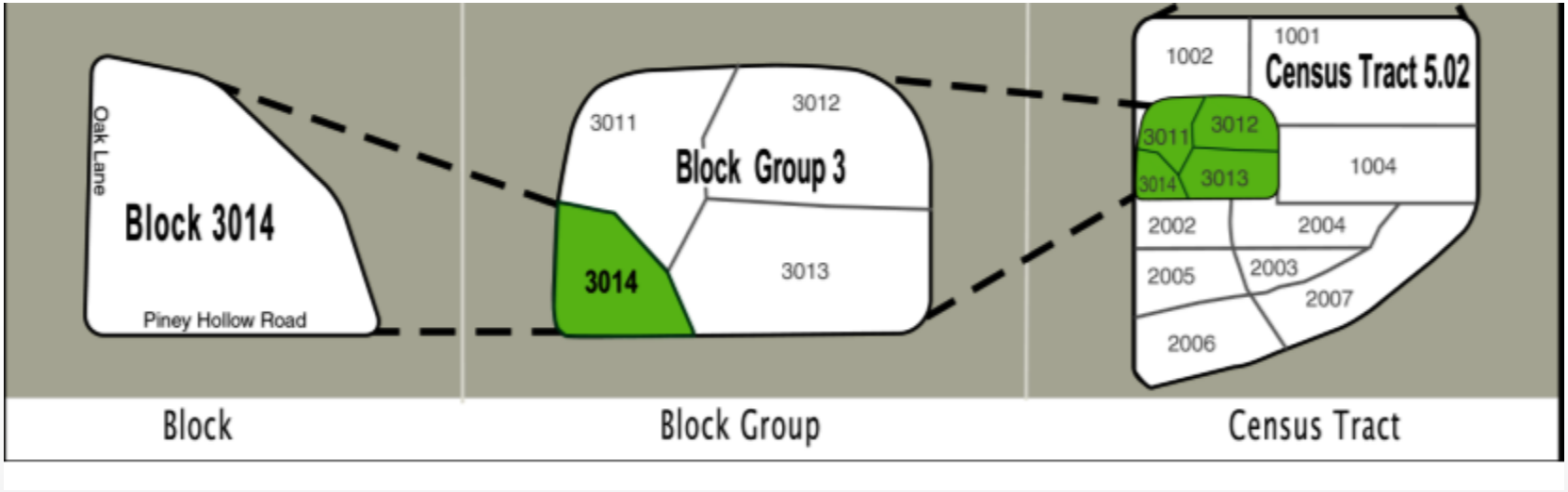


Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups

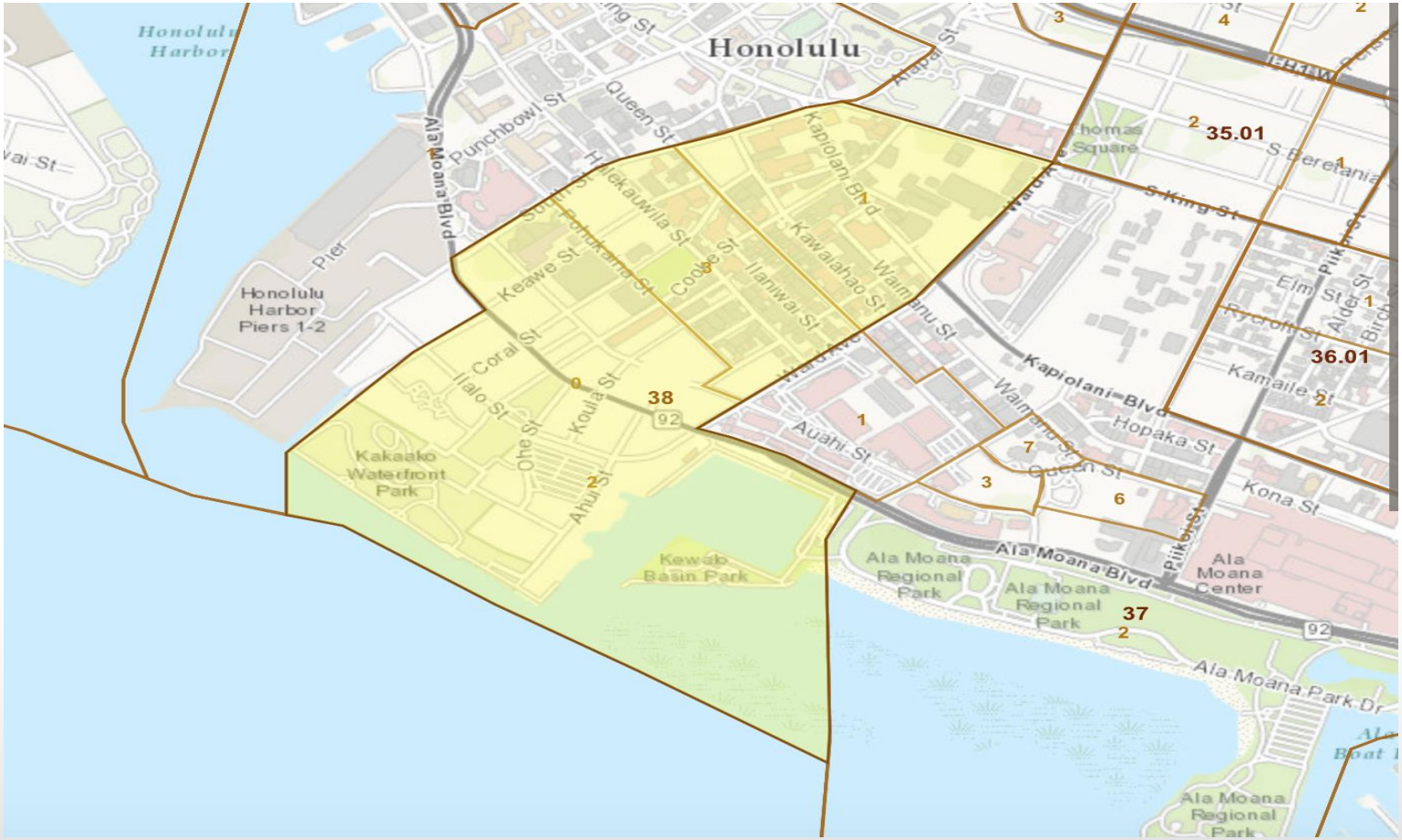


Small Area Census Geography
How it Fits Together



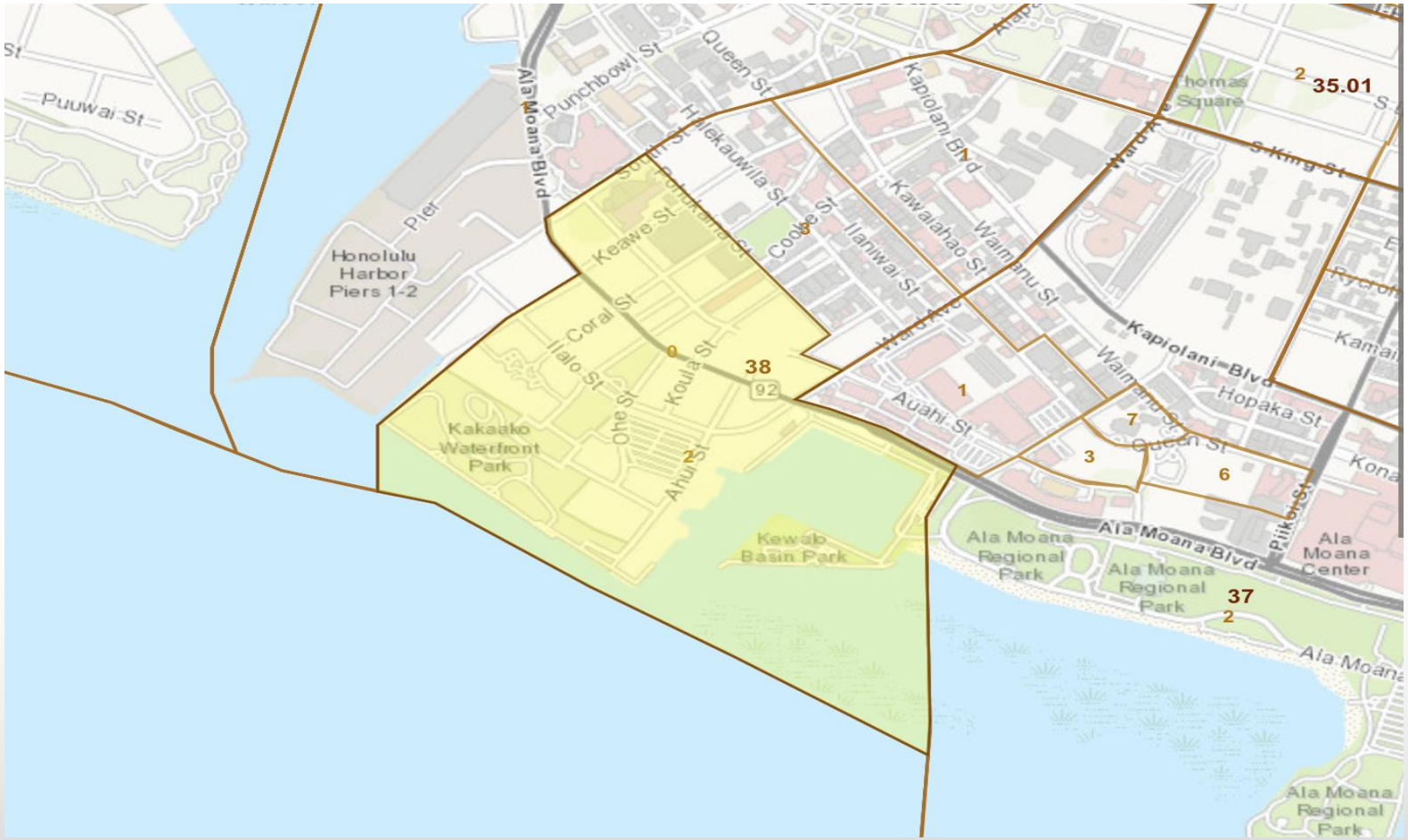
Census Tract > Place (City or CDP) > Census County Division (CCD) > County

Census Tract 38, Honolulu County, HI



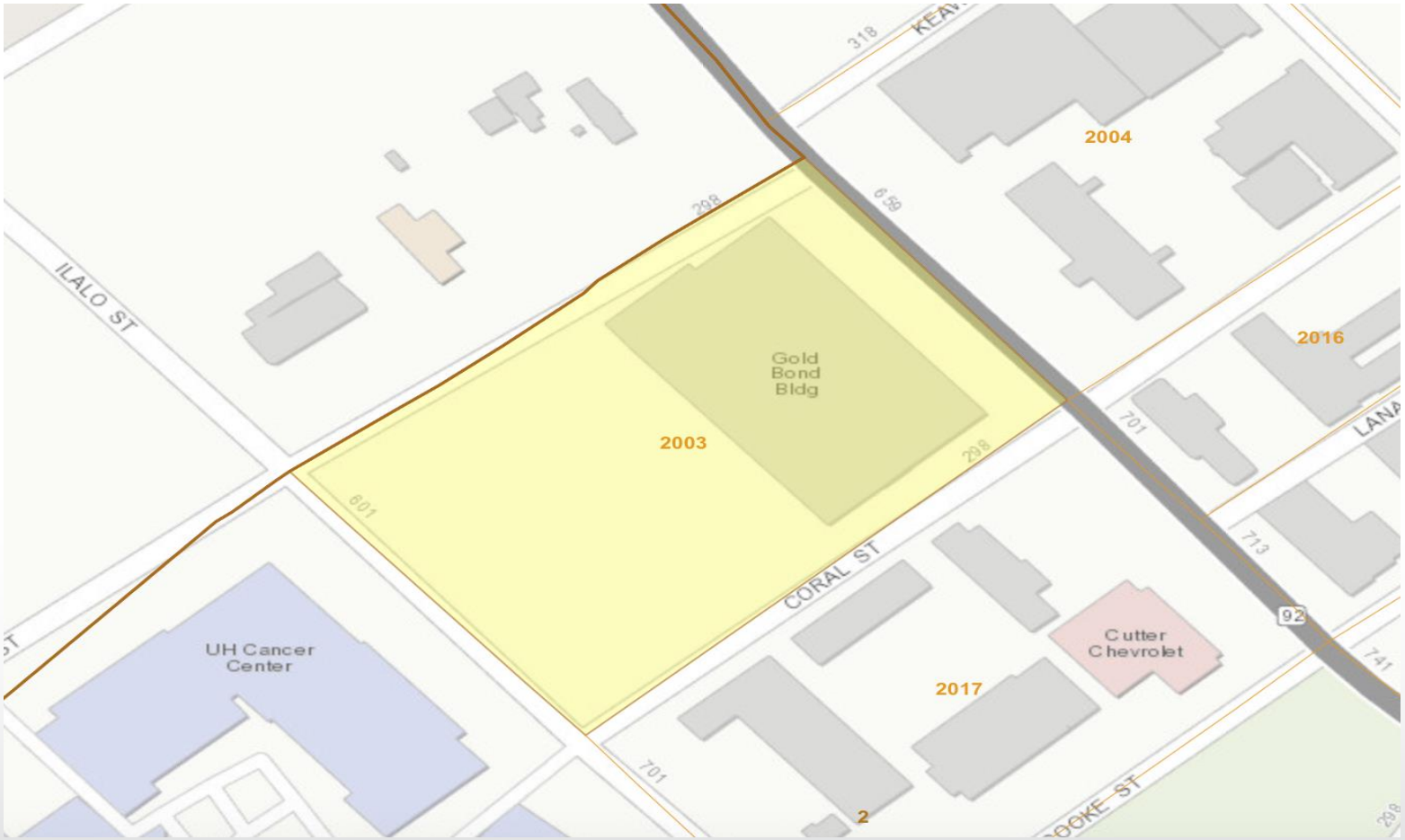
- ***Census Tracts*** generally have a population of 1,200 to 8,000 (optimum ***4,000***) and follow physical boundaries.

BG 2, Census Tract 38, Honolulu County, HI



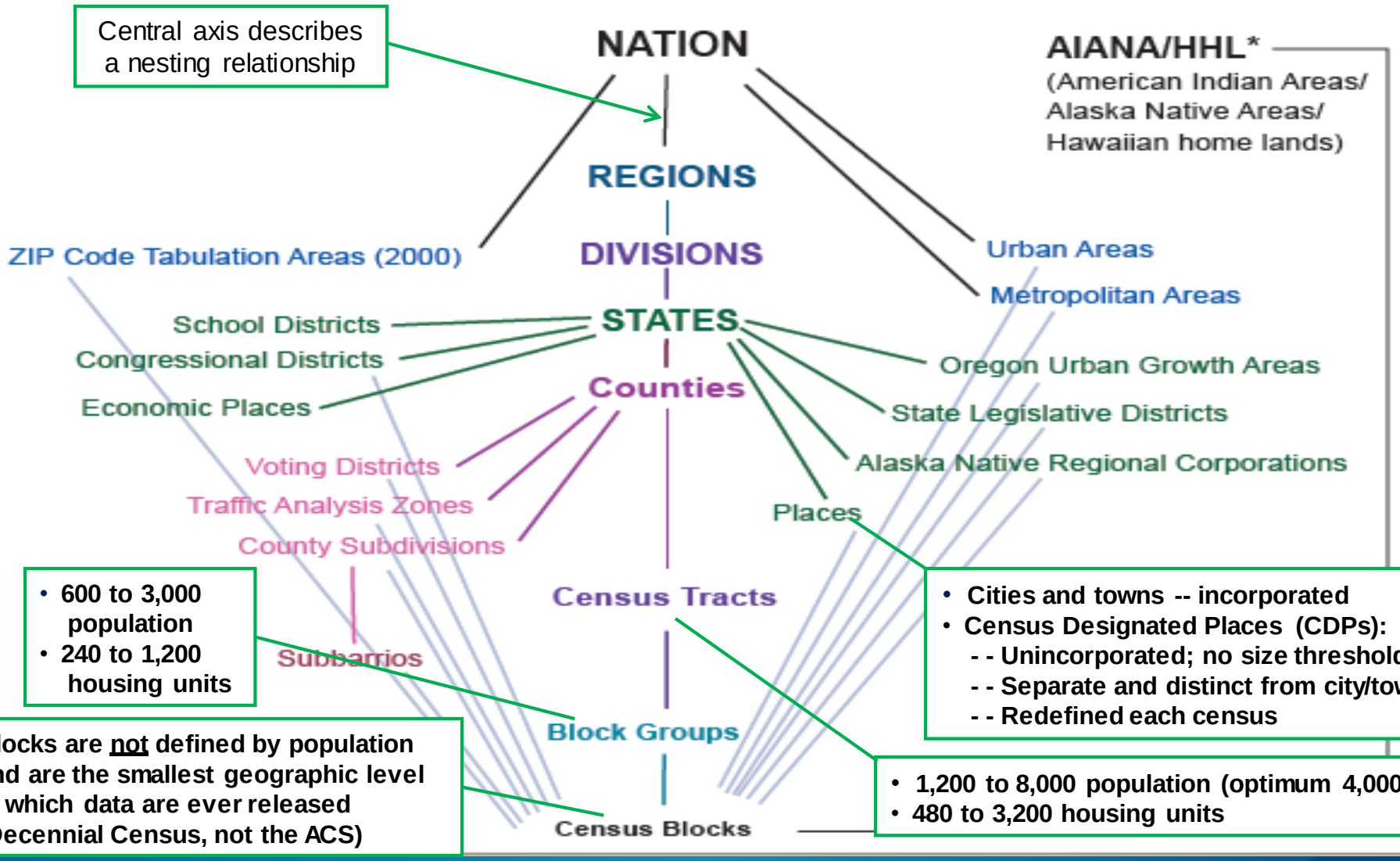
- ***Block Groups*** generally have a population of 600 to 3,000 (optimum 1,500) and follow physical boundaries.

