

## Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey 2021 Community Resilience

Referring to the search for wholeness and balance, 'Imi Pono seeks a more complete picture of wellbeing among Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i residents. As the source and outcome of multiple factors, wellbeing feeds, and is fed by, many streams. Native Hawaiian perspectives on wellbeing emphasize relationships, interconnections, and balance.

Increasing and sustaining wellbeing requires relevant and actionable data. Despite composing more than one-fifth of Hawai'i's population and enjoying a unique and what should be a privileged status as the Indigenous people of the state, Native Hawaiians are typically reported within the broader category of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. In addition, data collected by state agencies are often narrowly focused and deficit based.

To that end, Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs contracted Marzano Research to administer a statewide survey examining Native Hawaiian wellbeing from a holistic and strengths-based perspective. The results will inform organizational planning and improve community services for Native Hawaiians.

## **Survey Topics**

The survey provides unique insight into a range of topics: cultural, community, and spiritual connections; civic engagement and leadership; quality of life; hope for the future; participation in cultural activities; interaction with the 'āina (the land or, more broadly, that which feeds) and kai (the sea); community strengths; and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey items were informed by previous research conducted in partnership with Native Hawaiian communities.

## **Purpose: Community Resilience**

The purpose of this brief is to understand the nature of community resilience across Hawai'i. County-level data are provided using a resiliency framework with four categories: sense of community, civic engagement, education and digital equity, and quality of life and hope for the future. Results may inform organizations and improve programs and policies that foster community resilience and wellbeing.











Resilience refers to the ability of individuals and communities to recover quickly from adversity. This trait is especially valuable in the wake of a major disaster or disruption. Studies show significant links among community resilience,<sup>1</sup> social capital,<sup>2</sup> and social sustainability,<sup>3</sup> suggesting that relationships and connections are critical factors.

From a Native Hawaiian perspective, community resilience stems from the interdependence of Akua (God, gods), kānaka (people), and 'āina (natural environment). When these relationships achieve lōkahi (harmony), communities can withstand or rebound from extreme challenges. Maintaining a pono (healthy or balanced) system can prevent or minimize hazards before they occur.<sup>4</sup>

Community resilience can be measured in many ways. For the purposes of this brief, vital indicators of community resilience are (1) sense of community, (2) civic engagement, (3) education and digital equity, and (4) quality of life and hope for the future. Sense of community is given special attention because it aligns well with a Native Hawaiian worldview of resilience. Analyses of open-ended survey items are included for related topics.

Key Findings 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Koliou, M., van de Lindt, J. W., McAllister, T. P., Ellingwood, B. R., Dillard, M., & Cutler, H. (2020). State of the research in community resilience: Progress and challenges. Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, 5(3), 131–151. https://doi.org/10.1080/23789689.2017.1418547

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Aldrich, D. P., & Meyer, M. A. (2015). Social capital and community resilience. American Behavioral Scientist, 59(2), 254–269. https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764214550299

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Magis, K. (2010). Community resilience: An indicator of social sustainability. Society & Natural Resources, 23(5), 401–416. https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920903305674

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Chun, M. N. (2006). Pono: The way of living. Curriculum Research & Development Group, University of Hawai'i.

## Community Resilience: Key Findings cont.

The key findings in this brief are:

- 1. Hawai'i residents exhibit resilience through a strong sense of community and civic engagement. Three out of four respondents (74%) reported feeling at least moderately connected to where they live, and half made donations to benefit their community in the past year.
- 2. Limited educational access and digital connectivity pose real challenges to community resilience. Over half (55%) of residents reported program costs restricted participation in educational programs to a moderate or great extent, and 45% said they do not have internet access that meets the speed and quality of their household needs.
- 3. Residents in rural communities were more likely to report a stronger sense of connectedness to their community. Residents in Kaua'i County and Hawai'i County reported feeling connected to their geographic community at rates higher than the statewide average (both 81% compared to 74%).<sup>5</sup>
- 4. Hawai'i residents remain relatively hopeful in the face of difficulty and uncertainty. Common community challenges reported were housing costs, homelessness, crime, and drugs. However, residents take comfort in community leadership and future generations to address these issues.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Rural communities also reported not having enough digital devices to allow all household members to be online at the same time (47% and 45% compared to 41%).

