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**HAWAI'I RESIDENTS TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE
THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS**

April 1, 2020 is National Census Day

HONOLULU (DRAFT) – In advance of National Census Day on April 1, 2020, various community organizations have banded together to educate Hawai'i residents on what to expect in the 2020 Census and why it is important to participate. The Census is vital to shaping the future for the state, as the data collected will decide how much federal funding state government and local communities will receive for the next decade.

Only 68 percent of Hawai'i households initially participated in the 2010 Census. Census staff were required to follow-up with the remaining households to try to obtain a complete count of people living in Hawai'i. An undercount can result in a loss of federal funding for healthcare, education, family care, housing, and food assistance, among other areas. Historically, young children and certain populations like Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have been hard to count.

“The Census data affects funding for public schools, student loans for college, school lunches and breakfast, special education, Medicaid and Medicare, health care centers, roads, food assistance programs, public housing, social services and much more,” said Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. “An accurate 2020 Census is required to ensure that each Hawai'i community receives its fair share of federal funds.”

Every one percent of the population that's undercounted in Hawai'i represents a potential loss of \$37 million a year in federal funding, which equates to a loss of \$370 million over 10 years.

For the 2020 Hawai‘i Census, a number of Complete Count Committees have been formed to focus on hard-to-reach and hard-to-count populations statewide through dedicated outreach materials, special events, partnerships, advertising and other efforts.

By April 1, 2020 every household in Hawai‘i will receive an invitation to participate in the Census. Participants will be able to respond online, by phone or by mail. Starting the end of April through July, census takers will go door-to-door to gather responses from households that have not yet responded.

The Census will collect basic information about everyone living in a household. Strict federal laws protect all Census responses; data collected can only be used for statistical purposes. Participation in the Census is required by law.

For more information, visit www.HawaiiCounts.org or follow @HawaiiCounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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