Block 2003, BG 2, Tract 38, Honolulu County, HI



- ***Blocks:*** *the smallest geographic level for which census data is available. No population threshold. Size varies.*

Census Geography Hierarchy



Ways to Access

- Narrative Profiles
- Census Explorer
- Census Business Builder
- American FactFinder
- Application Programming Interface (API)
- Census Reporter

Narrative Profiles

Population and Housing Narrative Profile
2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Select a New Geography

While the ACS produces sample-based population group and housing estimates used in this report, the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program produces and disseminates official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns, as well as estimates of housing units for states and counties. For more information see: http://www.census.gov/popest/

Note that for small geographic areas, the sample used for the Narrative Profile may be small as well. Users are encouraged to examine the detailed tables on American FactFinder that are associated with the Narrative Profile text. These tables provide additional information on sampling variability associated with the estimates in this report.

Geography: Pahrump, Nevada

>> Expand All Sections << Collapse All Sections

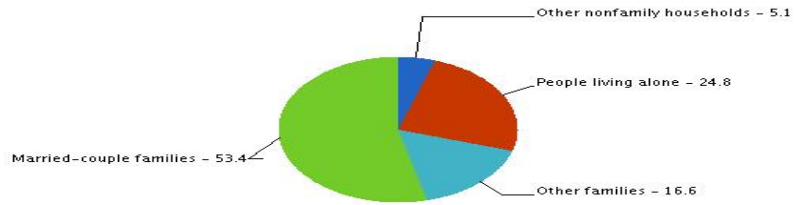
Households and Families

In 2009-2013 there were 14,900 households in Pahrump, Nevada. The average household size was 2.4 people.

Families made up 70 percent of the households in Pahrump, Nevada. This figure includes both married-couple families (53 percent) and other families (17 percent). Of other families, 5 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years. Nonfamily households made up 30 percent of all households in Pahrump, Nevada. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

In Pahrump, Nevada, 25 percent of all households have one or more people under the age of 18; 45 percent of all households have one or more people 65 years and over.

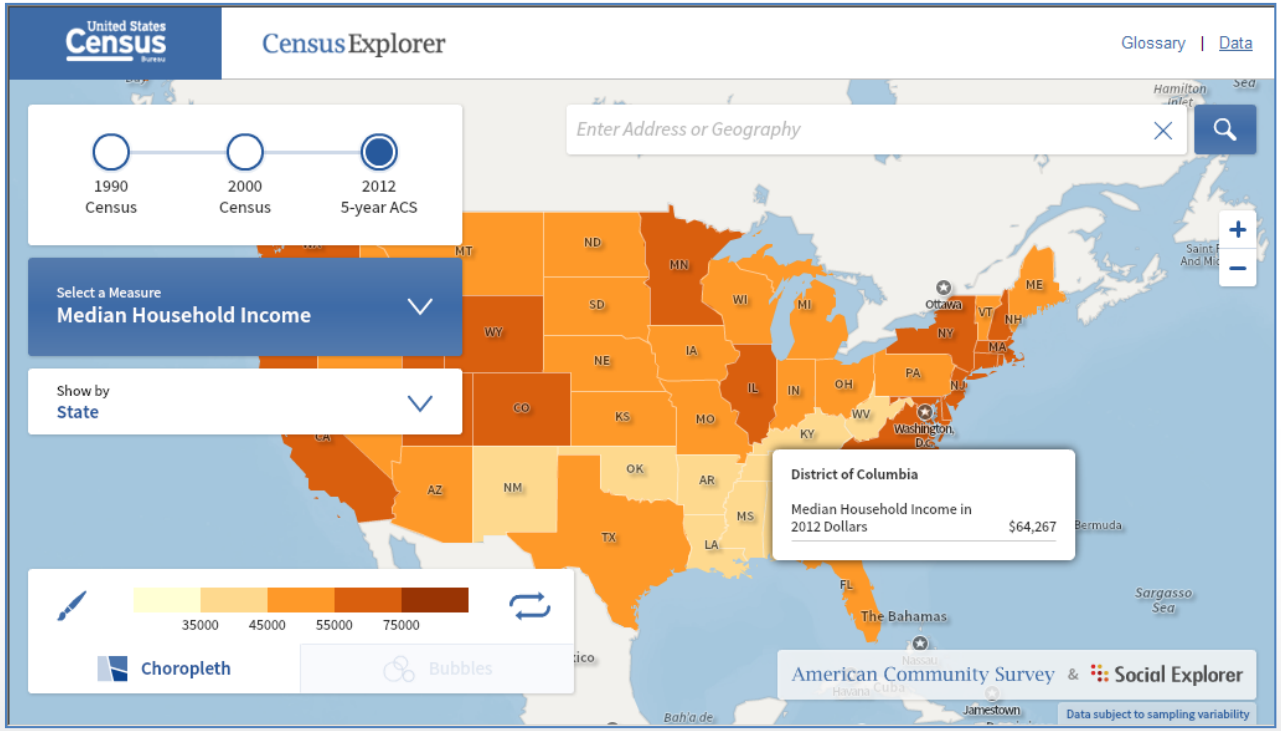
Types of Households in Pahrump, Nevada in 2009-2013
click graph to view data in table format



When to use:
Browse statistics presented as a text-based report with plenty of colorful graphs and charts.

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

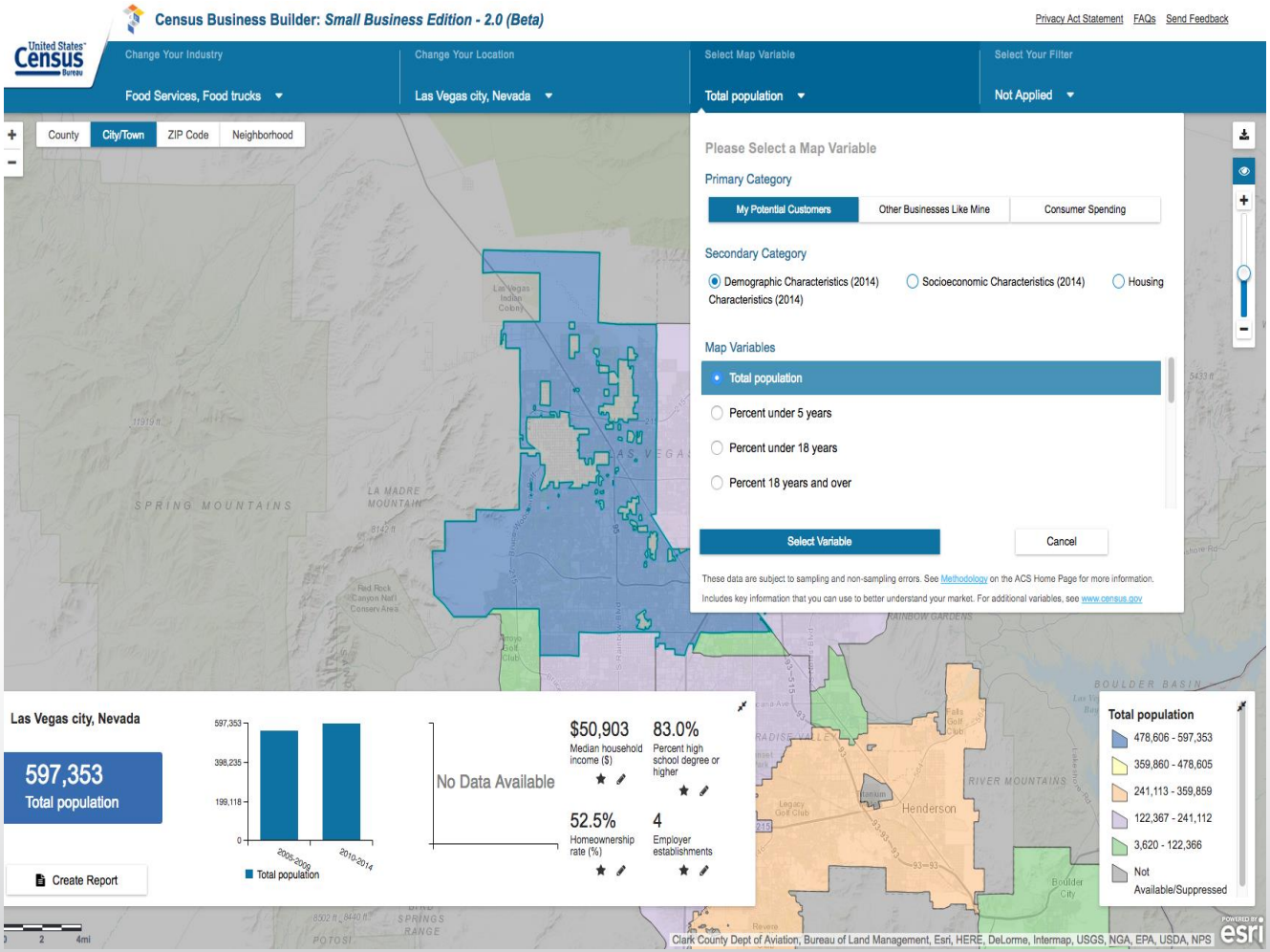
Census Explorer



When to use:
Explore selected estimates about people, education, income, and commuting in an interactive map to visualize how statistics change over time and across geographies.

census.gov/censusexplorer

Census Business Builder



When to use:
Offers prospective business owners selected Census Bureau statistics to guide their research into opening their new business.

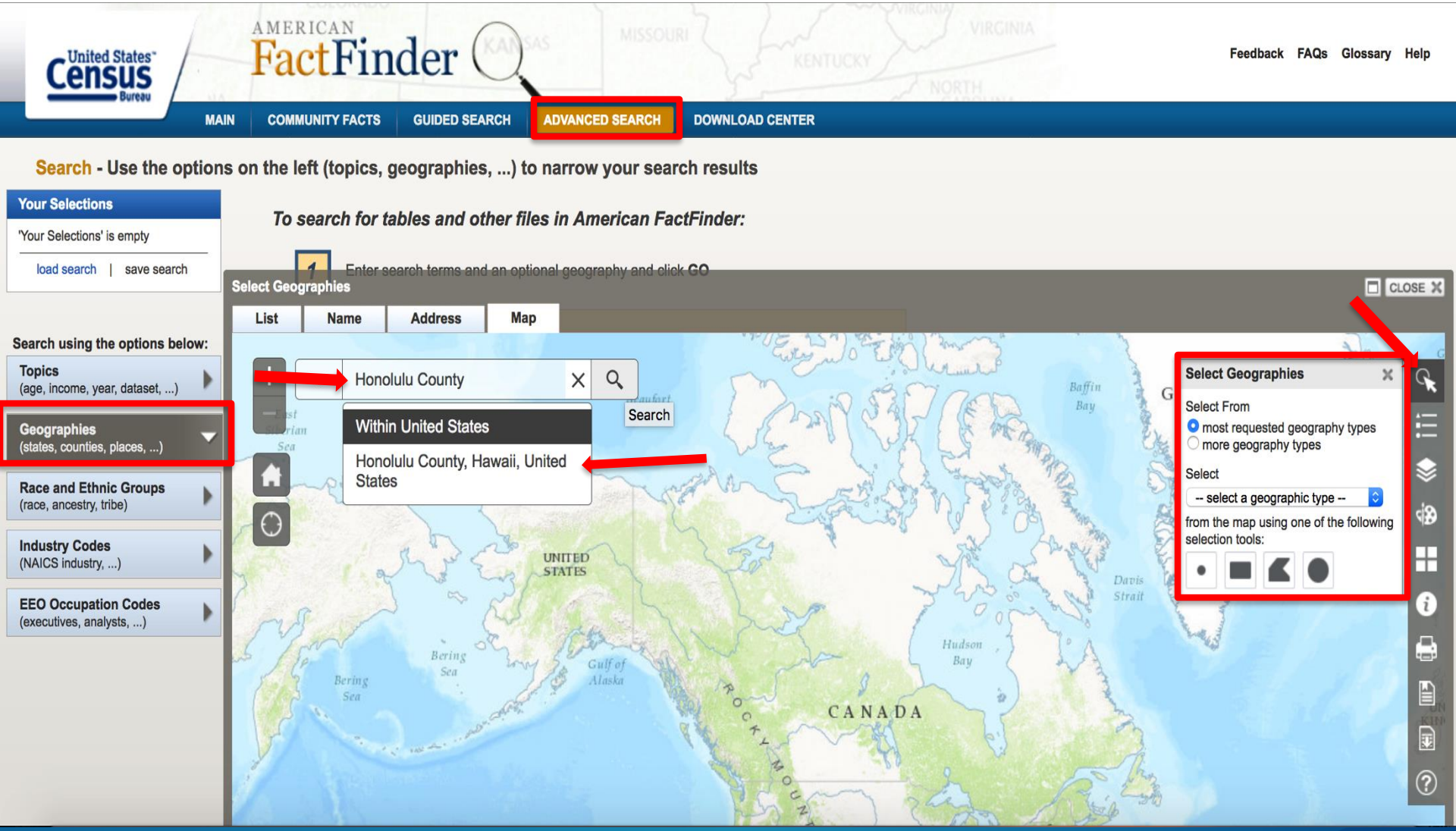
census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb

American FactFinder

When to use:
Search all ACS data for all geographies down to the block group level

factfinder.census.gov

American FactFinder-Advanced Search



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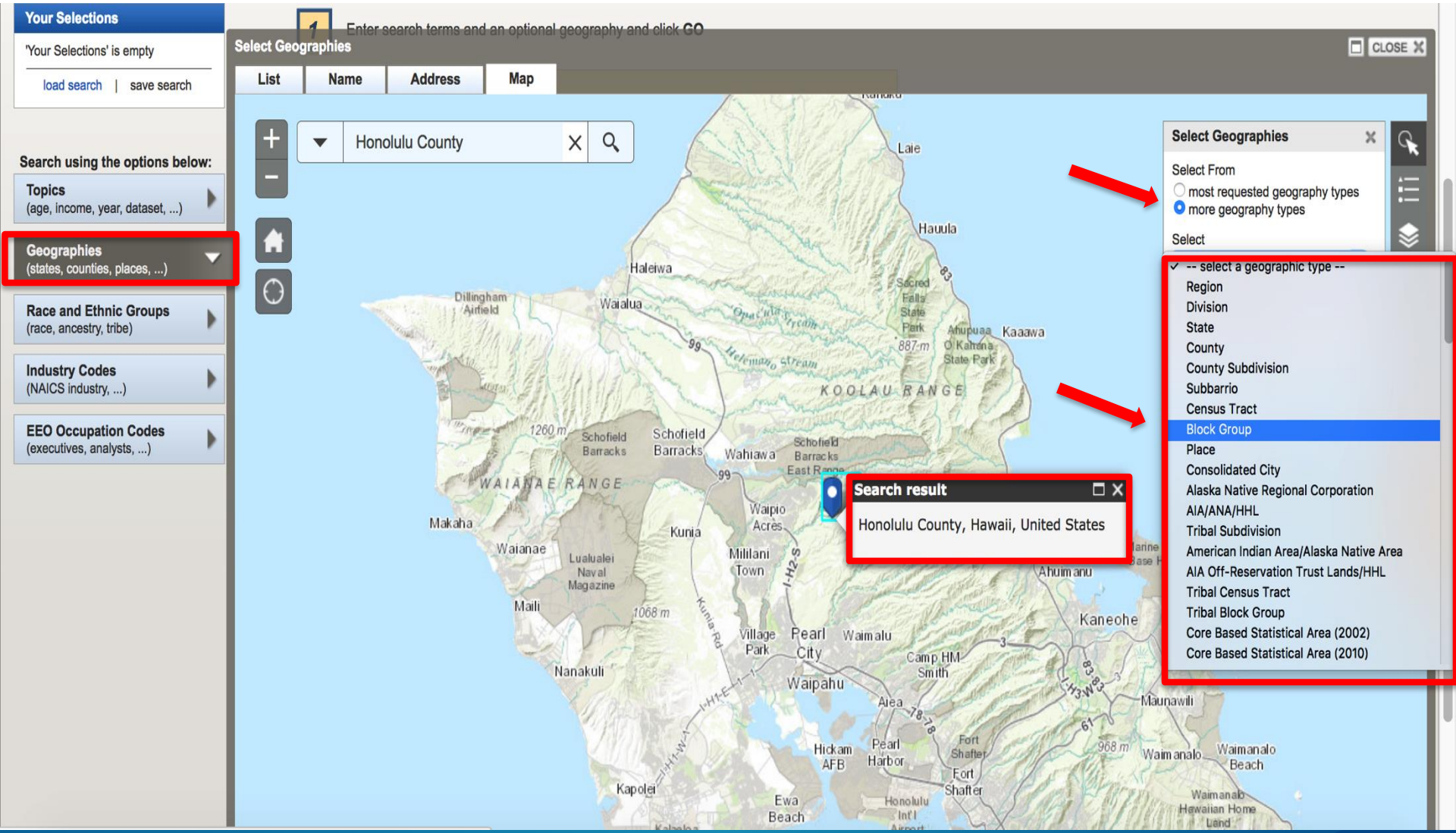