Key Findings 3

## Sample and Methods

Data were collected from November 2020 through February 2021, via email, phone, postcard, and social media. Respondents consisted of 755 Native Hawaiians and 703 non-Hawaiians, ranging in age from 18 to 55 and over. The highest percentages of survey respondents were in the most populated counties, Honolulu (57%) and Hawai'i (22%). The lowest percentages of survey respondents were in the least populated counties, Maui (13%) and Kaua'i (8%). The confidence intervals for the state and Honolulu County—including breakouts for Native Hawaiians within these areas—are 5% or less. Confidence intervals for other counties are greater than 5%; therefore, findings for these counties should not be generalized beyond the survey sample.

Given the data collection methodology, it is likely that survey respondents were more financially affluent than the general Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i populations. It is important to note that the survey results are a snapshot in time and that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of wellbeing are likely to be felt for years to come. Some negative impacts may continue to deepen despite the rollout of vaccines and gradual return to fuller employment and in-person learning.

Honolulu County residents were somewhat underrepresented in this survey, as they make up 68% of the state population but only 57% of the survey respondents. Maui County residents were proportionately represented, making up 12% of the state population and 13% of survey respondents. Hawai'i County and Kaua'i County residents were overrepresented, making up 22% and 8% of the survey respondents, respectively, compared to 15% and 5% of the state population.

The proportion of Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian residents varied slightly across counties. Hawai'i County had the largest proportion of Native Hawaiian residents with 58%, and Maui with the least proportion of Native Hawaiian residents at 46%. Residents across the four counties also varied slightly by age group, with residents age 18 to 24 making up the smallest share of survey-takers across counties, between 8% in Kaua'i County and 5% in Maui County. Maui County also saw the largest share of respondents age 55 and older with 41%, compared to Honolulu County with 31%.

Sample and Methods 4

## **Sense of Community**

### Family relationships are extremely important

A strong sense of community is integral to achieving and maintaining resilience. Social relationships create networks of support and reinforce feelings of belonging, which are essential to overcoming challenges. Community resilience begins in the home with healthy and caring families. When asked how important family relationships are to their wellbeing, 74% of Hawai'i residents answered "extremely important." Residents in Maui County (77%) and Honolulu County (75%) reported higher rates than the statewide average. Hawai'i County (72%) and Kaua'i County (67%) residents reported slightly lower rates (*Figure 1*).

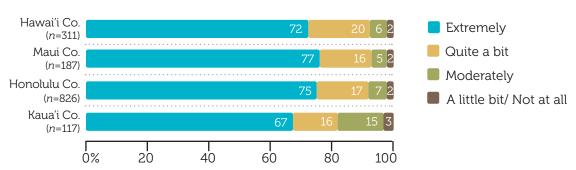


Figure 1. Maui County residents reported the highest rates of family importance.

# Most Hawai'i residents belong to a spiritual community

By providing an anchor in difficult or uncertain times, spiritual communities foster resilience. Statewide, 59% of Hawai'i residents reported feeling at least moderately connected to a spiritual or religious community, and 16% said they felt extremely connected to one. These sentiments were strongest among residents of Kaua'i County, where 70% reported feeling at least moderately connected and 18% felt extremely connected. Maui County residents registered the lowest rates, with 54% feeling at least moderately connected and 16% feeling extremely connected to a spiritual community.



Sense of Community 5

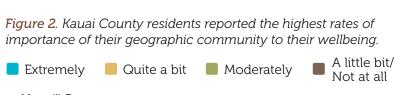
## Sense of Community cont.

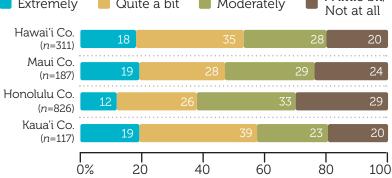
### Ethnic and cultural ties are common across Hawai'i

The social belonging and collective identity found within ethnic groups can bolster resilience. Seven out of ten Hawai'i residents (71%) reported feeling at least moderately connected to an ethnic or cultural group, and 15% felt extremely connected. Residents in Hawai'i County reported the highest rates of ethnic affiliation, with 76% saying they were at least moderately connected and 15% feeling extremely connected. Kaua'i County residents reported similar results: 75% at least moderately connected and 15% extremely connected. Residents in Honolulu and Maui counties reported percentages lower than the statewide average.

