



# POPULATION BRIEF

## Trends in the Western U.S.

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### Hawaii

From 1980 to 2010, the population of the State of Hawaii increased by 41 percent, growing from just under 1 million to nearly 1.4 million people. While this growth rate is significant, only two states in the western region (Montana and Wyoming) had slower growth rates than Hawaii. Table 1 presents data showing population changes in Hawaii counties for the three decades from 1980 to 2010. While Hawaii is comprised of hundreds of islands that form the Volcanic Hawaii Island chain, nearly all of the population resides on the eight 'main islands' that are at the southeastern end of the chain. Politically, these eight islands are divided into five counties. Honolulu County is the island of Oahu and is the only metropolitan county in the state. All other counties are defined as nonmetropolitan. Kauai County consists of the islands of Kauai and Niihau; Maui County is the islands of Maui, Lanai, Kahoolawe and most of Molokai; Hawaii County is Hawaii Island (known as the 'Big Island'); and Kalawao County is a small portion of Molokai, separated from the rest to the island by sea cliffs. The Kalawao County portion of the island is a former leper colony. Table 1 shows that in 30 years from 1980, the populations of Hawaii and Maui Counties more than doubled. Kauai County also experience substantial population growth (71.7 percent). While the percent growth in Honolulu County was not as extensive as on other islands, the numerical increase (190,642 residents) was greater than in any other part of the state.

Figure 1 presents data on the distribution of the population from 1980 to 2010. Hawaii's population is concentrated in Honolulu County where over 70 percent of the state's residents live. The proportion of the population living on Oahu has been declining due to rapid growth on the other islands. Figure 2 shows that the population in the nonmetro counties increased by 101.4 percent compared to 25 percent in metro Honolulu County.

#### Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Hawaii Population

As presented in Table 2, 22.7 percent of the Hawaii population was White in 2010. Hawaii is one of four states (along with California, New Mexico and Texas) that is majority minority – that is, more than one-half of the residents are non-White. The proportion of the population that is White has steadily declined from 31.1 percent in 1980 to 22.7 percent in 2010 (Figure 3). The largest racial/ethnic group in the state is Asians who comprised 38.6 percent of the population. An additional 23.6 percent reported that they were two or more races. This proportion was much higher than any other state in the nation. Also, 10 percent of Hawaii's residents were Native Hawaiians, 8.9 percent were Hispanic and 1.6 percent was Black. The Asian population was most extensive in Honolulu County, while the proportions of White residents were greatest in Maui, Hawaii and Kauai Counties.

#### Educational Attainment in Hawaii


Nearly 90 percent of Hawaii residents' age 25 and older had at least a high school degree in 2009, while 29.2 percent were college graduates. Only four states in the western region had a higher proportion of high school graduates than Hawaii and only three states had a higher proportion of college graduates. The proportion of adults that are college graduates is greater in Honolulu County than in other counties.