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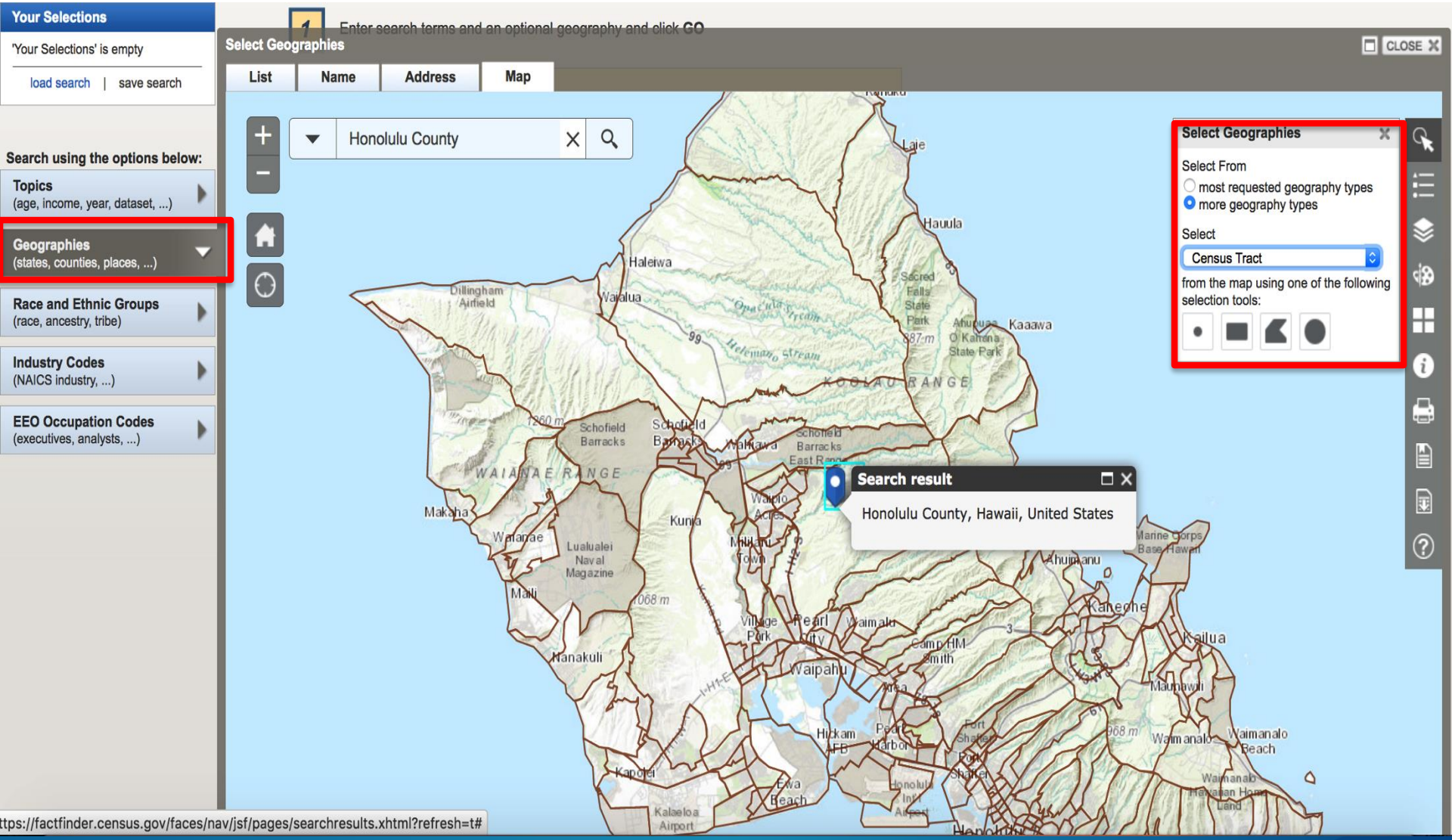

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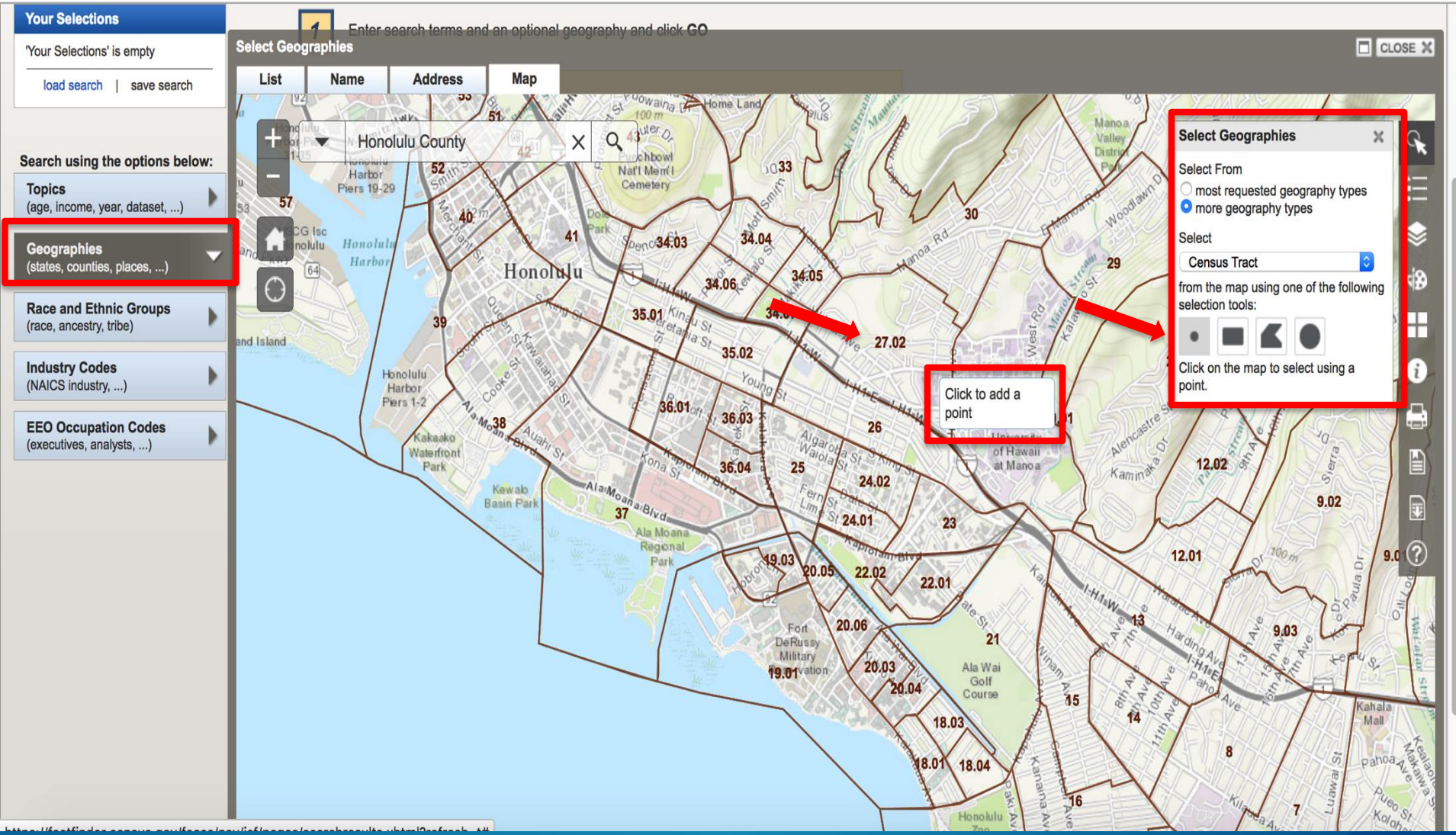

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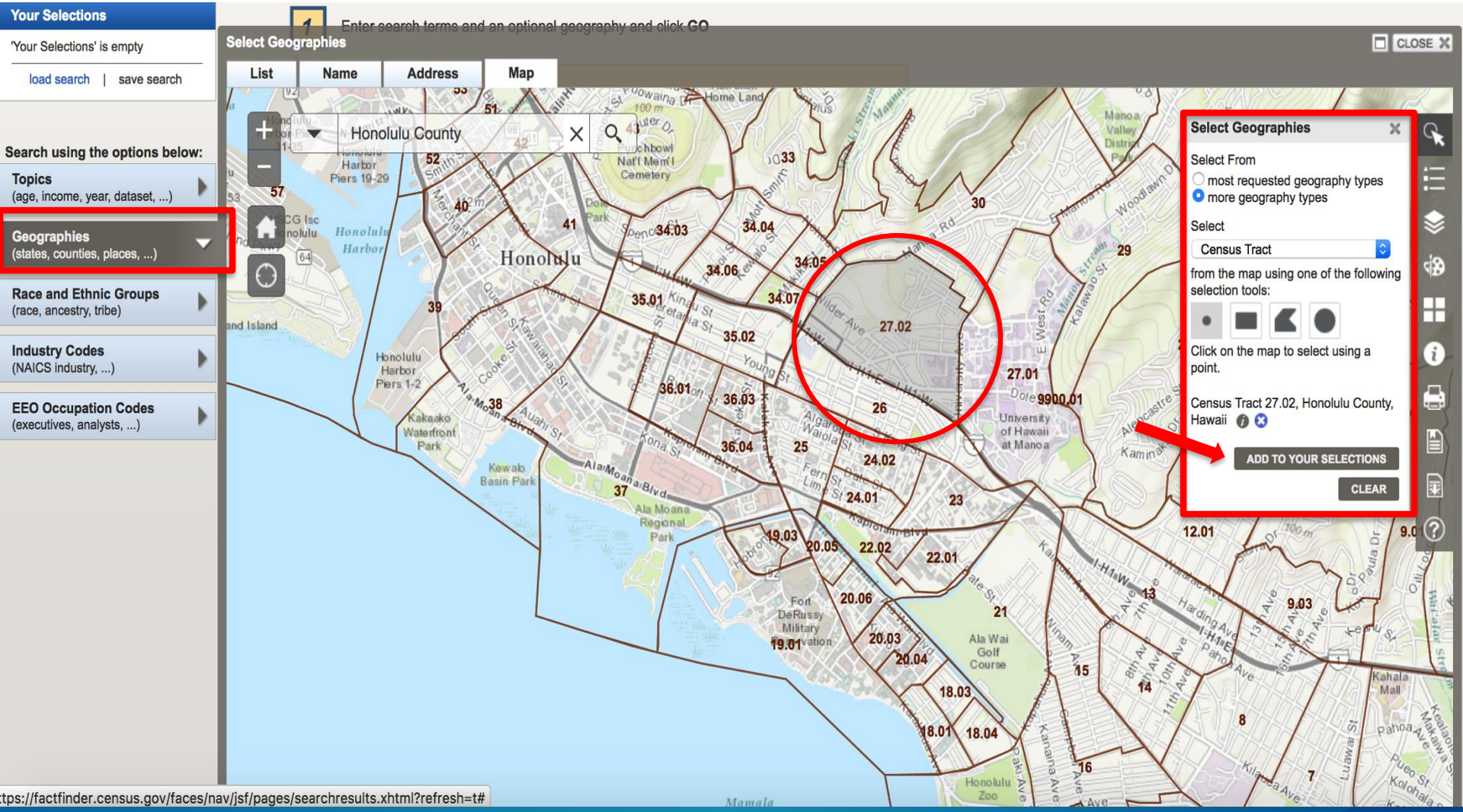

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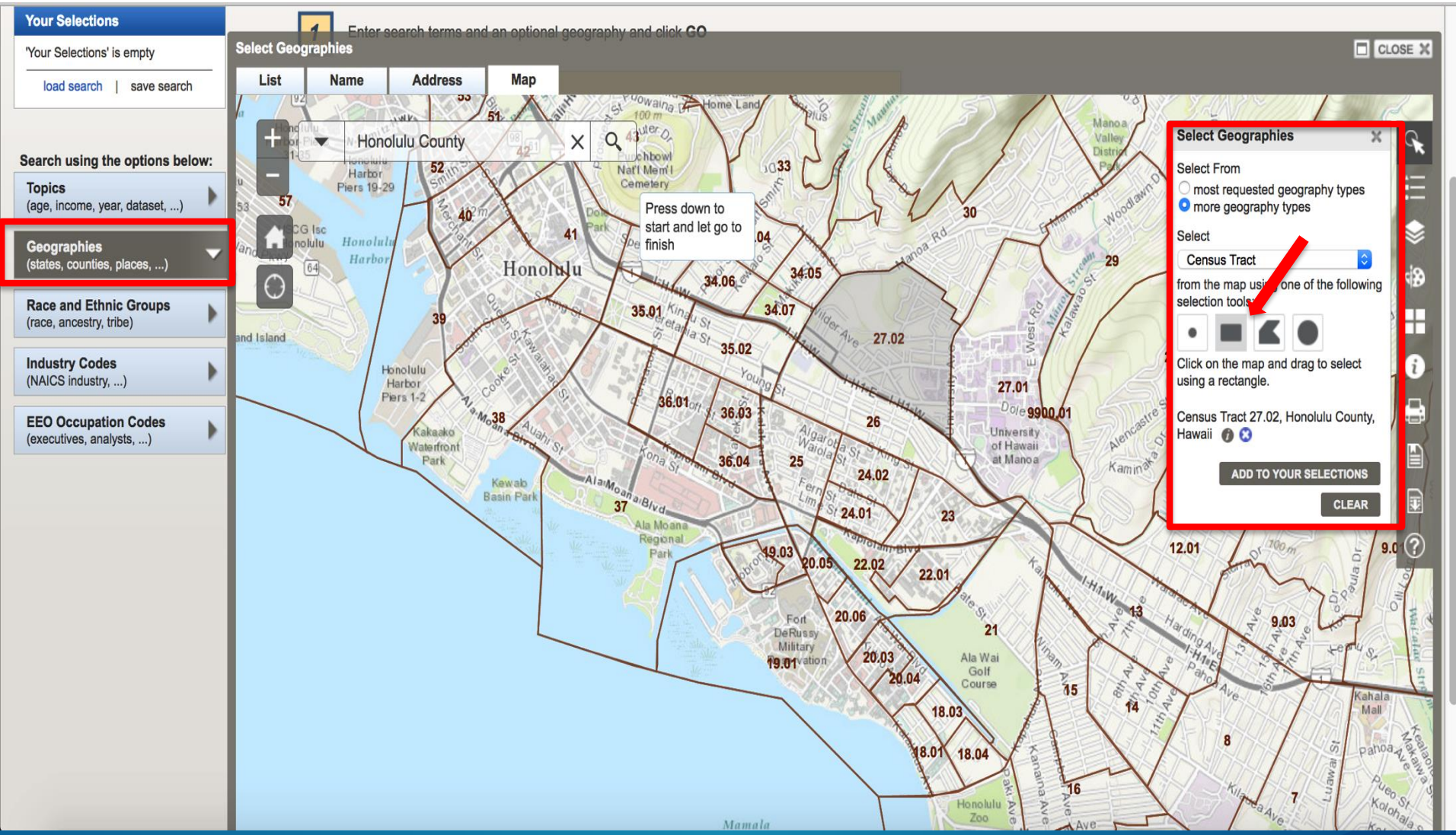

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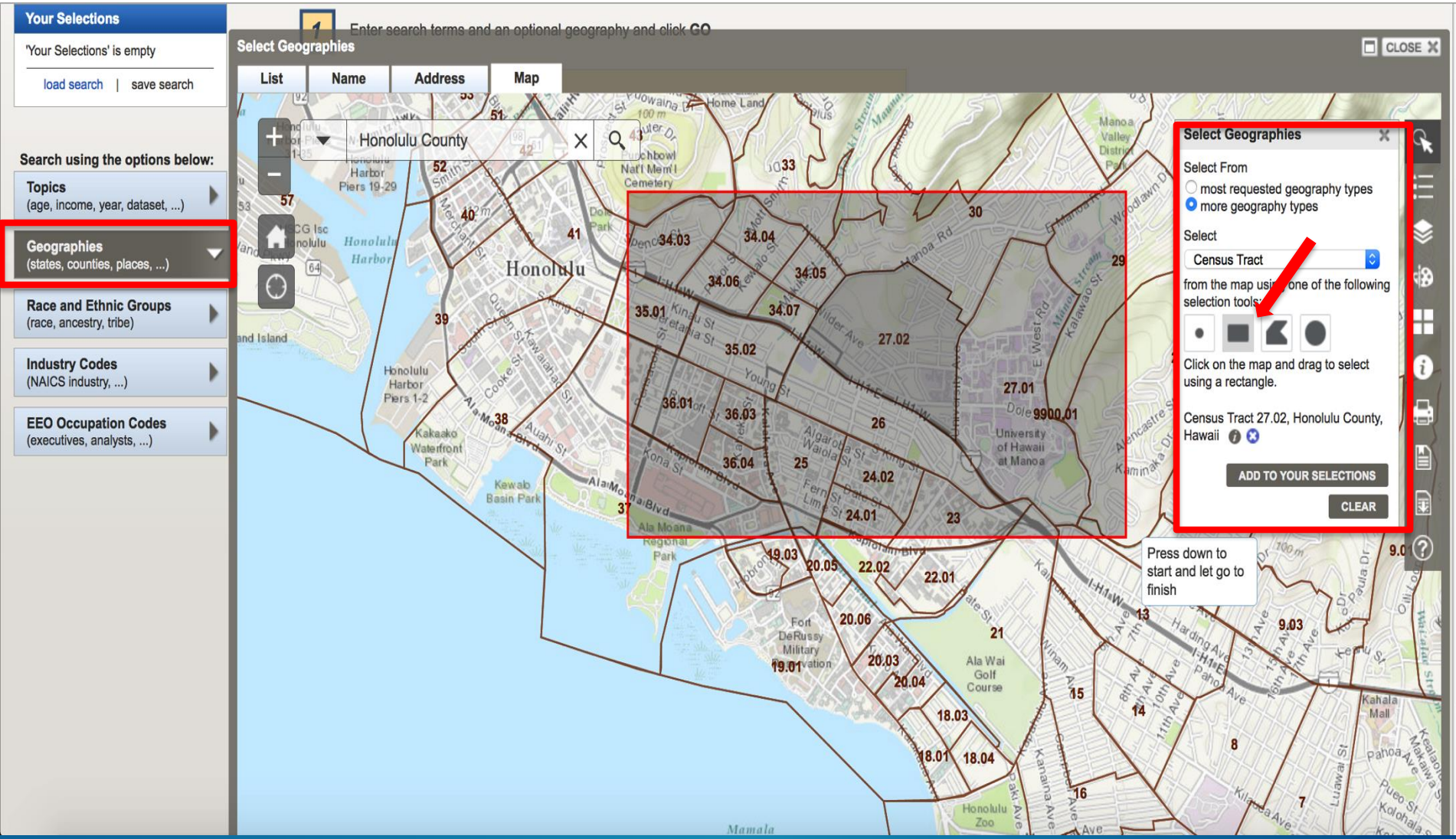

