CSAAH’s 6th Annual
Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander
Health Conference
Saturday December 3, 2011
NYU Langone Medical Center

“My story”

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Acknowledgements

• My Wife

• The Pacific Islander Communities

• Asian Partners

• Academic Partners

• Legislative Friends (Local, state and federal)

• New Partners
WHY AND HOW AB 1088 HELPS OUR
NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Assembly Bill 1088 (Eng)
Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
Demographic Data
Sponsor: Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE)
Co-sponsors: Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APICAN)

- **AB 1088 will disaggregate data for Tongan and Fijian Communities in California.**

As of the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 60,876 Tongans and 24,039 Fijians in California. Without this bill, Tongan and Fijian communities will remain invisible to state agencies.

- **AB 1088 builds on OMB #15**

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (OMB #15) only requires one “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” (NHOPi) category to cover all NHOPIs at the federal level. AB 1088, however, would expand the current minimum number of categories at the state level for NHOPIs from Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, and Samoans to include Tongans and Fijians. While AB 1088 recognizes the significance of OMB #15 in separating “Asian” and “Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders” at the federal level, the finer data granularity provided by AB 1088 at the state level allows for even more accurate data collection and reporting of the NHOPI community.

- **AB 1088 does not combine the “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” categories into one category.**

The purpose of AB 1088 is to promote the further data disaggregation of marginalized communities through the creation of additional race and ethnic categories. Reducing categories and combining “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” data would directly contradict AB 1088’s purpose. AB 1088 will add Tongan and Fijian categories to those that must be collected by two state agencies. While AB 1088 also creates additional, separate categories for marginalized Asian communities, the creation of those separate categories will not result in an “Asian and Pacific Islander” category.

- **AB 1088 will automatically add new NHOPI categories to match the U.S. Census**

AB 1088 would require specified state agencies to update their data collection categories to add those used by the United States Census Bureau within 18 months after the 2020 U.S. Census.

- **This bill is a crucial starting point**

AB 1088 would set an important precedent by requiring two major state agencies to disaggregate data for Tongan and Fijian communities. These agencies are:

1. the Department of Industrial Relations, and;
2. the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

In order to be mindful of our state’s current fiscal environment, only those two departments would be required to disaggregate data for Tongan and Fijian communities at this time because they can do so with minor or absorbable costs.

- **AB 1088 will not prevent other state agencies from disaggregating Tongan and Fijian data**

AB 1088 explicitly states that the bill shall not be construed to prevent any other state agency from posting any data collected pursuant to the bill, which includes Tongan and Fijian data.

- **AB 1088 does not allocate resources for communities**

There is no language in AB 1088 that gives preferential treatment in resource allocation for any racial or ethnic group. AB 1088 focuses on better data disaggregation and does not address resource allocation.

Over thirty (30) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups endorse this bill (partial listing): Cal-Enders Humanitarian Association, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Famili Pe’i Taha, Guam Communications Network, Kaleponi Advocates for Hawaiian Affairs, Kuturan Chamoru Foundation, Mainland Council, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Alliance, Pacific Islanders at Cal, Pacific Islander Health Partnership, PELE: The Sorority of Oceania, TOA Institute, Samoan Community Development Center, Samoan National Nurses Association, Samoan Solutions, Second Samoan Congregation Church, SF Samoa and Samoa Parents in Action, Tafesilafa’s, Inc., Taulasma for Tongans, To’uutupu ‘o e ‘Otu Feleite Association, Tongan American Youth Foundation, Tongan Community Service Center, Tupuila A Samoa Kalifonia, and Urban Islanders

National and Statewide Organizations and Institutions
In Support Of AB 1088 Include: American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, California Immigrant Policy Center, First 5 L.A., and Preschool California

More information on AB 1088 can be found at: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_10888&sess=CUR&house=B&author=eng
Assembly Concurrent Resolution 67
Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Recognition

BACKGROUND

Making up more than 284,000 community members, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHP) community in California is one of the largest NHP populations in the United States. The NHP community, a diverse group of ethnicities including, but not limited to, Guamanian/Chamorro, Native Hawaiian, Marshallese, Fijian, Samoan and Tongan, continue to thrive as American citizens and American nationals in California and the greater United States.

The 2010 Census Bureau data shows that NHPs are continuing to become a growing part of our nation’s economy. Between 2002 and 2007, NHP-owned businesses saw a 51 percent growth in number, while United States businesses overall increased in number only 18 percent. From 2000 to 2010, the NHP community increased in population in California by 23.4 percent.

The NHP community faces unique challenges as a result of its distinct history and community experience. Consequently, the NHP community organized and helped institute an update to the Federal Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 in 1997 to establish a specific Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category relative to the collection of data. The NHP community would be best served if local, state, and federal entities disaggregated data to identify trends specific to the NHP community.

The preservation of our NHP communities is critical to our state history and for the preservation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander culture, history, traditions, and other elements of their heritage.

SUMMARY

This resolution recognizes the role that NHPs have played in the social, economic and political development of California throughout the state's history and also encourages all federal, state and local organizations to promote the preservation of NHP history and culture.

SUPPORT

- Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (Sponsor)

OPPOSITION

- None on File

BILL STATUS

- Introduced June 8, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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NHPI Youth Health and Fitness Day
Chronic disease is the leading cause of death for Pacific Islanders in the U.S., who number over 1.1 million and suffer from health disparities. Southern California is home to more than half of all Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in California (U.S. Census, 2000). One out of five Pacific Islander youth in the U.S. is obese, thus obesity prevention and reduction are primary concerns for Pacific Islanders. Yet with this current problem, there is little information on the physical activity and nutrition knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in the population.

Being physically inactive is a primary factor for obesity in which it may account for 25-30% of major cancers, and recent reports have indicated that colon and breast cancer are linked to obesity (NCI, 2004).

In May 2011 Pacific Islander leaders initiated an unique effort to promote physical activity and healthy eating tailored after Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign. “Pacific Islander Fitness Day” was an outreach event in collaboration with numerous entities (including the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific) to increase awareness of health check-ups, cancer screening, physical activity stations lead by Pacific Islander athletes, and physical activity and nutrition knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in the population.

This event comprised of:
(1) community leaders,
(2) physical activity stations lead by Pacific Islander athletes and fitness expert,
(3) a Health Village with resources promoting health and fitness expert, and
(4) a Diet and Healthy Food Village with information on healthy food choices and preparing cultural food with health in mind.

A total of 221 participants completed a brief needs assessment survey.
HHS Goal 1: Prevent, Treat and Control Hepatitis B Viral (HPV) infections in AANHPI Communities

Recommendation: The various Goal statements under GOAL 1 (Goals 1-6) should be revised to reflect Obesity and Strategies to Reduce Obesity in NHPI Communities.
HHS Goal 2: Improve Data Collection in AANHPI Communities

Recommendation:

Goal 1: Increase the Capacity...
   Federal Gov, community or both?

Goal 2: Improve the Collection...
   All agencies, affiliated groups and contractors of HHS adhere to the revised OMB Standards
“If you’re not at the table, then you’re on the Menu!”
Fa’afetai tele