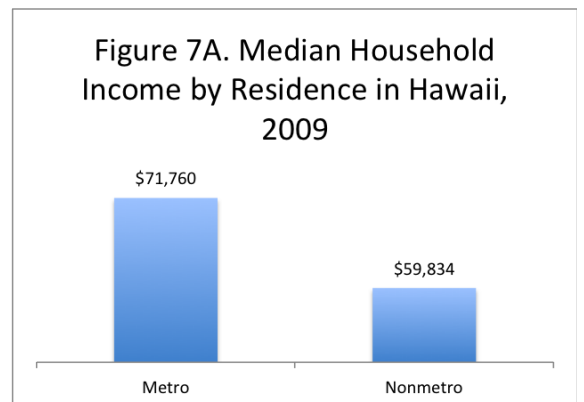
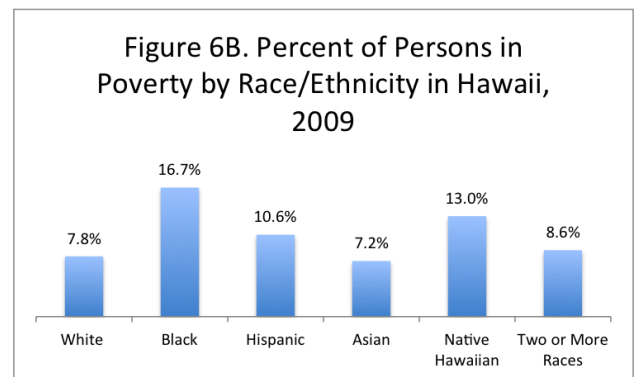
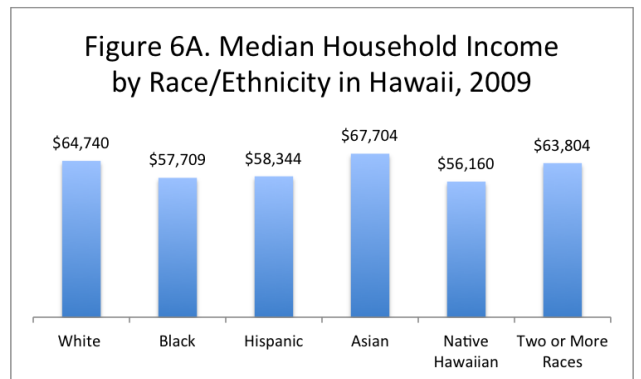
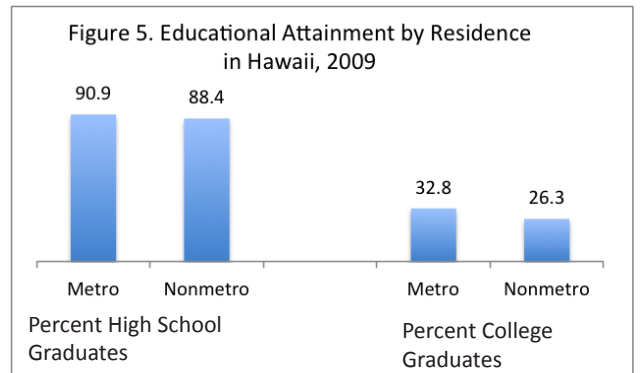
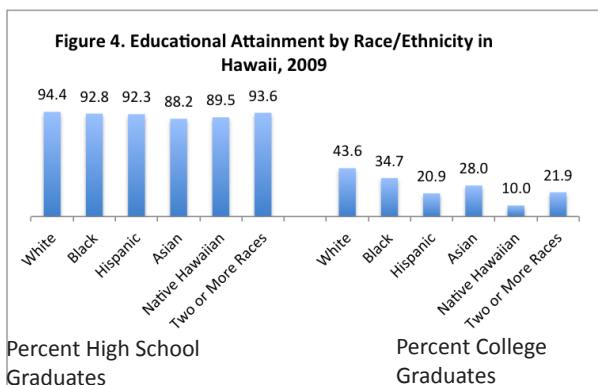
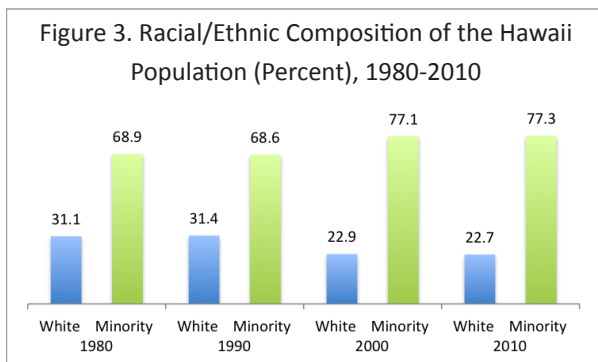
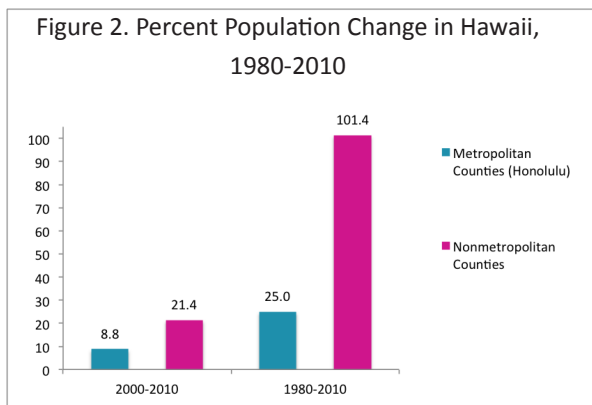
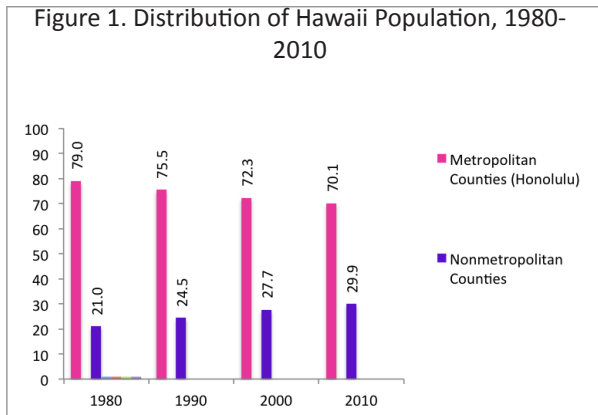
Educational attainment varies widely for different segments of the Hawaii population. High school graduation is nearly universal for residents of Hawaii, but there are major differences in college graduation rates by race/ethnicity. As shown in Figure 4, 43.1 percent of White adults are college graduates compared to only 10 percent of Native Hawaiians. Figure 5 reveals that metro residents have higher levels of educational attainment than nonmetro