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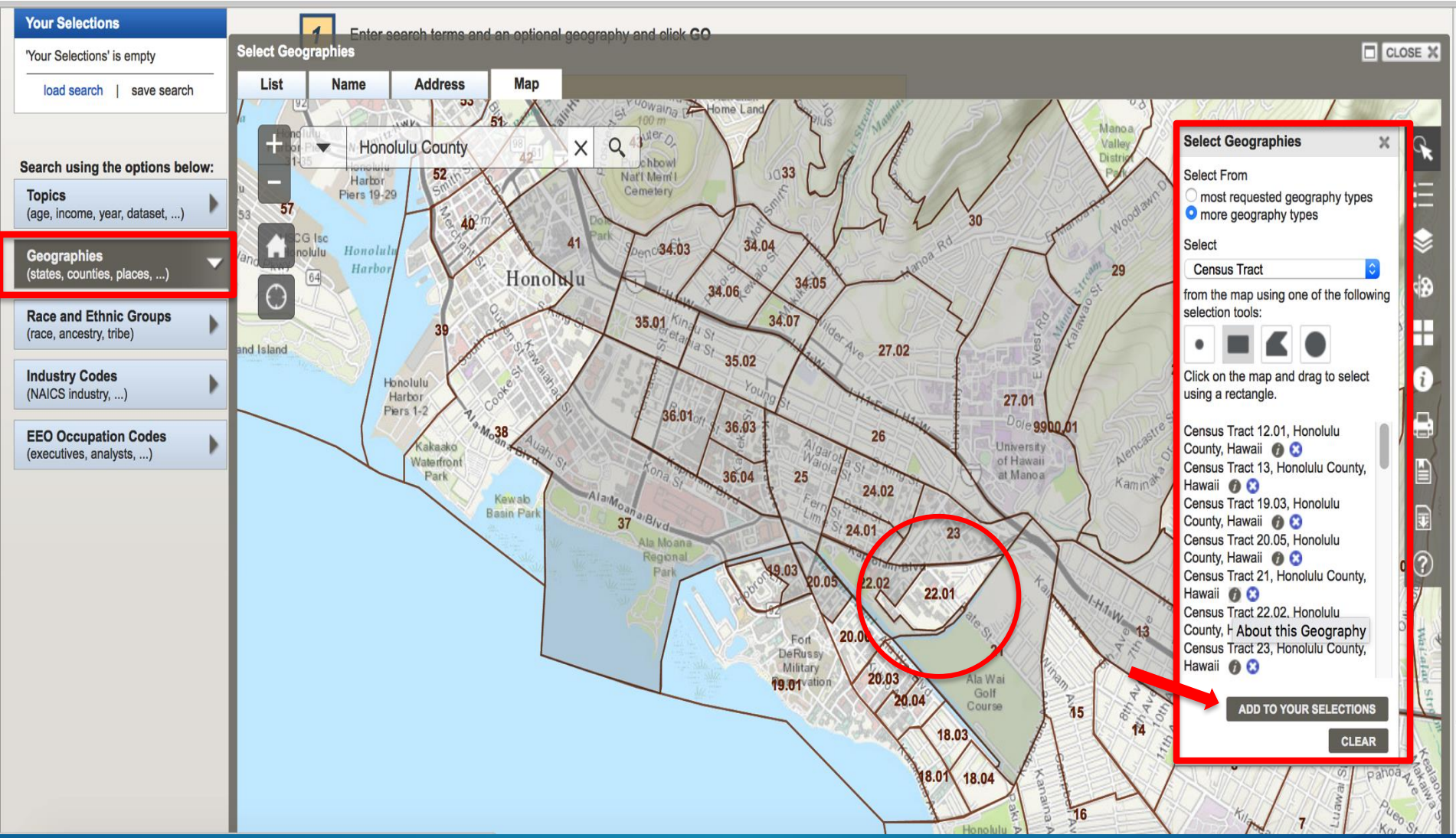

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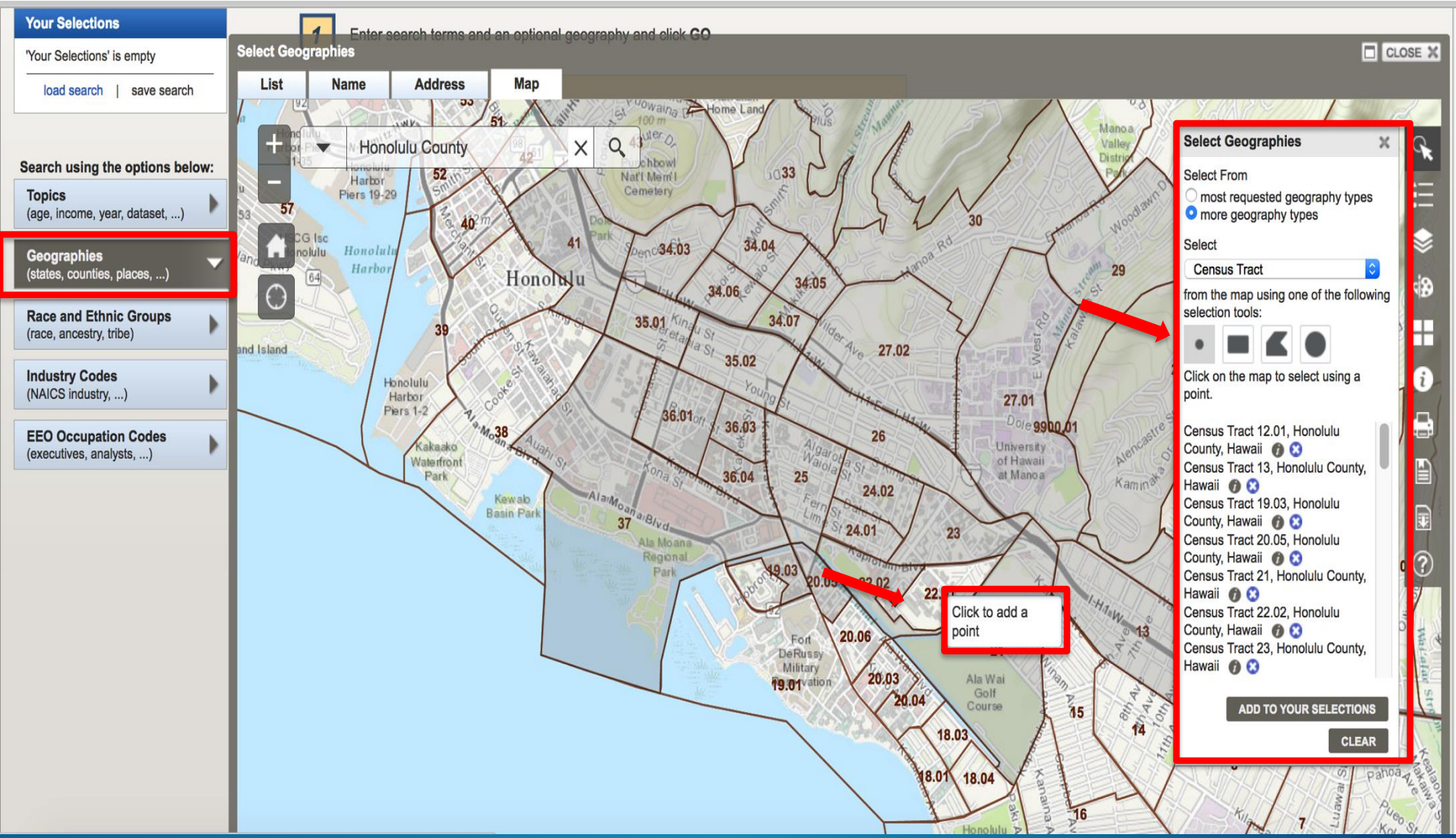

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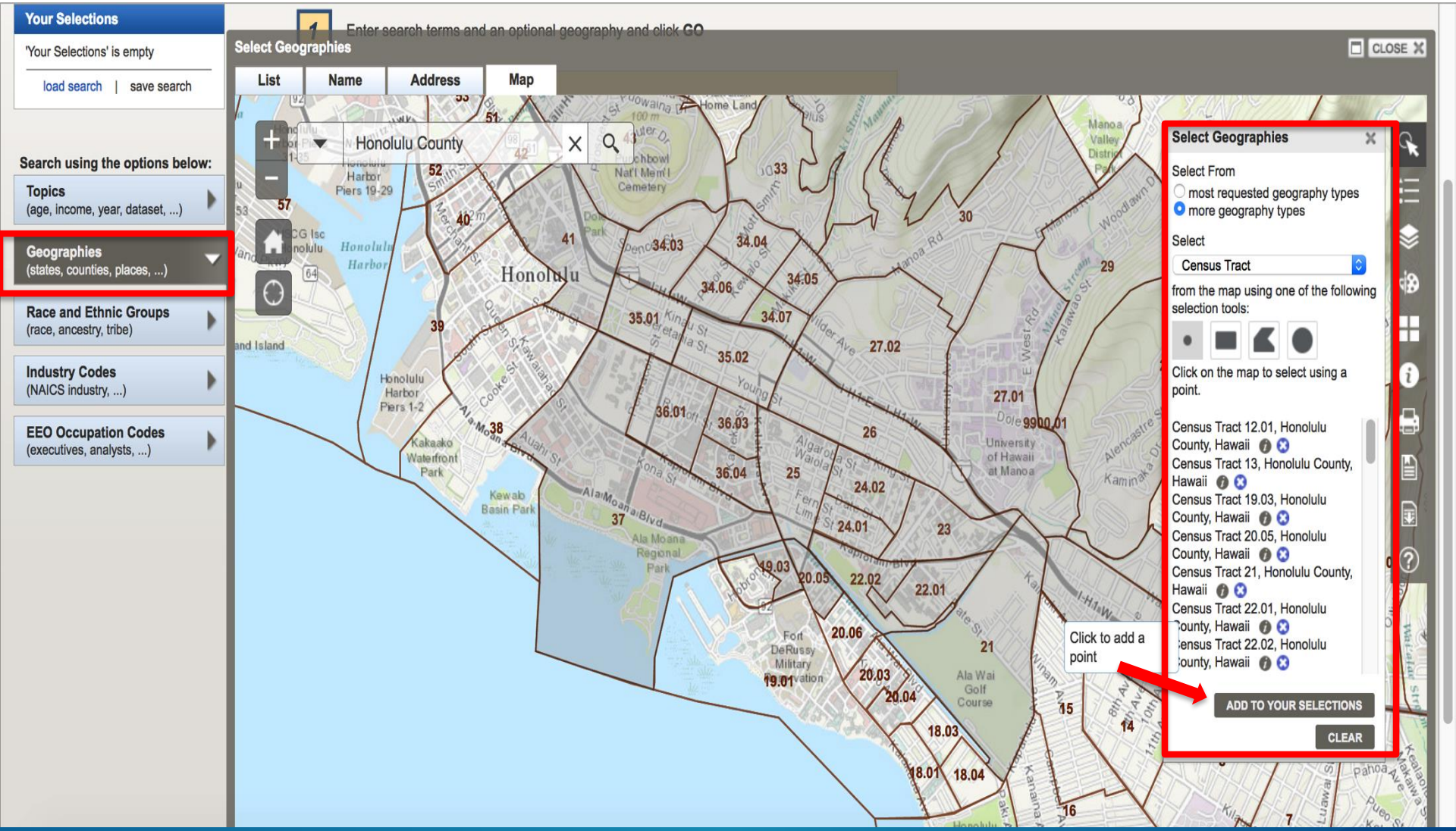

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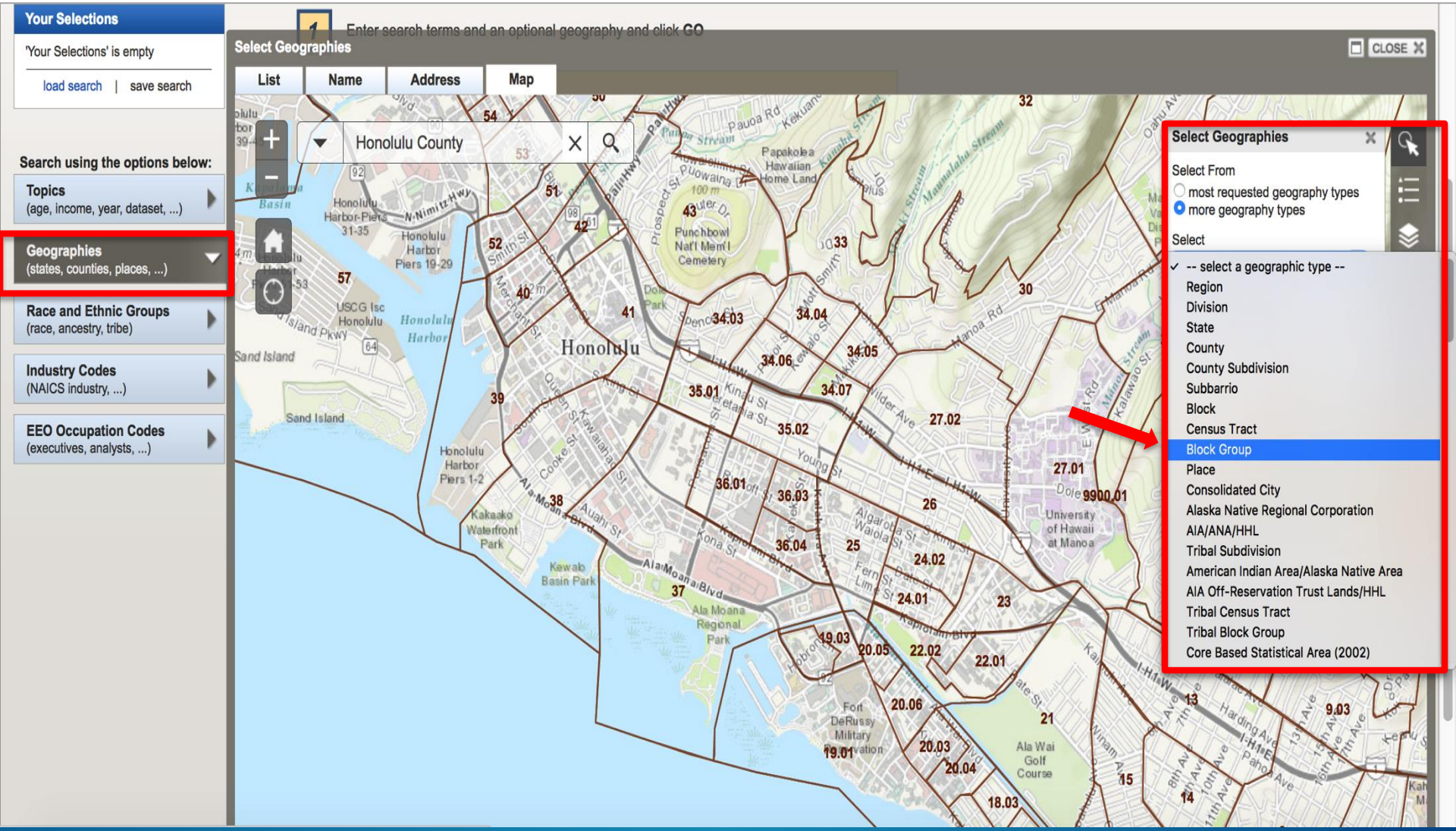