### Sense of place is especially strong in rural communities

Place has a profound impact on personal and collective identity. About three out of four Hawai'i residents (74%) reported feeling at least moderately connected to the geographic community where they live, and 15% said they felt extremely connected. A sense of place was most pronounced in Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties where 81% of residents said they felt at least moderately connected and 19% and 18%, respectively, felt extremely connected to their geographic community (*Figure 2*). Maui County residents, being slightly less rural, reported rates of 76% and 19% for sense of place. The most urban area, Honolulu County, registered the lowest rates of sense of place: 71% of residents said they felt at least moderately connected, and 12% said extremely connected.







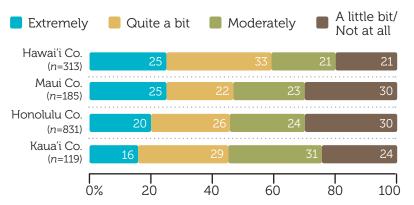
Sense of Community 6

## Sense of Community cont.

### Neighbors offer connections and support to Hawai'i communities

Close relationships with neighbors increase safety and community resilience. Across Hawai'i, 73% of residents reported feeling at least moderately connected to their neighbors, and 22% said they felt extremely connected. Hawai'i and Kaua'i counties reported the highest rates of neighbor connections, with 80% and 76% of residents saying they felt at least moderately connected and 25% and 16% feeling extremely connected, respectively (*Figure 3*). Residents in Honolulu and Maui counties reported slightly lower rates for these items, which referenced visiting with neighbors, watching each other's homes, and exchanging help.

Figure 3. Most residents reported feeling at least moderately connected to their neighbors.







Social relationships create channels for giving and receiving support. Statewide, 96% of residents reported they knew a relative or friend who would help in an emergency. Kaua'i County residents reported a lower rate (85%) than the rest of the counties. Across all counties, relying on support from 'ohana (family) or friends was the top strategy for coping with difficult times. The distribution of this item was as follows: Honolulu County (72%), Hawai'i and Maui counties (69%), and Kaua'i County (55%).

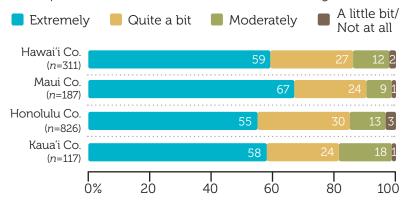
Sense of Community 7

## **Sense of Community cont.**

## Hawai'i residents care deeply about the health of the 'āina and kai

Natural capital is a critical asset for community resilience. Across Hawai'i, 58% of residents reported the health of the 'āina and kai were extremely important to their wellbeing. Statewide, only 2% of residents said it was not at all important to their wellbeing. Two-thirds of Maui County residents (67%) reported healthy 'āina and kai were extremely important to them (*Figure 4*). Comparative rates were between 55% and 59% for other counties.

Figure 4. Maui County residents reported the highest rates for the importance of the 'āina and kai to their wellbeing.



# Hawai'i residents interact with the 'āina and kai for multiple reasons

'Āina can be translated as "that which feeds." Land and ocean resources in Hawai'i sustain life and increase community resilience. Statewide, 64% of residents interact with the 'āina and kai for recreation, 53% for health reasons, 40% for cultural reasons, 37% for spiritual reasons, and 33% for subsistence. Compared to more rural counties, Honolulu County residents reported significantly lower rates of interaction for spiritual (34%) and subsistence reasons (26%).



## **Civic Engagement**

### Community issues matter to people

Getting involved with issues that impact the community and being a part of the political process are key factors in generating greater resilience. Among all Hawai'i residents, 27% reported they wrote a letter or submitted testimony on an issue that mattered to them. Kaua'i County and Maui County residents were most likely to have done so—39% and 34%, respectively. When it comes to voting, 86% of Hawai'i County and Maui County residents and 84% of Honolulu County and Kaua'i County residents said they did so in the election on November 3, 2020.



# Residents invest resources and time into their communities

Just over half of Hawai'i residents (52%) reported making a donation to benefit their community in the last 12 months. Results were similar across counties with the exception of Kaua'i County, which had the lowest rate (38%; *Figure 5*). When asked if they organized an event to address a community issue in the past year, 13% of all Hawai'i residents said they did. Hawai'i County residents (19%) and Kaua'i County residents (18%) reported rates above the statewide average.

