

# PROGRAM EVALUATION & PLANNING DATA REPORT



Report No. 00-01: 09

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## Ancestry of Students Enrolled in Hawai'i Independent Schools (Grades K-12)

In the 1999-2000 school year, Kamehameha Schools (KS) sought and received endorsement from the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools for a survey of students' ancestry. The purpose of the survey was to answer two questions. First, how many of the students enrolled in Hawai'i independent schools are of Hawaiian ancestry? Second, what percent of Hawaiian students statewide are enrolled in independent schools?<sup>1</sup>

In the 1998-99 school year, there were 115 independent schools in Hawai'i serving students in grades Kindergarten through 12. These schools had a total enrollment of 32,102 students. Table 1 reports the distribution of these schools and their enrollment by DOE School District. The greatest concentration of independent schools was on O'ahu, which had 59 percent of the schools and 82 percent of the students in the State.

**Table 1. Hawai'i Independent Schools and Their Enrollment in Grades K-12 (SY1998-99)<sup>2,3</sup>**

District	Independent Schools		Independent School Students	
	N	%	N	%
Honolulu	38	33%	20,464	63%
Central	9	8%	2,194	7%
Leeward	9	8%	1,529	5%
Windward	12	10%	2,138	7%
<i>O'ahu Subtotal</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>26,325</i>	<i>82%</i>
Hawai'i	15	13%	2,013	6%
Maui	15	13%	2,228	7%
Kaua'i	8	7%	732	2%
<i>Total Regular Schools</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>31,298</i>	<i>97%</i>
Special Schools <sup>4</sup>	9	8%	804	3%
Grand Total	115	100%	32,102	100%

<sup>1</sup> In this report, independent schools refers to all licensed, non-public schools in Hawai'i. This includes Catholic and other church affiliated schools. All non-public schools enrolling students in Kindergarten or higher grades in Hawai'i are licensed by the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools under agreement with the Hawai'i Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes 13 schools that were pre-kindergarten or pre-kindergarten through grade 3 only (and one school with an enrollment in pre-kindergarten through grade 3, no students in grade 4, and 4 students in grade 5). These schools had a total enrollment of 1,379 students, 1,178 (85%) of whom were in pre-kindergarten classes with 125 of the remaining 201 students in Kindergarten.

<sup>3</sup> 1998-99 enrollment statistics are used in this report because that is the last year in which enrollment statistics for Hawai'i Catholic Schools, with an enrollment of over 11,000 students, were reported by school or district.

<sup>4</sup> Special schools are comprised of Hawai'i Job Corps and 8 schools enrolling special education students exclusively.

## Who Responded to the Survey?

All independent schools in the state that had enrollments of greater than 100 students and who served children beyond the preschool through grade 3 range were invited to participate in the survey.<sup>5</sup> The participating independent schools administered the surveys provided by Kamehameha Schools. It was suggested that parents be asked to complete the surveys for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 and that older students complete their own surveys. However, decisions regarding actual data collection were left to the individual schools. The survey form contained no information that identified it as coming from Kamehameha Schools, but this information may have been shared with respondents in a cover letter from their schools. Because all students enrolled at Kamehameha Schools must provide proof of Hawaiian ancestry as part of the admissions process, the survey was not administered to KS students.

**Table 2. Non-KS Hawai'i Independent Schools and Their Enrollment in Grades K-12 (SY1998-99)<sup>6</sup>**

District	Independent Schools		Independent School Students		Responding Schools		Responding Ind. School Students		Respondents as a % of All Independent Schools Students	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Schools	Students
Honolulu	37	33%	17,229	60%	20	48%	8,231	69%	54%	48%
Central	9	8%	2,194	8%	4	10%	720	6%	44%	33%
Leeward	9	8%	1,529	5%	2	5%	121	1%	22%	8%
Windward	12	11%	2,138	7%	3	7%	854	7%	25%	40%
<i>O'ahu Subtotal</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>23,090</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>9,926</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>43%</i>
Hawai'i	14	13%	1,885	7%	3	7%	702	6%	21%	37%
Maui	14	13%	2,100	7%	3	7%	405	3%	21%	19%
Kaua'i	8	7%	732	3%	2	5%	292	2%	25%	40%
Unidentified <sup>7</sup>					4		300			
<i>Total Regular Schools</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>27,807</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>11,625</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>42%</i>
Special Schools	9	8%	804	3%	1	2%	365	3%	11%	45%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28,611</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,990</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>42%</b>

As shown in Table 2, 42 (38 percent) of the 112 non-KS independent schools participated in the study. From these 42 schools, 10,990 students participated in the survey (42 percent of the total enrollment in the non-KS independent schools). The return rates varied by district from a low of 8 percent for the Leeward District to 48 percent for the Honolulu district. Response rates also varied among participating schools and among grades within schools. The lower response rates among Leeward and Maui schools are a potential source of response bias since 28 percent of DOE students in the Leeward District and 30 percent of all Maui students are identified as Hawaiian, compared to 26 percent of DOE students statewide.