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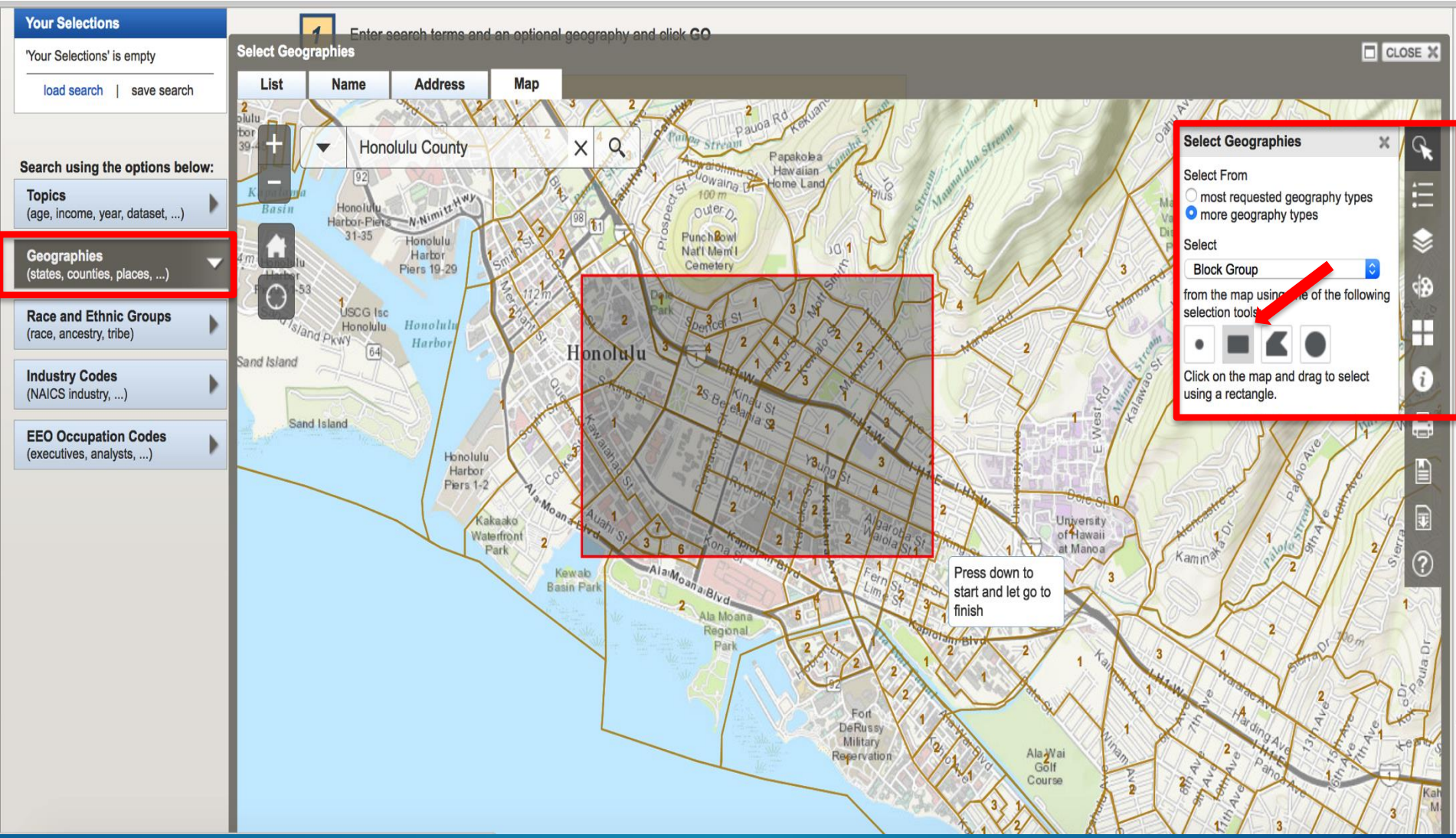

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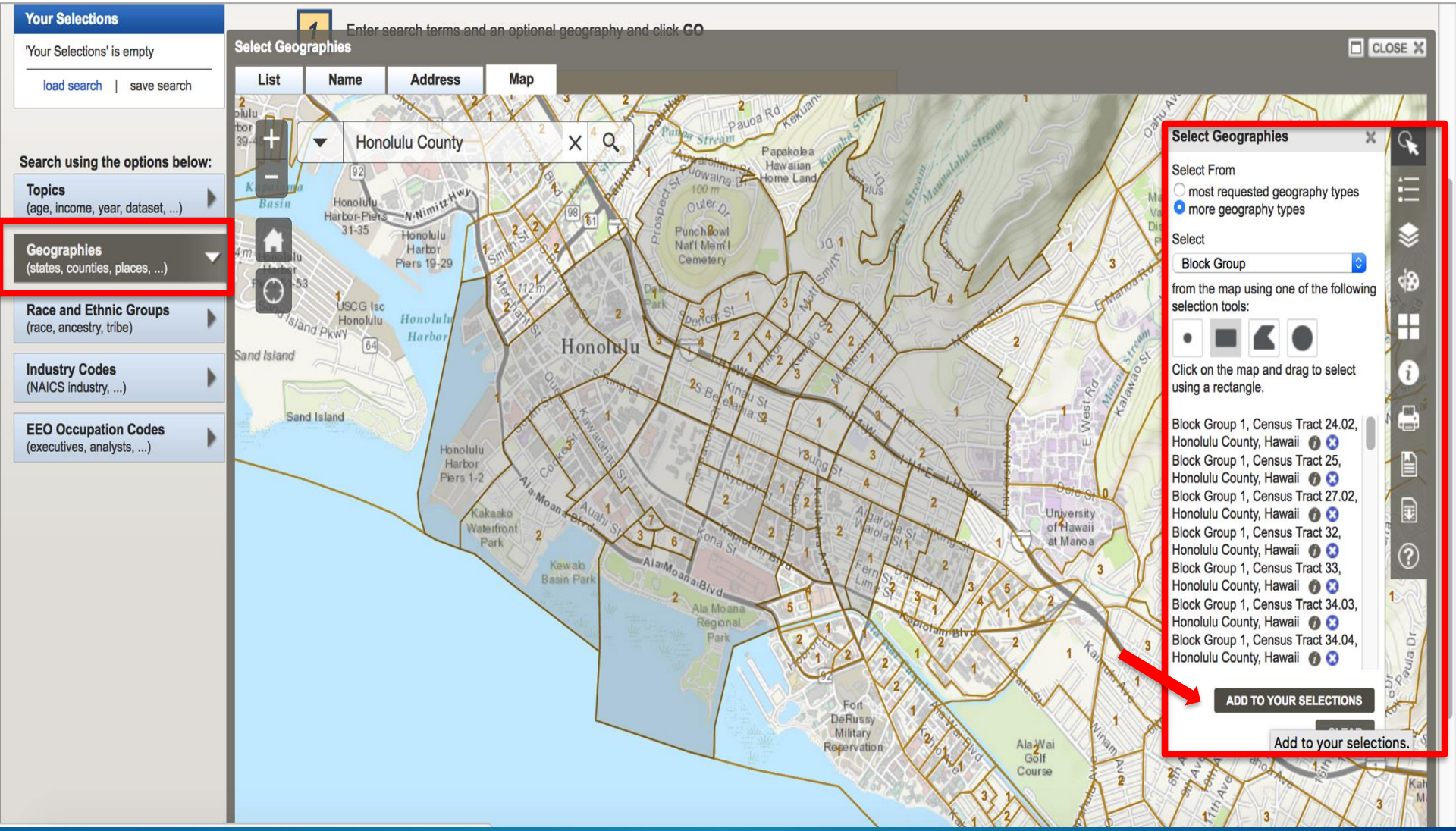

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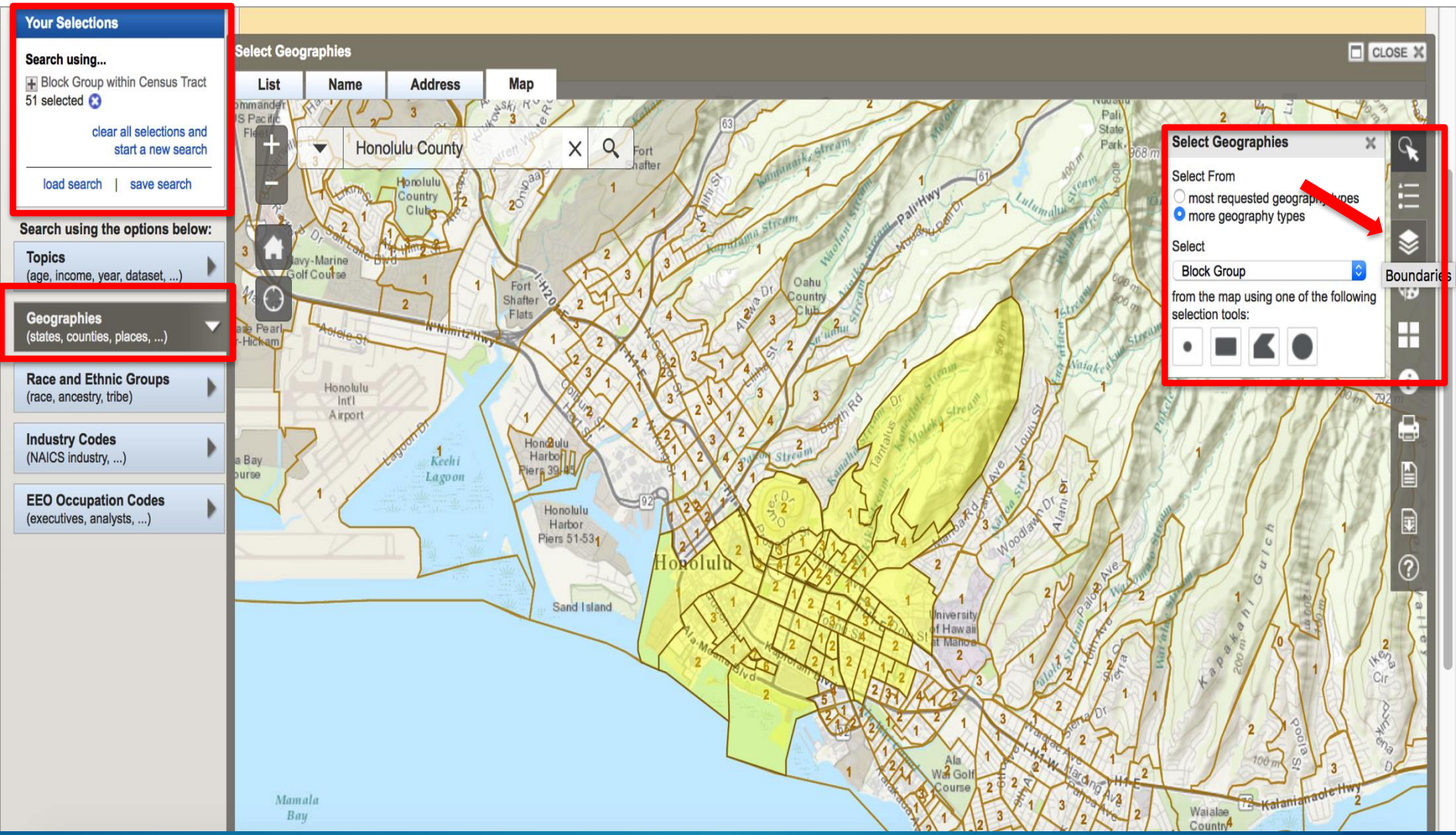

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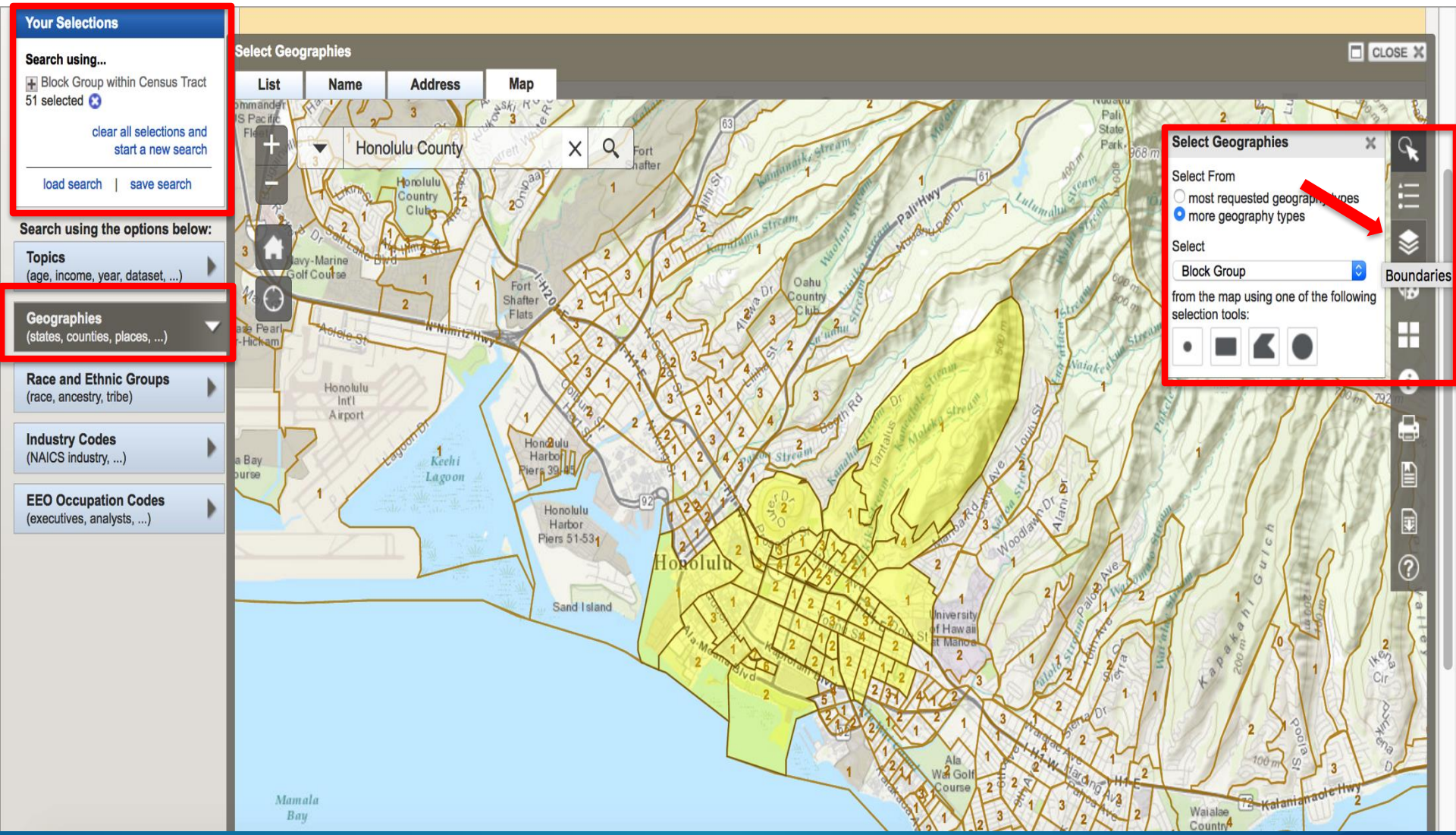

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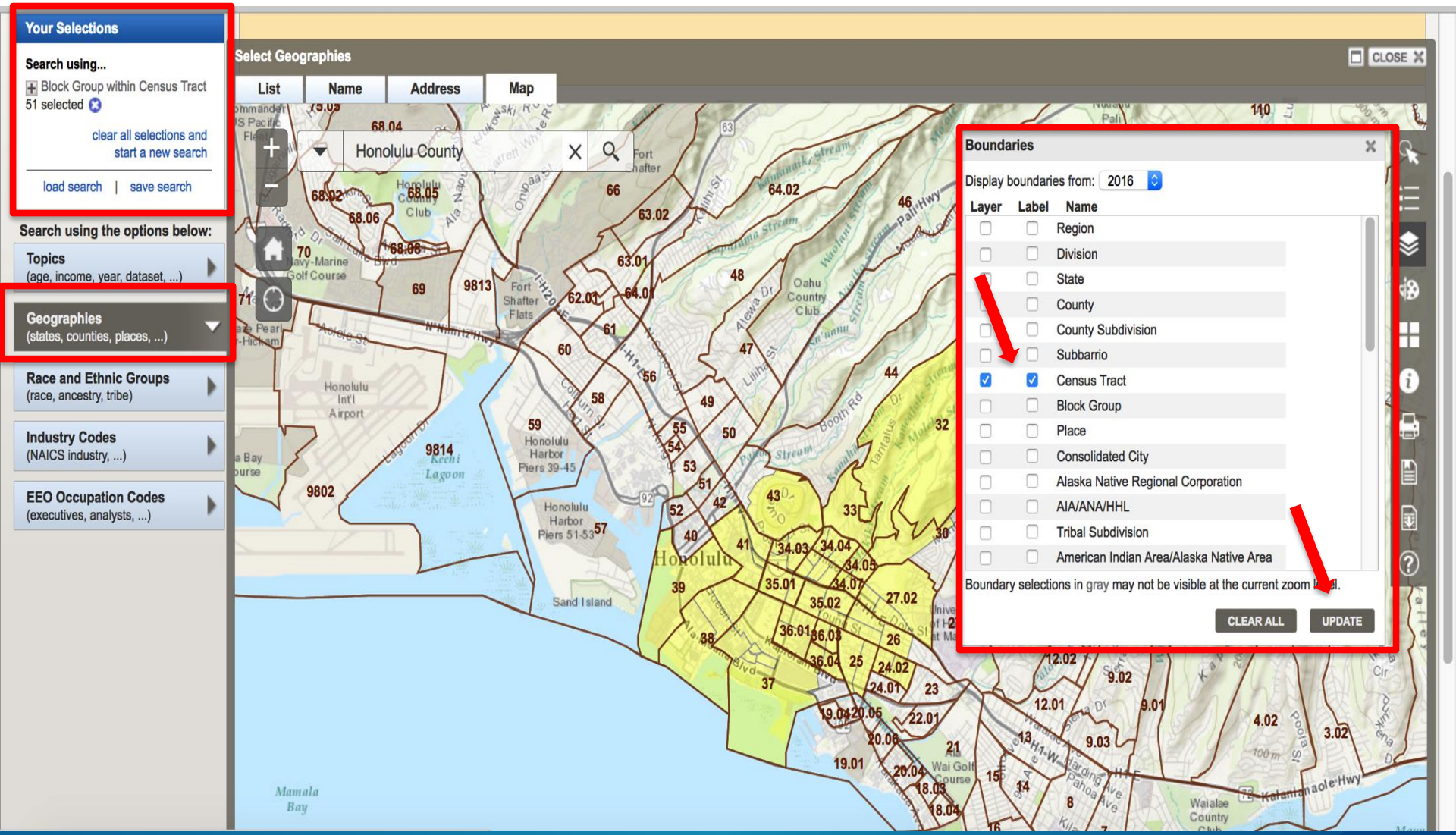