# People, relationships, and the environment are key strengths

Hawai'i residents were asked, "What do: you feel are the two greatest strengths or assets in your community?" The most common responses were people and the way they treat one another. Responses align to the Kūkulu Kumuhana framework with respect for diversity, tolerance of others, and multiculturalism viewed as sources of Waiwai (collective wealth). As one respondent explained, "Community members can help each other, and they are united." Other comments reflected the importance of pilina (mutually sustaining relationships) built on friendly, caring interactions. For example, one respondent stated, "Most of my neighbors look out for each other's safety and wellbeing." Mentioned less frequently, the quality of the living environment (e.g., "location is beautiful") was a third strength cited by respondents.

Figure 5. Rates of making donations were similar across three counties in Hawai'i.

<b>38%</b> Kaua'i County (n=120)	53% Honolulu County (n=836)	<b>54%</b> Maui County (n=188)	55% Hawai'i County (n=314)
, <b>4</b>			

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## Civic Engagement cont.

# Housing, homelessness, crime, and drugs remain community challenges

Stubborn problems threaten to diminish community resilience across Hawai'i. The most frequently cited challenge concerned the lack of affordable housing. Respondents mentioned the high cost of housing as well as the influx of newcomers and foreign investment driving out local families. As one respondent explained, an ongoing challenge is "outsiders purchasing property that the local community cannot afford." A related example often mentioned was homelessness. In the words of another respondent, "I'm starting to see more homeless and panhandling around the area."

The prevalence of crime and drugs were also mentioned as community challenges. For the most part, respondents cited nonviolent crimes such as theft, burglary, and vandalism. However, respondents reported these behaviors made them feel less safe and comfortable in their neighborhood. Because the survey was administered during the initial COVID-19 surge, economic conditions and public stress likely escalated crime as well as drug use. One respondent stated, "Lately, public safety—with the lockdowns and economic distress—we have been having more residences broken into and property damaged (cars broken into, catalytic converters stolen)."

# The economy, COVID-19, and education are also areas of community concern

Respondents mentioned low-wage jobs, a lack of jobs, and job-loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic as major issues. One respondent stated that as a result of the economic downturn and an overreliance on tourism, "businesses are failing and we see stores/restaurants closing in our neighborhood." For communities where pilina (relationships) are so important, restrictions on social gatherings were seen as especially problematic. As one respondent described, "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our community hasn't been able to gather as normal." The lack of options and the poor quality of education constituted another challenge that one respondent described as "inequality of educational opportunities."

Gentrification and local people unable to afford homes and properties being bought as investment or vacation properties by outside residents or investors [is a major issue facing the Hawai'i community]"

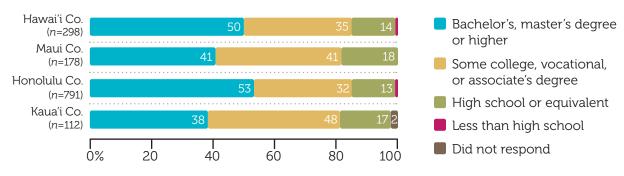
- Survey respondent

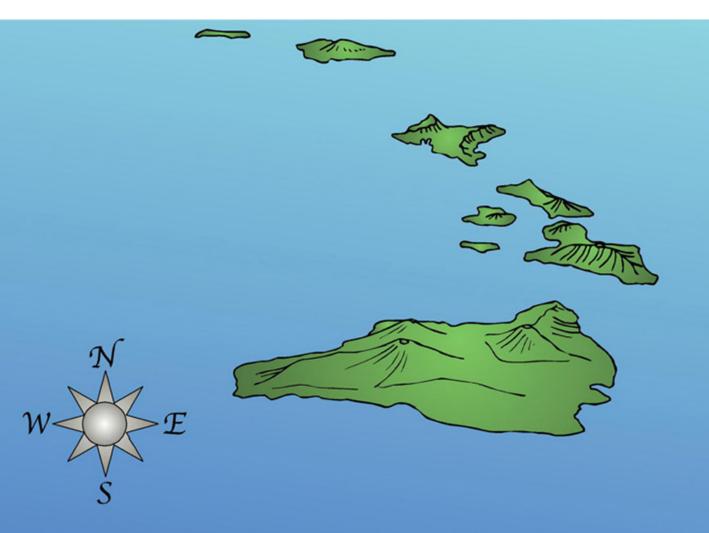
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## **Education and Digital Equity**

Survey respondents varied in terms of educational attainment and household income. Across counties, about half of respondents (49%) reported earning a bachelor's degree or higher. Educational attainment rates were highest among residents of Honolulu and Hawai i counties (53% and 50%, respectively; *Figure 6*).