In the study sample, there are slightly more female students, 54 percent, than male students, 46 percent. Data on the distribution of all independent school students by gender are not available for comparison to the sample. Elementary school-age students are slightly under represented in the survey sample, while secondary school-age students are slightly over represented. For example, 7 percent of the population was enrolled in Kindergarten, while 4 percent of the responses are for children in

<sup>5</sup> The exclusion of small schools eliminated 28 schools (25 percent of the 115 K-12 schools) and 912 students (3 percent of the 32,102 K-12 students) from the study. It is expected that the effect of eliminating 3 percent of the student population on the outcomes is likely to be small, if not negligible.

<sup>6</sup> Excludes the 3 KS campuses with a total enrollment of 3,116 K-12 students and 13 schools that are pre-kindergarten or pre-kindergarten through grade 3 only (and one school with an enrollment in pre-kindergarten through grade 3, no students in grade 4, and 4 students in grade 5).

<sup>7</sup> Four schools returned their surveys without sufficient information to identify the schools.

Kindergarten. Conversely, 9 percent of the population was in grade 9 and 11 percent of the responses came from grade 9 students. These were the most extreme cases, the discrepancy at other grades ranged from 0 to 2 percent.

### How Many Independent School Students are of Hawaiian Ancestry?

Students were asked two questions about their ethnic identity. First, they were asked to select one of thirteen ethnic/racial groups as their dominant ethnicity. To ensure the resulting data would be as comparable as possible, the wording of the item and the choices were the same as the item used by the Hawai'i Department of Education for ethnic identification. Eleven percent of the respondents marked Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian<sup>8</sup> as reported in Figure 1. Among other choices, Japanese is the largest group, 26 percent, followed by White, 22 percent. The proportion of students identified as Japanese, White, Chinese or Korean is much higher in the independent schools than in the public schools, while the proportion of students identified as Hawaiian or Filipino is much lower.

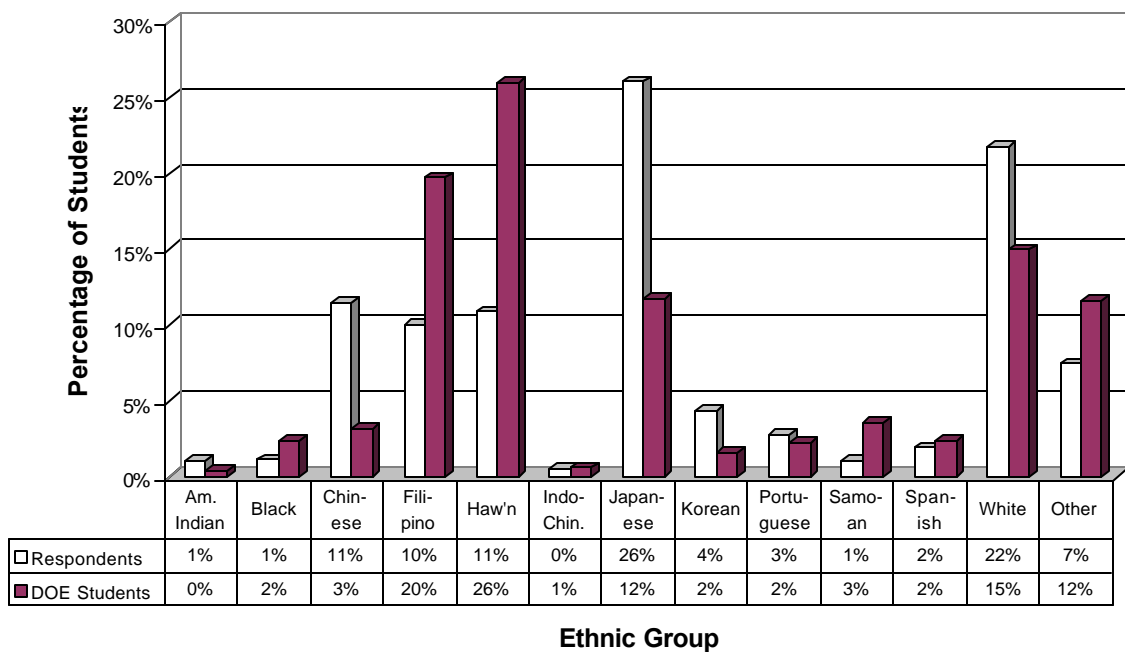


Figure 1. Distribution of survey respondents and all DOE students by dominant ethnicity.