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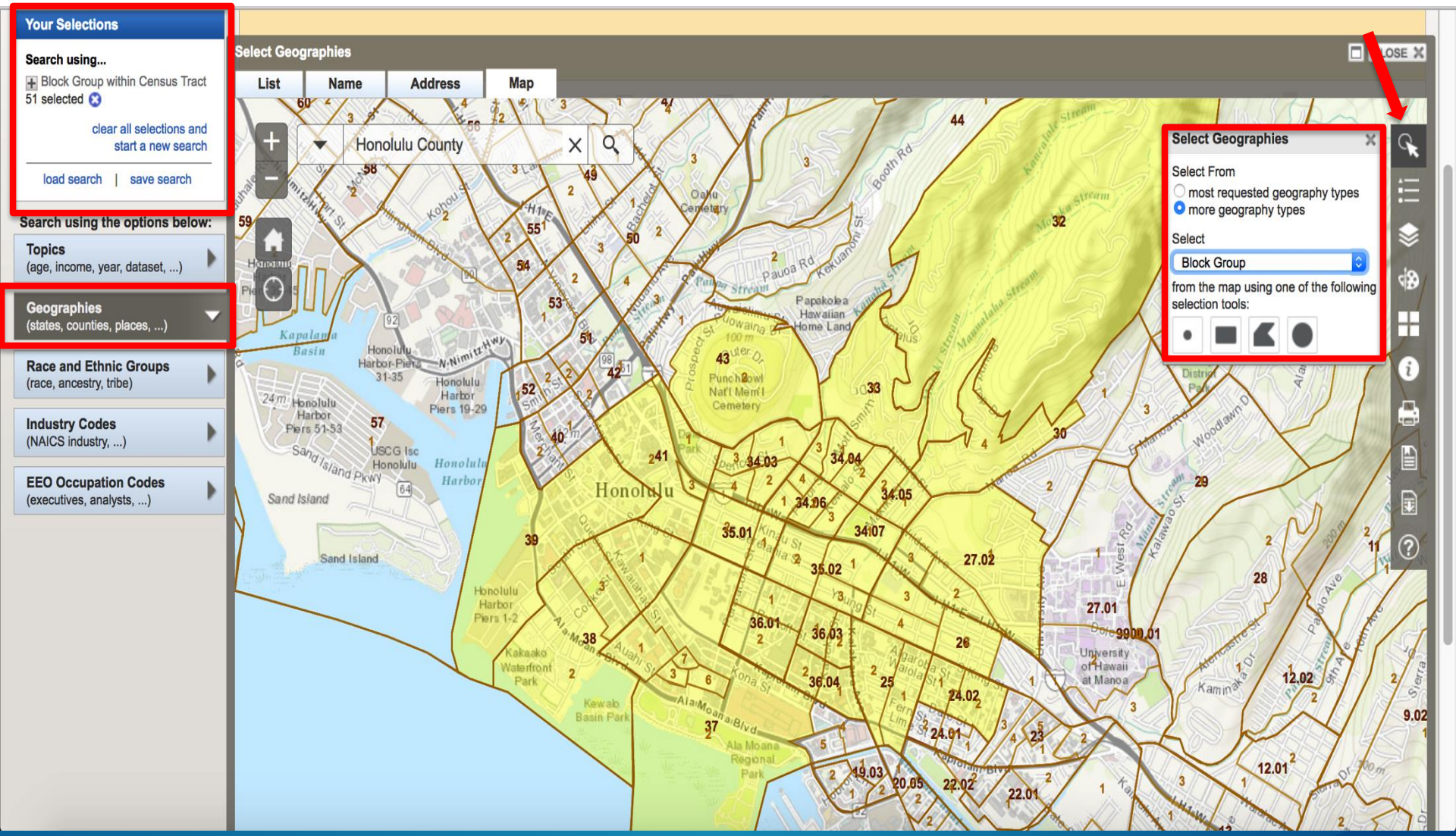

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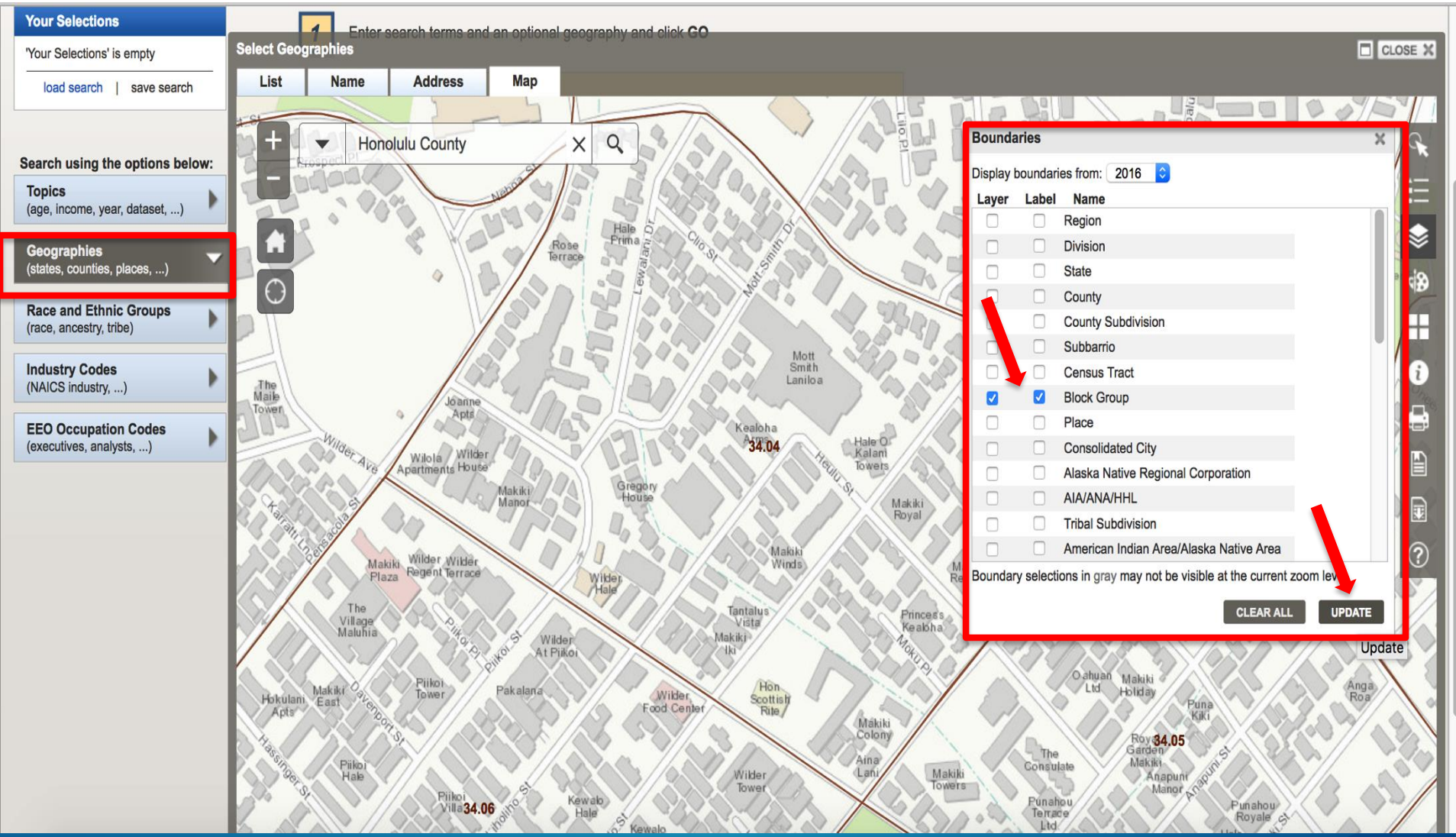

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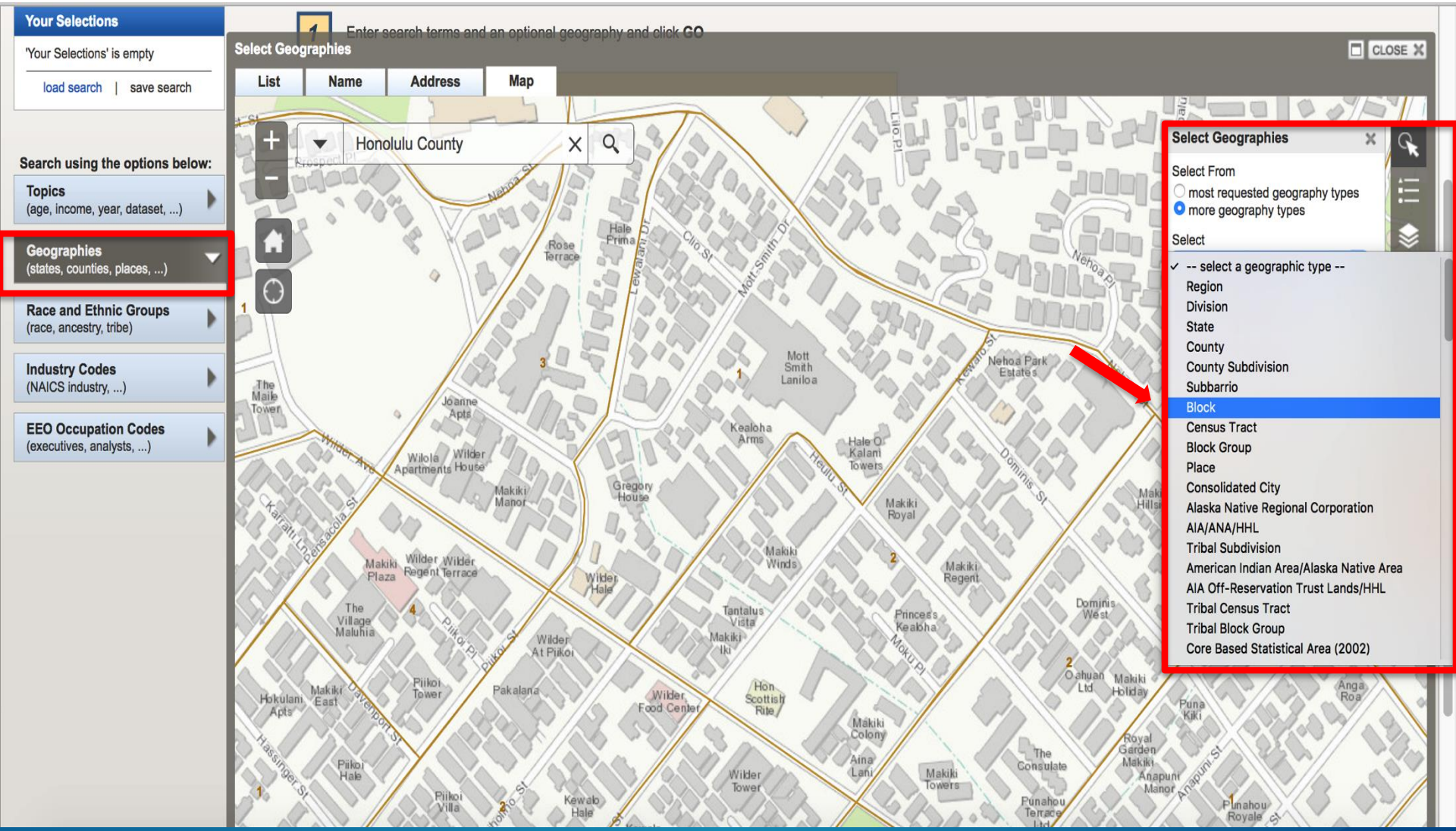

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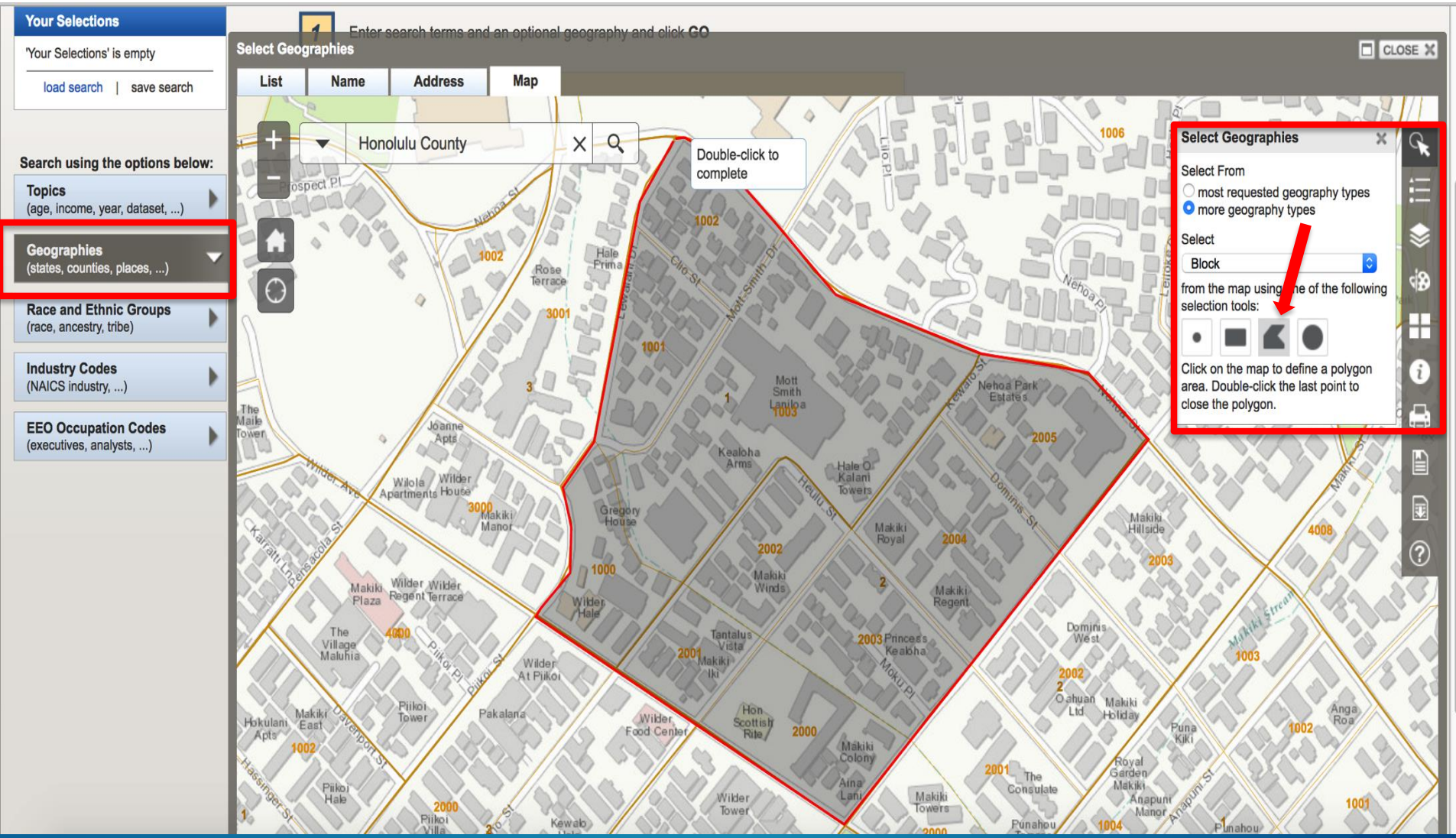