Figure 6. Honolulu County and Hawai'i County residents reported the highest rates of holding a bachelor's degree, master's degree or higher degree.





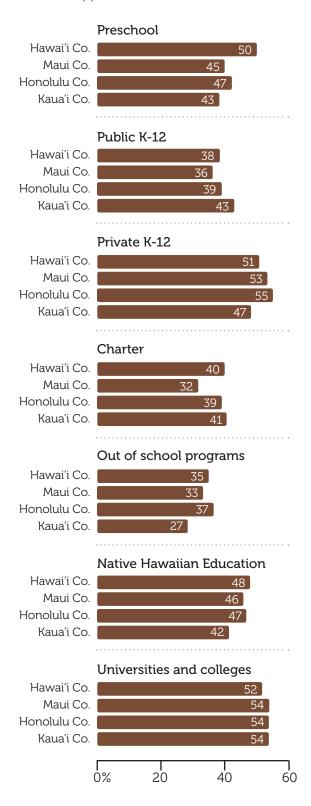
## **Education and Digital Equity cont.**

# Satisfaction with education varies by type and location

Meaningful educational opportunities maximize human capital and strengthen community resilience. When asked to rate their satisfaction with educational programs in their community, Hawai'i residents reported feeling most satisfied with private K–12 schools; colleges, community colleges, and universities; and preschools. Residents were less satisfied with public K–12 schools, charter schools, and out-of-school-time programs. *Figure 7* displays county-level results for educational opportunities in which respondents were at least satisfied or very satisfied.



Figure 7. Honolulu County residents were most likely to be satisfied or very satisfied in educational opportunities.

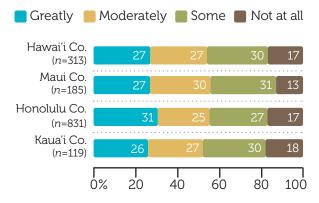


## **Education and Digital Equity cont.**

## Cost, paperwork, and transportation restrict educational access

Barriers limit participation in educational opportunities and reduce resilience. The largest hurdle for Hawai'i residents accessing quality education was tuition and program costs. Over half of all respondents (55%) reported this was a barrier to a moderate or great extent (*Figure 8*). Program requirements such as application forms and hours of operation limited participation to a moderate or great extent for 37% of all respondents. Distance and transportation were the third biggest challenge: 35% of people said these were inhibitors to a moderate or great extent.

Figure 8. Over half of residents across all counties indicated tuition and fees limited their access to educational programs.



# Transportation to educational sites is especially difficult for rural communities

Rural communities often lack reliable and affordable public transit. Half of Kaua'i County residents (50%) reported distance and transportation limited their access to educational programs to a moderate or great extent. Of this group, 21% said transportation restricted their participation to a great extent. In contrast, residents in Hawai'i (39%), Maui (32%), and Honolulu (31%) counties said distance and transportation limited educational access to a great or moderate extent.

# Hawai'i households face similar challenges with digital connectivity

Access to broadband internet service was an issue for some Hawai'i residents before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the rapid shift to distance learning and remote work highlighted inadequacies with digital connectivity. Statewide, 45% of households reported they did not have internet access that met the quality and speed of their needs. Similarly, 41% of households reported they did not have enough internet-capable devices for everyone to be online at the same time. Residents in Hawai'i (45%) and Kaua'i (47%) counties reported rates higher than the statewide average for this item (Figure 9). Residents in these same communities were also more likely to depend on public hotspots for Wi-Fi (10% and 17%, respectively).



Figure 9. Kaua'i County residents reported the lowest rates of having enough Internetcapable devices

**55%** Hawai'i County (*n*=314)

60% Maui County (n=188) 61% Honolulu County (n=836)

**53%**Kaua'i
County
(*n*=120)

## **Quality of Life and Hope for the Future**

#### Most residents are satisfied with their lives

Satisfaction with one's quality of life has a bearing on community resilience. The more community members are satisfied with their lives, the more time and resources they can potentially devote to others. Just over three-fourths of Hawai'i residents (76%) reported feeling satisfied or very satisfied with their quality of life. Looking across regions, this sentiment was strongest in Hawai'i County (80%) followed by Kaua'i County (77%), Honolulu County (75%) and Maui County (74%). Those living in Maui County registered the highest rates of feeling very satisfied with their quality of life, 29% compared to the statewide average of 25%.