*When asked if any of the student's ancestors were Hawaiian, 24 percent of the respondents answered "Yes."* In other words, 13 percent of the respondents chose another dominant ethnicity yet claim at least one ancestor who is Hawaiian. Among other ethnic groups, more than half, 57 percent, of the Portuguese students and more than a third, 36 percent, of the Samoan students have Hawaiian ancestors. Korean and White students are the least likely to be of Hawaiian ancestry, less than 10 percent for each of these groups. Between 15 and 25 percent of students identifying with the remaining ethnic groups are also of Hawaiian ancestry.

Assuming the survey data is representative of the population of independent school students and extrapolating from that data to the entire population results in an estimated 10,000 students of Hawaiian ancestry enrolled in independent schools, nearly a third (32 percent) of the total independent school enrollment. (See Tables 3 and 4 below.)

<sup>8</sup> Students identified as Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian ancestry are combined under the label of Hawaiian in these tabulations.

**Table 3. Number of Independent School Students of Hawaiian Ancestry**

No. Non-KS Students	X	Est. % of Non-KS Stud. of Haw'n Ancestry	=	Est. No. Non-KS Stud. of Haw'n Ancestry	+	No. of KS Students	=	Estimated Total of Haw'n Ancestry
28,611	X	24%	=	6,867	+	3,491	=	10,358

**Table 4. Percent of Independent School Students of Hawaiian Ancestry**

Estimated Total of Haw'n Ancestry	/	Total No. Independent Schools Students (incl. KS)	=	Est. % Stud. of Haw'n Ancestry
10,358	/	(28,611 + 3,491)	=	32%

Previous reports produced by Kamehameha Schools, also based on samples, estimated the Hawaiian independent school enrollment at about 8,500, 25% of the independent school enrollment in 1981, and at 6,900 students, 21% of the independent school enrollment in 1993. In the interval since 1981, Kamehameha Schools K-12 enrollment has grown by 780 students while total independent school enrollment in Hawai'i has declined from over 34,000 to about 32,000 students.

### What Proportion of the Hawaiian School-Age Population is Enrolled in Independent Schools?

Prior to answering this question, it is necessary to estimate the size of the Hawaiian school-age population. Two sources of data are available to establish a likely range for the size of the population. The first is the annual Health Surveillance Survey, which is conducted by a local research firm on behalf of the Hawai'i Department of Health. This telephone survey taps 5,000 households each year using a stratified random sampling methodology. The second is an extrapolation from birth data. 1996 births are used as the second basis for estimation in this report because it seems possible that changing social forces, including increased benefits of being identified as of Hawaiian ancestry, may have differentially affected reports of Hawaiian ancestry on birth records over the last two decades.

The 1999 Health Surveillance Survey results suggest there are approximately 67,000 Hawaiian children between the ages of 5 and 17. Extrapolation from 1996 birth records suggests the number could be as high as 80,000. Using these two estimates as upper and lower bounds suggests that, if 10,000 Hawaiian students are enrolled in independent schools, between 12 and 15 percent of all Hawaiian students in Hawai'i are enrolled in independent schools. (See Table 5.)

**Table 5. Estimated Percent of All Students of Hawaiian Ancestry in Hawai'i Enrolled in Independent Schools**

Source	Est. Total of Students of Haw'n Ancestry in Ind. Schools	/	Est. No. of K-12 Students of Haw'n Ancestry	=	Est. % of Students of Haw'n Ancestry in Ind. Schools
1999 Health Surv. Survey	10,358	/	67,000	=	15%
1996 Births	10,358	/	80,000	=	12%

### References

- Flynn, G. (February 2000). Personal communication: Results of special tabulations of Health Surveillance Survey data done for Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center.
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- Kamehameha Schools (1983). *Native Hawaiian educational assessment project: Final report, July 1983*. Author: Honolulu, HI.
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