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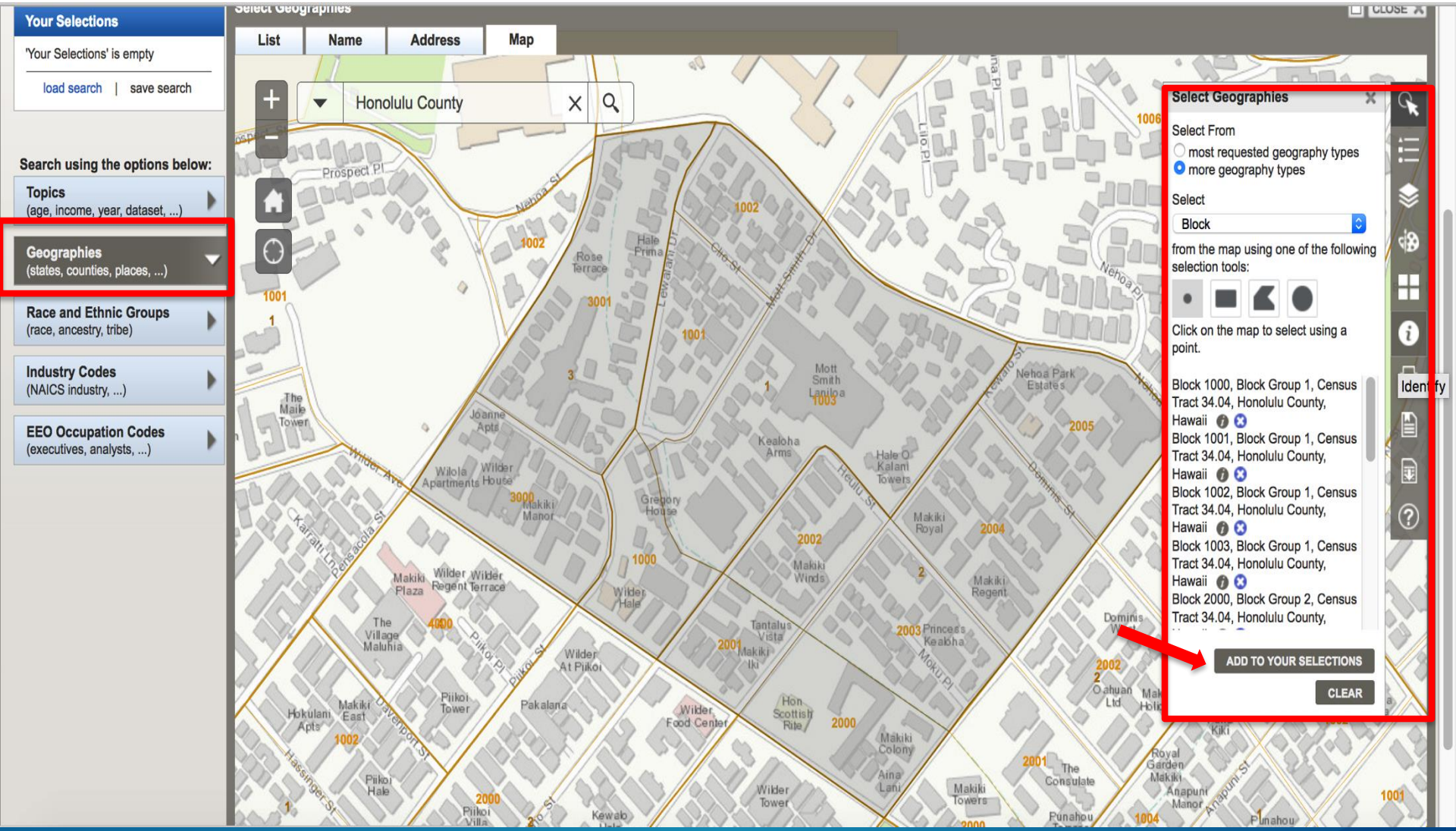

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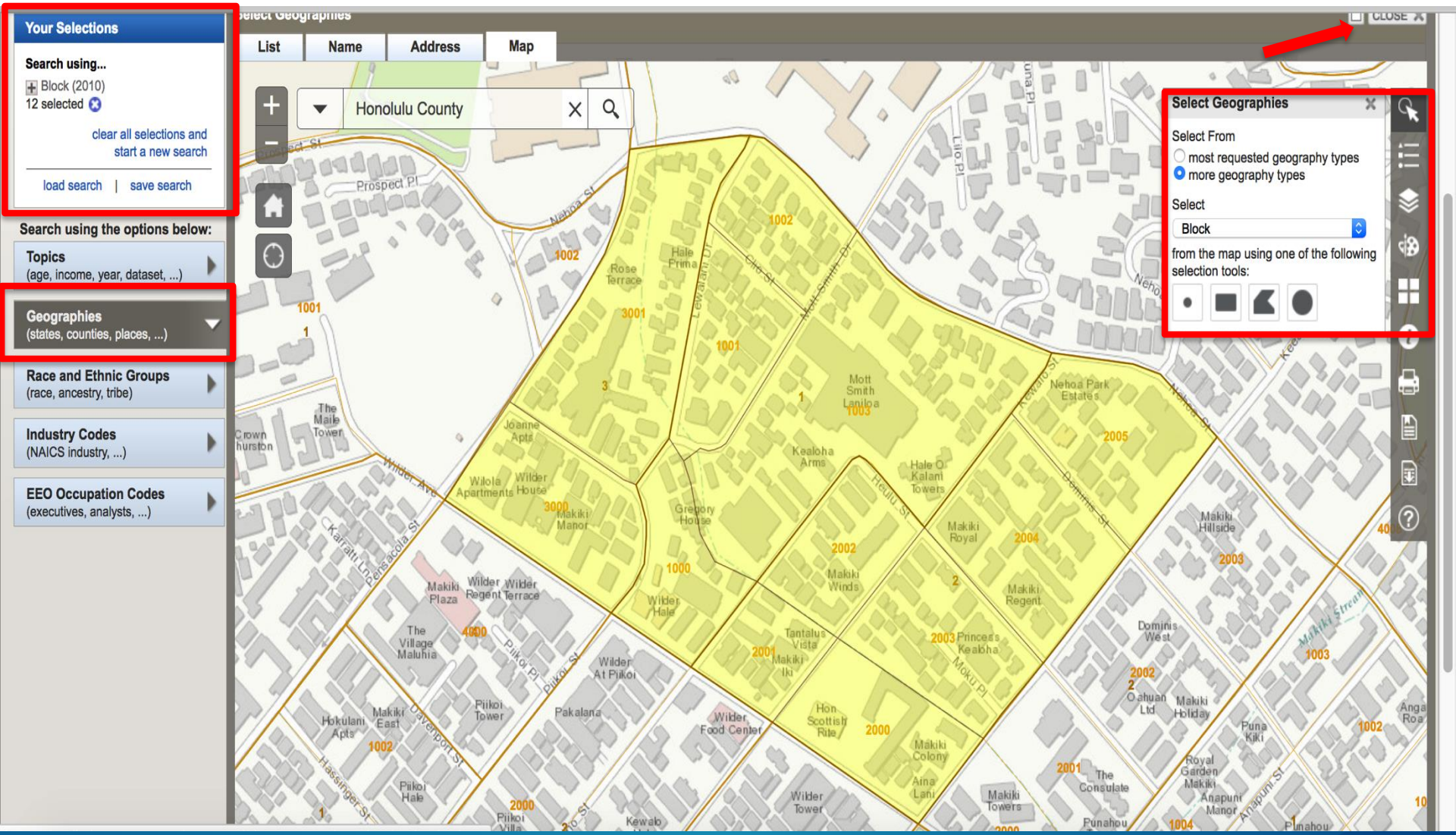

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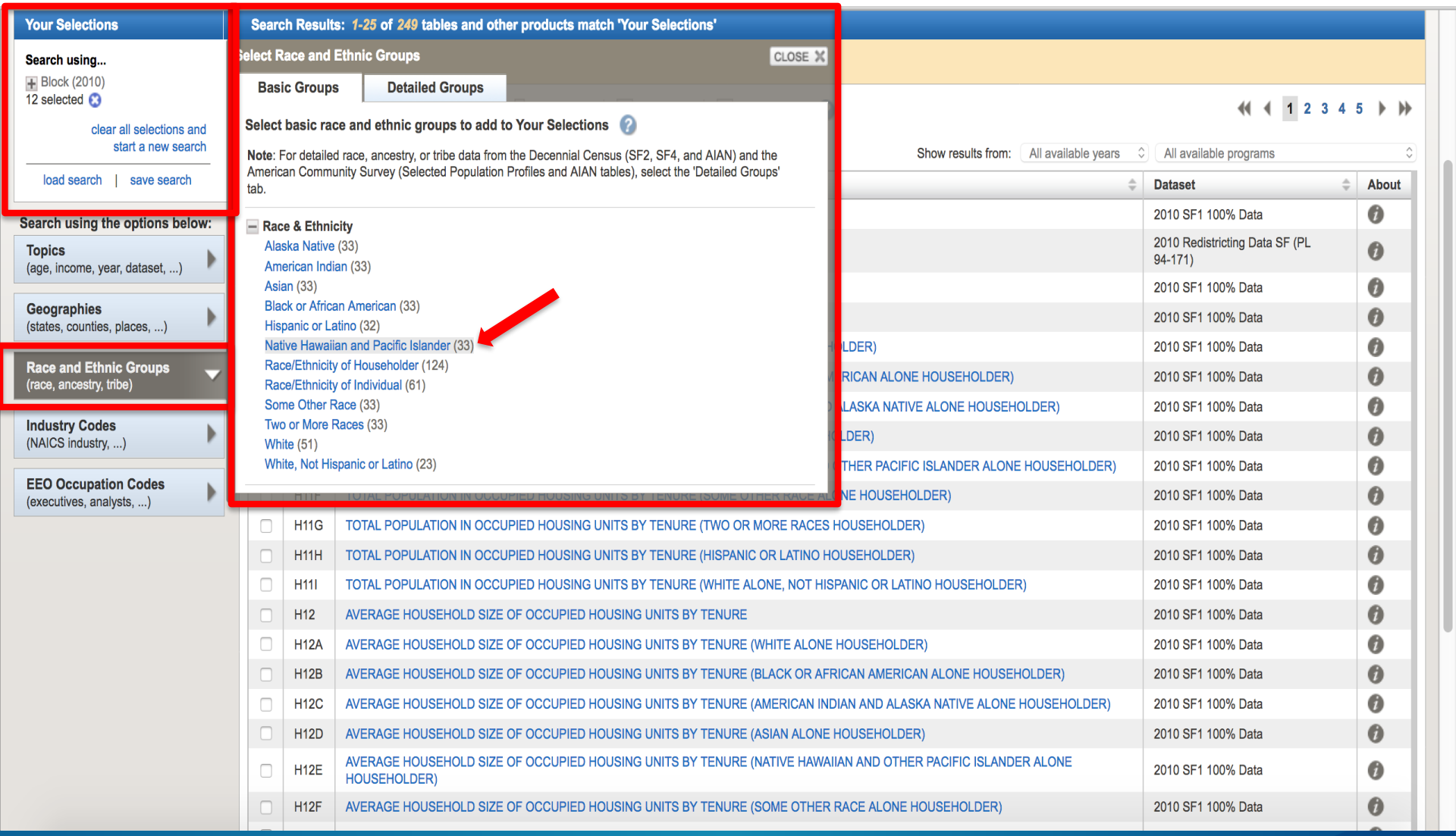

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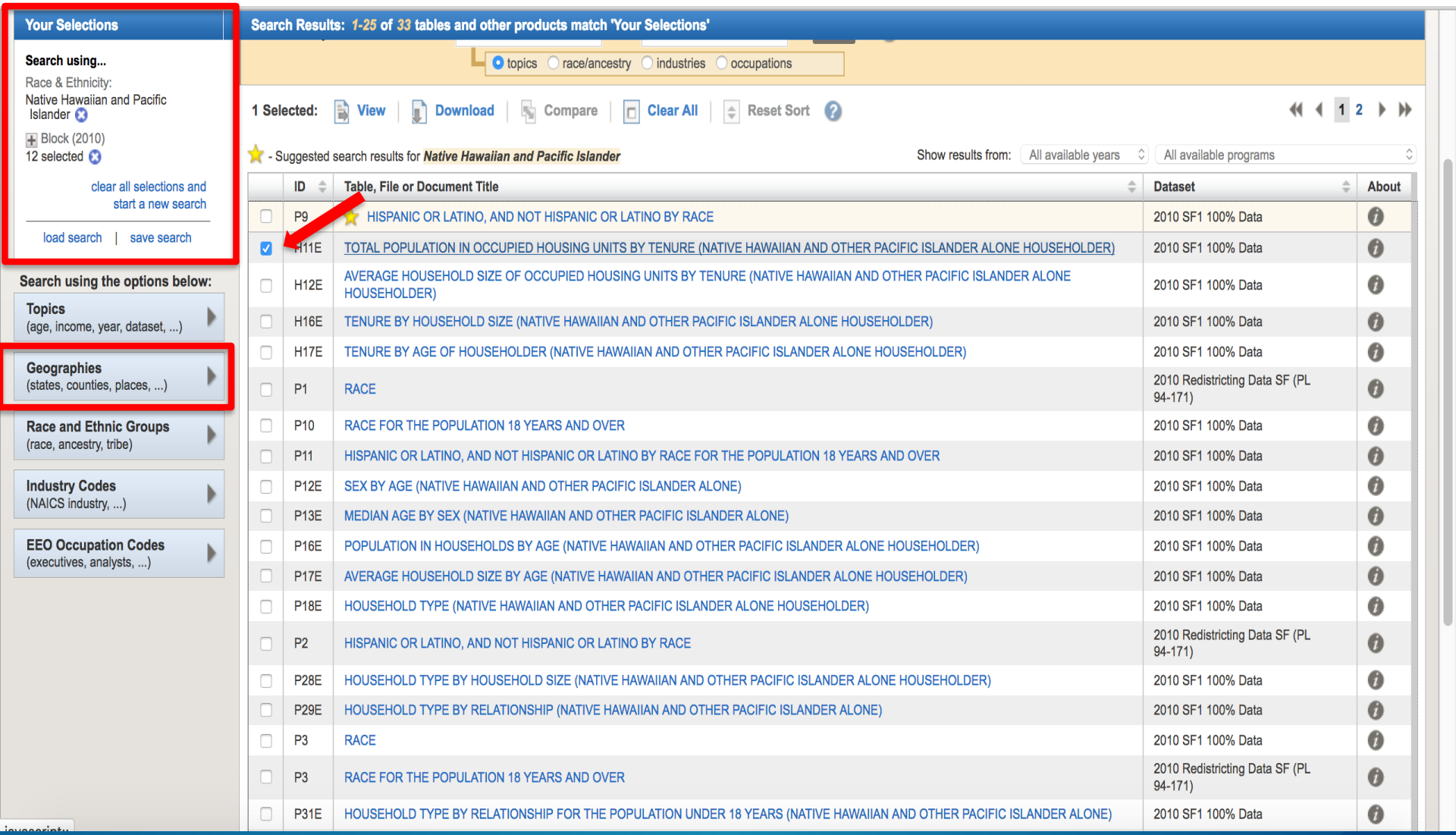


American FactFinder-Advanced Search

H11E

TOTAL POPULATION IN OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS BY TENURE (NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE HOUSEHOLDER)
Universe: Population in occupied housing units with a householder who is Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
2010 Census Summary File 1

Table View

BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH

Actions: Modify Table | Add/Remove Geographies | Bookmark/Save | Print | Download | Create a Map

Click on a data value in the table to map.

CANCEL

View Geography Notes | View Table Notes

Not all columns may be displayed below.
Click Back to Search to select other geographies using the search options on the left.

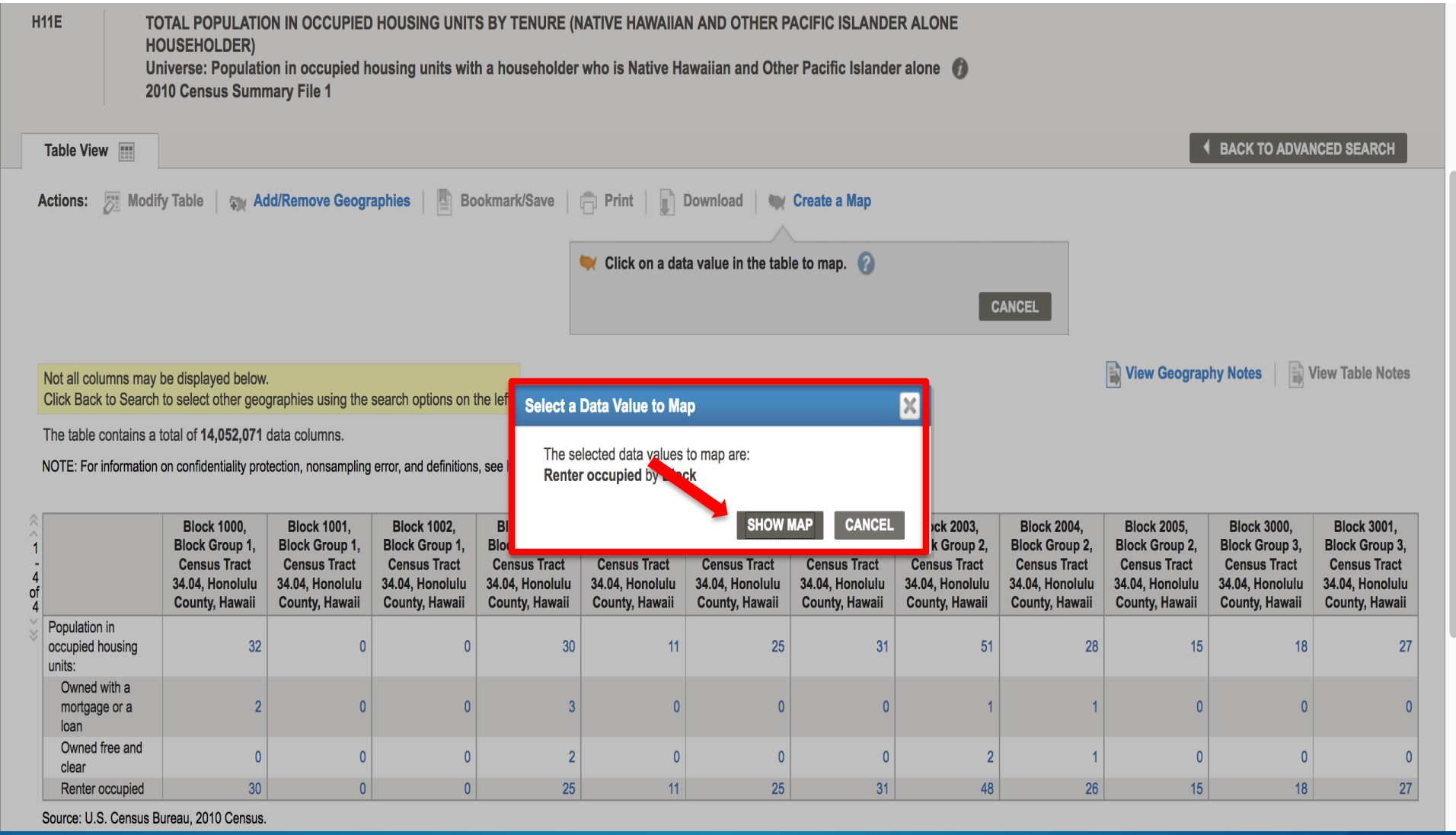
The table contains a total of **14,052,071** data columns.