### Hawai'i's families are hopeful about the future

Hope is a large part of resilience; it is incredibly difficult to recover or persevere without it. Two-thirds of Hawai'i residents (66%) reported feeling very hopeful or extremely hopeful about the future of their 'ohana (family). Hawai'i County residents (69%) reported the highest rates in this category, followed by Honolulu (66%), Maui (61%), and Kaua'i (60%) counties. When asked to consider the future of Hawai'i, respondents were a bit more reserved. Still, 40% of all respondents reported they were very hopeful or extremely hopeful about the future of Hawai'i. Kaua'i County (49%) and Hawai'i County (45%) residents reported rates higher than the statewide average (*Figure 10*). Maui County residents reported the average rate (40%), and Honolulu County residents reported a lower rate of 36%.

Hawai'i Co. (n=314)

Maui Co. (n=188)

Honolulu Co. (n=836)

Kaua'i Co. (n=120)

Maui Co. (n=836)

Maui Co. (n=836)

Maui Co. (n=836)

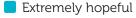
Maua'i Co. (n=836)

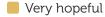
Maua'i Co. (n=120)

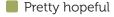
Maui Co. (n=836)

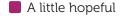
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Figure 10. Hawai'i and Kaua'i County residents were most hopeful about the future of Hawai'i.









Not hopeful at all

## Quality of Life and Hope for the Future cont.

# Hope rests in community leadership and future generations

Hawai'i residents were asked, "What makes you hopeful about Hawai'i's future?" The most frequent response was related to the Kūkulu Kumuhana dimension of Ea (self-determination. agency). Responses referenced the capacity that people, particularly youth, have to make change. One respondent took comfort in knowing "the young people's determination to make things pono (right)." The belief that future generations and new leadership can transform Hawai'i was mentioned often. For example, one respondent stated, "My generation and the younger generation seem to want change in Hawai'i for the better."

# Residents are skeptical about established politics, tourism, and outsider influence

Inasmuch as respondents placed their hope for the future in their children and the next generation, they also expressed disappointment and lack of hope related to current leadership (the inverse of Ea). Many responses referenced the absence of political will, comfort with the status quo, and corruption and ineffective policy. In simple terms, respondents felt political leaders cared more about their power and status than about the people of Hawai'i. In the words of one respondent, "Politicians care too much about money and tourism."

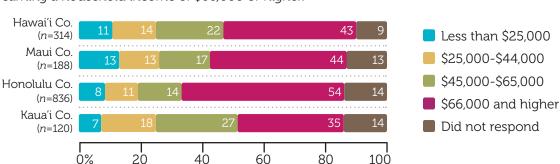


## Quality of Life and Hope for the Future cont.

The current political and economic climate has fostered conditions that create financial challenges for Hawai'i residents that are notable across counties. Studies have shown that 9% of households across Hawai'i live below the federal poverty level, and 33% cannot afford critical household necessities but earn enough to not be classified as below the poverty level.<sup>6</sup> These realities are evident in the data collected from respondents. Across counties, between 52% and 33% of residents reported making \$65,000 or less (*Figure 11*). Hawai'i currently ranks first in the nation for cost of living, residents paying on average 19% more that the nationwide average for housing, goods, and services.<sup>7</sup> This reality makes the prospect of living on \$65,000 or less bleak for residents.

Another reason residents felt less hopeful about the future had to do with the continued overreliance on tourism in Hawai'i. Respondents expressed disagreement with the primacy of tourism, believing the financial dependence on visitors is limiting and dangerous. As one respondent explained, "Short-sighted focus on tourism and other unsustainable growth" is one reason they were less hopeful about the future of Hawai'i. A related theme centered on foreign investments-particularly, nonlocals purchasing land and property in Hawai'i. Respondents reported outsiders were consuming precious resources and contributing to overcrowding and a loss of culture and way of life (the inverse of Waiwai). As one respondent put it, living on the islands is "getting too expensive, no outlet for people to learn culture and no teaching of respecting and helping our land."

