

Date: 02/04/2012

Committee: House Culture & The Arts

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1983 RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires state agencies to disaggregate data consistent with federal standards and requires publication of the data.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support HB 1983 in its present form. First, the Department currently collects race/ethnicity categories that exceed the federal reporting requirements for race/ethnicity when reporting educational data. These additional categories allow the Department to disaggregate some, but not all, of the Asian and Pacific Islander groups listed in the bill. A recent change in the federal race/ethnicity reporting requirements forced the Department to resurvey many students during school year 2010-11 in order to comply with the new federal requirements. Substantial workforce and vendor costs were incurred to align the data collection tools and systems to the new reporting requirements. Implementation of the provisions in this bill would likewise require the Department to resurvey students (possibly some of the same students), align the data collection and reporting systems, and absorb the associated costs.

Second, Section 2 (b) states that the categories “shall be included in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins by the state agency”; however, that requirement would conflict with other federal reporting requirements for educational data which limit the categories of race/ethnicity data to be reported. Non-compliance with the federal reporting requirements would jeopardize federal funds received by the Department.

Finally, educational data are subject to federal privacy and confidentiality laws restricting the release of counts that allow recipients to determine the identity of individuals in the data set. Disaggregating data at the school level into the categories listed in the bill might result in counts below the threshold allowable for release. In those circumstances, the counts would be suppressed resulting in fewer, rather than greater, categories being reported.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HB1983

**RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY STATE AGENCIES,
BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS.**

House Committee on Culture & the Arts

February 4, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HB1983, which is a bill in OHA's 2012 Legislative Package. This bill would require state agencies to disaggregate demographic data regarding Asians, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in a manner that is consistent with federal standards, and it would require that such data be made accessible to the public.

The United States Census Bureau currently reports data for more than twenty different ethnicities within the categories of "Asians" and "Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders." Hawai'i's state agencies do not uniformly separate their demographic data at the same level of specificity as the United States Census Bureau. These agencies also do not uniformly make their demographic data accessible to the public. For these reasons, entities like OHA that work to address the health, social, economic, and other needs of specific communities are often unable to gather sufficient data to identify and address the needs of these communities and to develop programs to bring about meaningful systemic change.

Regional and local governments, elected officials, decision makers, and other entities that are responsible for addressing community needs would benefit greatly from the proper disaggregation and publication of data that HB1983 requires. In particular, proper disaggregation and publication of data about Native Hawaiians would help the State, through OHA and other state agencies, to fulfill the State's trust responsibilities with respect to Native Hawaiians. Such disaggregation and publication would also facilitate the work of other entities supplementing the State's efforts with programs aimed at bettering the conditions of the Native Hawaiian community and other communities in need.

We strongly urge the committee to PASS HB1983. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony for the
House Committee on Culture and the Arts
February 4, 2012

By Linda K. Johnsrud
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Hawai'i

HB 1983: RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BY STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Belatti, and members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The University of Hawai'i does not support HB 1983 in its present form. The University of Hawai'i currently collects race/ethnicity data in categories that exceed the federal reporting requirements. These additional categories (attached) allow the University to disaggregate some, but not all, of the Asian and Pacific Islander groups listed in the bill. The categories that the University has identified reflect the categories most relevant to our faculty, staff, and student body. If we were to further disaggregate, the numbers in certain categories would be so small that we would not be able to release it in keeping with federal privacy and confidentiality laws.

We respectfully ask that the Committee not pass this bill in its present form.

Ethnicity/Race Categories: University of Hawai'i and U.S. Census Bureau
Asian and Pacific Islander Categories

University of Hawai'i	U.S. Census Bureau (2010)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:
Native Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian/Mixed Hawaiian	Native Hawaiian
Samoan	Samoan
Tongan	
Guamanian or Chamorro	Guamanian or Chamorro
Micronesian	
Other Pacific Islander	Other Pacific Islander
Asian:	Asian:
Asian Indian	Asian Indian
Chinese	Chinese
Filipino	Filipino
Japanese	Japanese
Korean	Korean
Laotian	
Thai	
Vietnamese	Vietnamese
Other Asian	Other Asian