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf.

	Block 1000, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 1001, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 1002, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 1003, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2000, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2001, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2002, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2003, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2004, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2005, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 3000, Block Group 3, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 3001, Block Group 3, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii
Population in occupied housing units:	32	0	0	30	11	25	31	51	28	15	18	27
Owned with a mortgage or a loan	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Owned free and clear	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Renter occupied	30	0	0	25	11	25	31	48	26	15	18	27

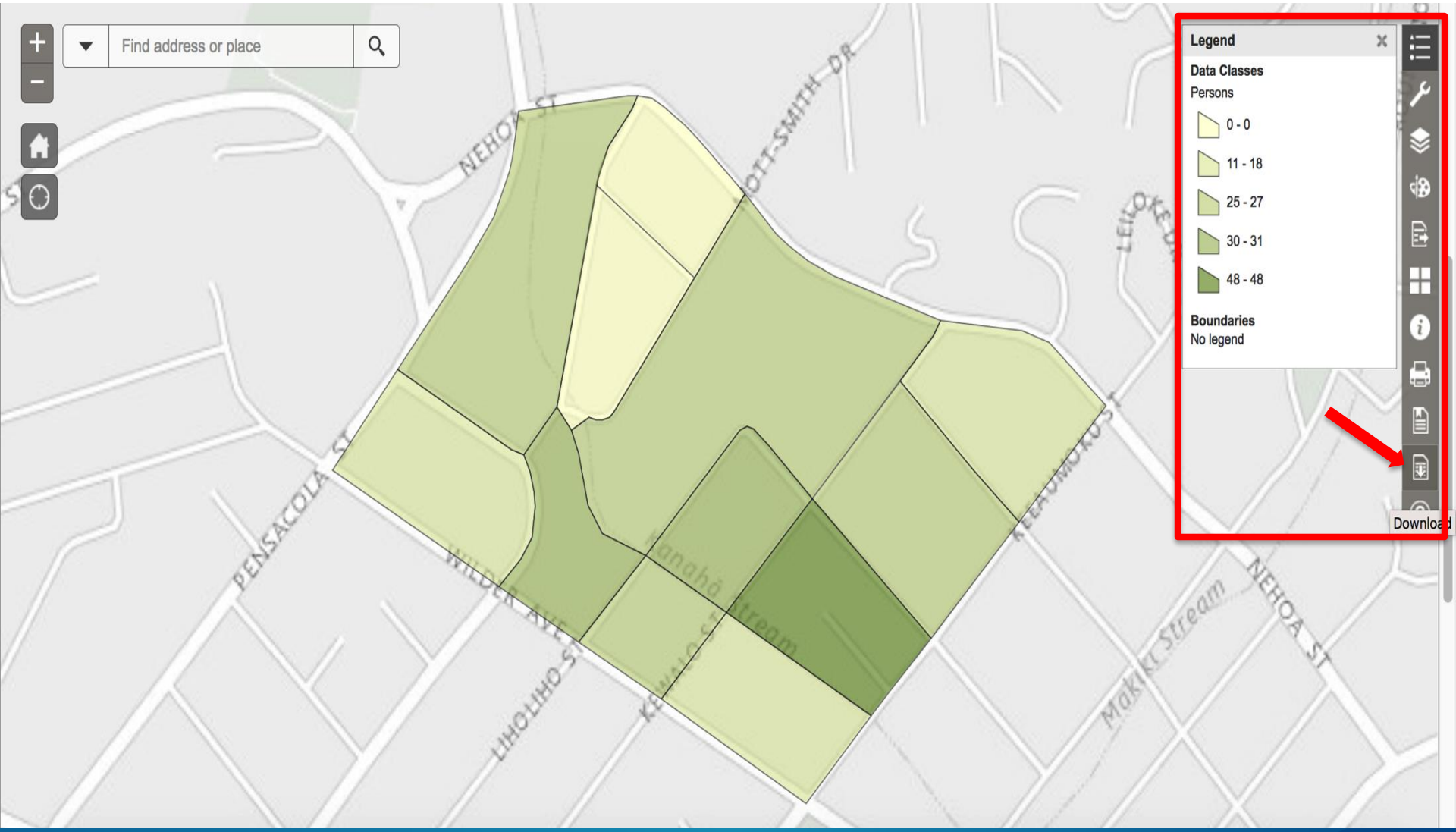
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

American FactFinder-Advanced Search

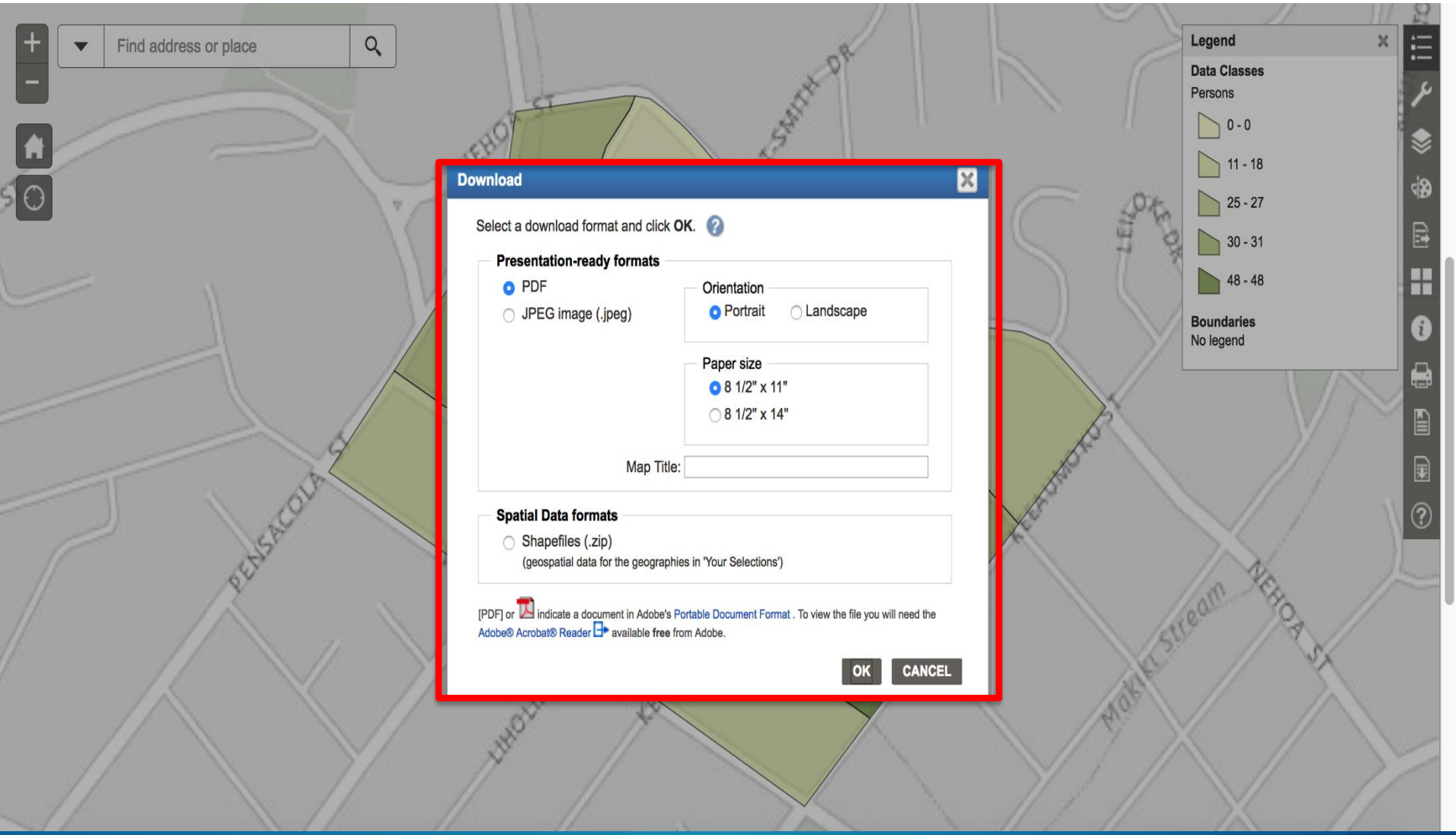


	Block 1000, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 1001, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 1002, Block Group 1, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Bl… Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	…ck 2003, …k Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2004, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 2005, Block Group 2, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 3000, Block Group 3, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii	Block 3001, Block Group 3, Census Tract 34.04, Honolulu County, Hawaii
Population in occupied housing units:	32	0	0	30	11	25	31	51	28	15	18	27
Owned with a mortgage or a loan	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Owned free and clear	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Renter occupied	30	0	0	25	11	25	31	48	26	15	18	27

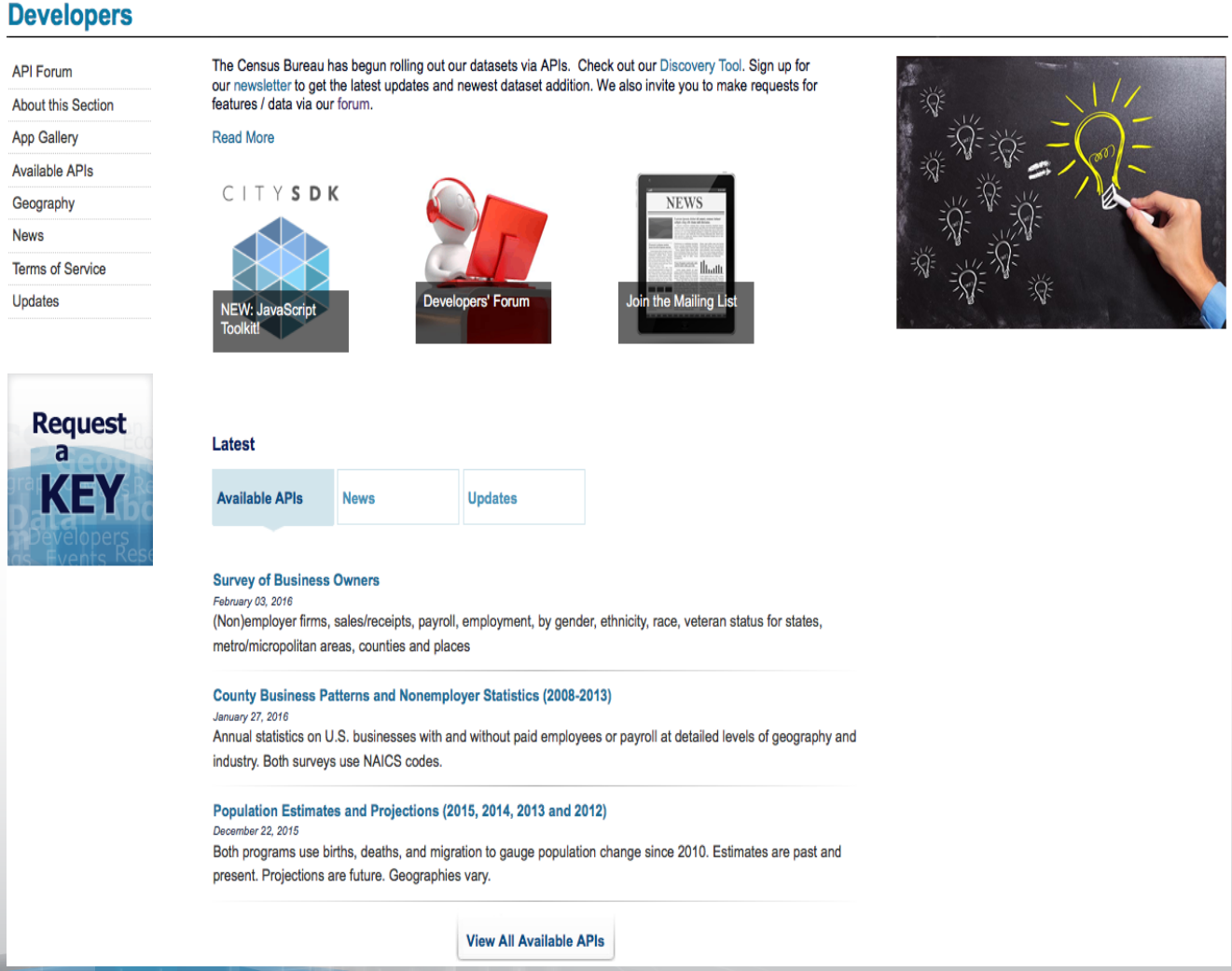
American FactFinder-Advanced Search



American FactFinder-Advanced Search



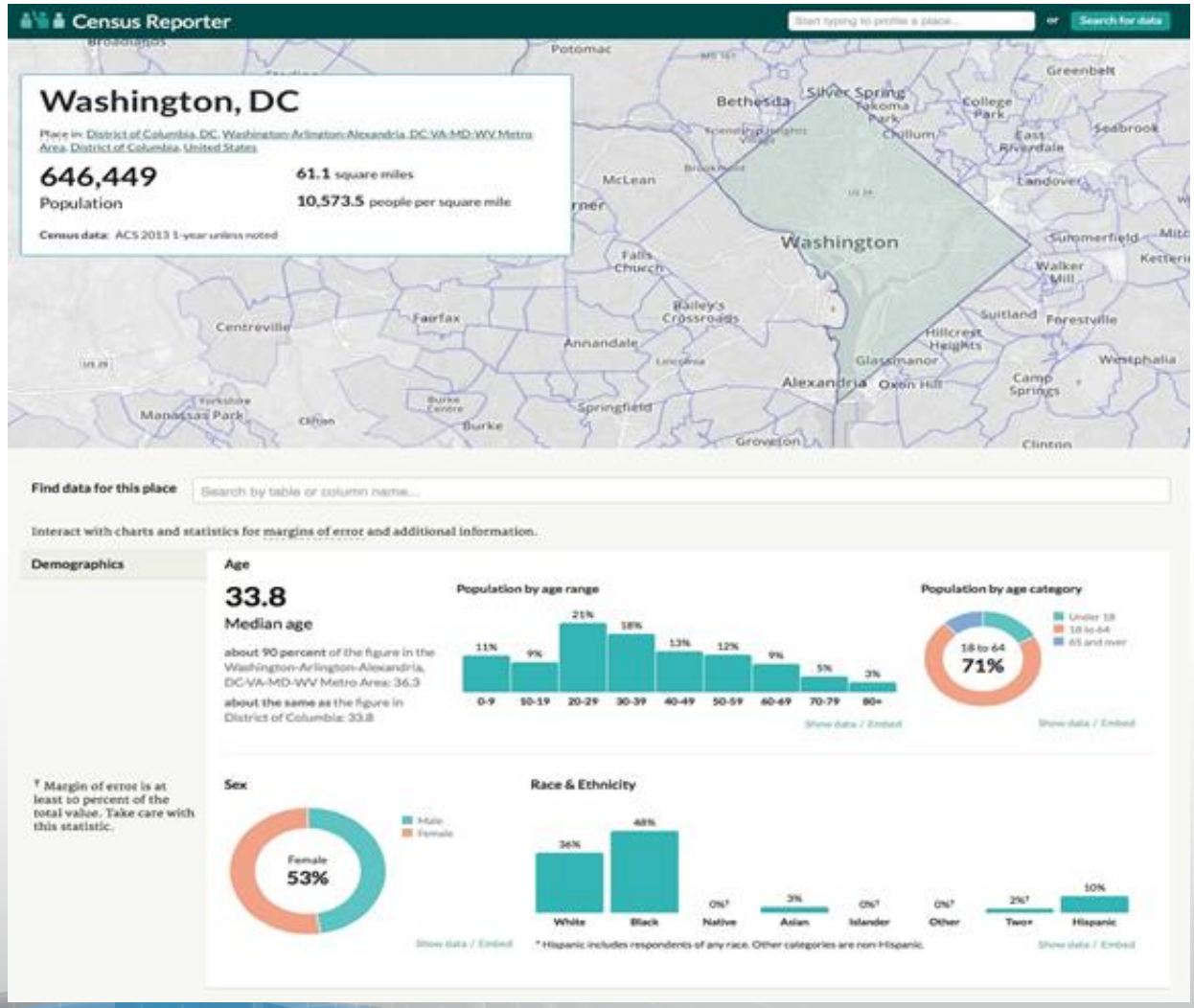
Application Programming Interface (API)



When to use:
The Census application programming interface (API) lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before.

census.gov/developers

Census Reporter



When to use:
Place profiles and comparison pages provide a friendly interface for navigating data, including visualizations for a more useful first look. Census Reporter also offers handy tools for data comparison and makes it easy to create exports for further analysis in tabular or GIS formats.

censusreporter.org

Continue the Conversation

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Source us:
"U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey"

YYYY-YYYY American Community Survey 1//5-year estimates/statistics/data release

- *2015 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*
- *2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimates*

Resources: Need Assistance?

U.S. Census Bureau
Data Dissemination Specialist

Lia Bolden

(510) 406-8841

elaine.lia.bolden@census.gov

Toll-free number:
1-844-ASK-DATA (1-844-275-2342)

For general questions:

census.askdata@census.gov

Questions?