Figure 11. Honolulu County residents reported higher rates of earning a household income of \$66,000 or higher.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> United Way of Northern New Jersey (2021). Meet ALICE. United for ALICE. https://www.unitedforalice.org/

leadership, their main focus is solely on tourism. I know how much tourist attraction is a huge part of Hawai'i, but they neglect their own people & homeland. We are not the mainland. We are Hawai'i, let's keep the aloha culture alive"

- Survey respondent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) (2020), Homepage, U.S. BEA, https://www.bea.gov/

## Conclusion

The topic of resilience continues to attract attention during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. When examined against four key indicators of community resilience, Hawai'i displays a mix of strengths and challenges. Sense of community—ranging from family and neighbor relationships to attachment to ethnic and spiritual groups—is where Hawai'i excels. Moreover, the strong connection residents feel toward the 'āina and kai fuels a desire not just to recover quickly but to achieve lasting sustainability.

Hawai'i residents demonstrate civic engagement by donating their time, energy, and resources to improving their community. In addition to voting, they participate in the political process by submitting testimony, speaking with local representatives, and organizing community events. Although some differences were seen across counties regarding these behaviors, there was general agreement about top strengths and challenges. People, relationships, and the environment were identified as common strengths, whereas cost of housing, homelessness, crime, and drugs were cited as major problems. Poor economic conditions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and educational inequity were also mentioned as key issues.

The main challenge to Hawai'i's resilience stems from educational and digital inequity. Low levels of satisfaction with educational programs and limited access in rural areas reduce human and financial capital. Likewise, the inability of some Hawai'i households to access reliable, high-speed internet for learning, healthcare, or employment decreases community resilience. Prior studies<sup>8</sup> have shown Native Hawaiians, rural residents, and economically disadvantaged groups to be especially vulnerable to educational and digital connectivity gaps.

Despite the challenges they face, Hawai'i residents remain fairly satisfied with their quality of life and maintain hope for the future. Life satisfaction was relatively stable across regions, with Hawai'i County leading the pack. Interestingly, people reported having greater hope for the future of their 'ohana than for Hawai'i in general. The reasons they were hopeful centered on community leadership and the capacity of future generations to effect change. In contrast, residents were less hopeful because of out-of-touch politicians, unchecked tourism, and the increasing presence and influence of outsiders.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Closing the digital divide: New bill can get Indigenous populations online. (2020, October 15). Access Now. https://www.accessnow.org/closing-the-digital-divide/; Digital Equity Declaration Faces Honolulu City Council Vote. (2021, June 2). Hawaii News and Island Information. https://bigislandgazette.com/digital-equity-declaration-faces-honolulu-city-council-vote/; Kwakye, I., Kibort-Crocker, E., Lundgren, M., & Pasion, S. (2021). The digital divide: Examining high- speed internet and computer access for Washington students. Washington Student Achievement Council. https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05-24-Digital-Divide-Report.pdf; Vogels, E. A. (2021, June 22). Digital divide persists even as Americans with lower incomes make gains in tech adoption. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/06/22/digital-divide-persists-even-as-americans-with-lower-incomes-make-gains-in-tech-adoption/; Vogels, E. A. (2021, August 19). Some digital divides persist between rural, urban and suburban America. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/08/19/some-digital-divides-persist-between-rural-urban-and-suburban-america/



## **Next Steps**

Data from the 'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey highlight levels of community resilience across Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Āina (the Hawaiian Islands). Rebuilding from the current health and economic crisis with a focus on increasing resilience and equity can increase Hawai'i's ability to endure future disruptions.

# The following actions may be taken to optimize community resilience at the state and county levels:

- Provision community leaders with resources and support.
- Invest in Hawai'i's public education system and broadband infrastructure to advance digital equity and inclusion.
- Support leaders who demonstrate systems thinking and a commitment to transformational change to deal with the socioeconomic challenges facing Hawai'i.
- Educate newcomers about the significance of honoring Native Hawaiian traditions and local culture.

#### Note.

The confidence intervals for the State and Honolulu County—including breakouts for Native Hawaiians within these areas—are five percent (5%) or less. Confidence intervals for other counties are higher; therefore findings for these counties should not be generalized beyond the survey sample.

Illustrations by artist Robin Racoma http://www.robinyokoracoma.com/ Design elements adapted from artwork by Kamehameha Schools' Kapālama and Hawai'i students.

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