residents.

#### Income and Poverty in Hawaii

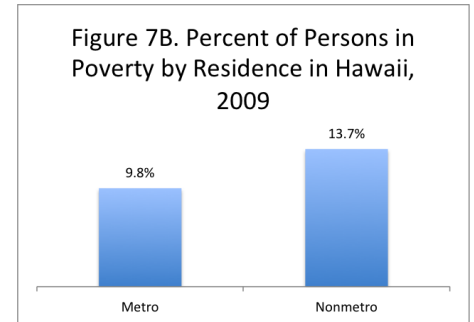
The median household income in Hawaii in 2009 was \$63,741 (Table 3). This was higher than in any other state in the western region except Alaska. Median household incomes were higher in Honolulu County (\$67,019) than in other counties. Table 3 also shows that 10.4 percent of Hawaii residents were living in poverty in 2009. Only two states had lower poverty rates than Hawaii. Again, poverty rates are slightly lower in Honolulu County than in the rest of the state. Table 3 also shows that the median value of owner-occupied homes in Hawaii was \$521,500 in 2009. Housing costs were higher in Hawaii than in any other state in the western region. These values ranged from \$606,200 in Maui to \$366,700 on the big island of Hawaii.

There were some income and poverty level variations for persons with different characteristics. Differences by race/ethnicity were smaller than in other western states. Figure 6A show that the median household incomes for Asians were \$67,704 compared to \$56,160 for Native Hawaiians. Similarly, Figure 6B shows that poverty levels were lower for Asians and Whites than for other racial/ethnic groups. Figures 7A and 7B graphically shows that incomes are higher and poverty rates lower on metropolitan Oahu than on the other nonmetropolitan islands. 



**Table 1. Population Change in Hawaii Counties, 1980-2010**

County					Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000 - 2010		1980 - 2010	
					Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Hawaii	92,053	120,317	148,677	185,079	36,402	24.5	93,026	101.1
Honolulu	762,565	836,231	876,156	953,207	77,051	8.8	190,642	25.0
Kalawao	144	130	147	90	-57	-38.8	-54	-37.5
Kauai	39,082	51,177	58,463	67,091	8,628	14.8	28,009	71.7
Maui	70,847	100,374	128,094	154,834	26,740	20.9	83,987	118.5
State Total	964,691	1,108,229	1,211,537	1,360,301	148,764	12.3	395,610	41.0



**Table 2. Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity for Hawaii Counties, 2010**

County	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Two or More Races
Hawaii	31.2	0.6	11.6	22.2	12.1	29.5
Honolulu	19.1	2.0	8.1	43.9	9.5	22.3
Kalawao	26.7	0.0	1.1	7.8	48.9	15.6
Kauai	30.7	0.4	9.4	31.3	9.0	24.9
Maui	31.8	0.6	10.1	28.8	10.4	23.5
State Total	22.7	1.6	8.9	38.6	10.0	23.6

**Table 3. Economic Conditions and Education for Hawaii Counties, 2009**

County	Median Household Income	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes	Percent of Persons 25+ with High School Degree	Percent of Persons 25+ with College Degree
Hawaii	\$50,739	14.5	\$366,700	90.1	26.2
Honolulu	\$67,019	9.7	\$537,800	89.7	30.7
Kalawao	\$0	0.0	\$0	83.3	25.6
Kauai	\$55,723	10.4	\$580,500	88.1	23.5
Maui	\$58,167	10.2	\$606,200	88.3	25.8
State Total	\$63,741	10.4	\$521,500	89.5	



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**About the WRDC**

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers competitively funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to guide the future of their rural communities. Each of the four Centers link the research and extension capacity of regional land-grant universities with local decision-makers to enhance rural prosperity, create thriving communities, and support a sustainable and competitive agricultural system.

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