



Kalo kanu o ka 'āina.

'EKAHI | CHAPTER ONE

# Native Hawaiian Population

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TARO PLANTED ON THE LAND.

*Natives of the land from generations back.*

# 1

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## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

Native Hawaiians—individuals descending from the original peoples of the Hawaiian Islands—have persisted through dramatic changes in their population numbers, from the initial decline after Western contact, to the revitalization of the population continuing to the current day. This section focuses on trends in the Native Hawaiian population based primarily on US census data, which reports on population numbers of Native Hawaiians based on self-identification of race/ethnicity.

Current population trends highlight an increasing number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i and a growing diaspora of Native Hawaiians who are geographically removed from the islands. The existence of an expanding diaspora points to the importance of access to homelands, traditional practices, and community resources for the social, emotional, and cultural well-being of Native Hawaiians (Kana'iaupuni and Malone 2006; United Nations 2006a, 2006b, 2006c).

## POPULATION SIZE

The number of Native Hawaiians is increasing at a rapid rate and now exceeds five hundred thousand (see Table 1.1). Over the thirty-year period from 1980 to 2010, the Native Hawaiian population increased by more than 200 percent. Some of that growth—particularly from 1990 to 2000—can be attributed to changes in race-reporting options offered by the US Census Bureau.

In 2010, the Native Hawaiian population reached 527,077, representing a 31 percent increase over the population in 2000.

**TABLE 1.1** Growth of the Native Hawaiian population in the United States  
[1980–2010]

US census year	Hawai‘i total	United States total
1980	115,500	166,814
1990	138,742	211,014
2000	239,655	401,162
2010	289,970	527,077

Sources: Gibson and Jung 2002; US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

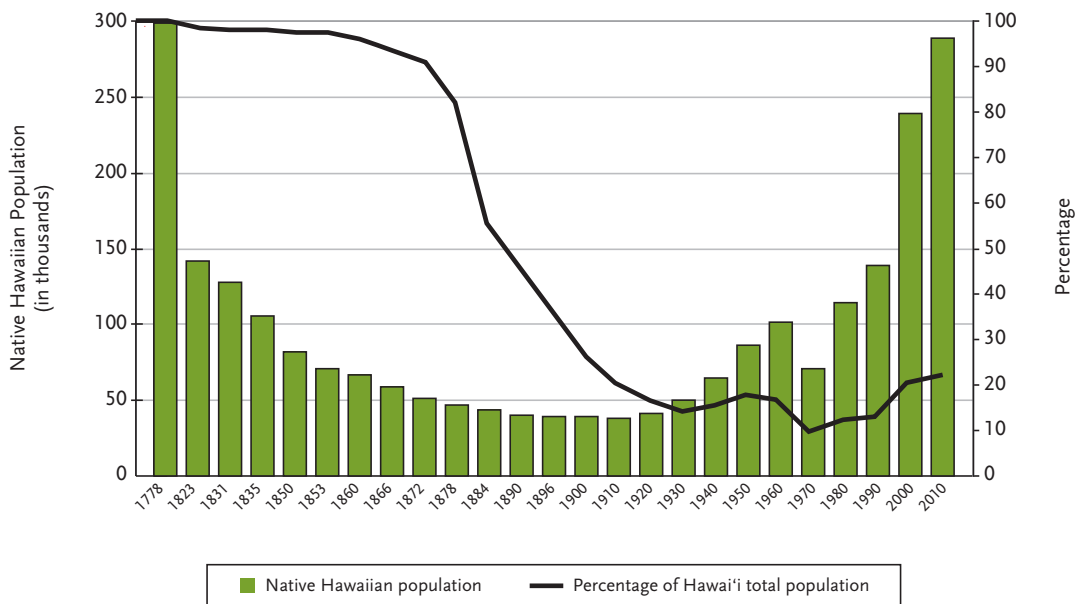
Note: The apparent surge in the Native Hawaiian population in 2000 is attributable in part to the US Census Bureau’s adoption of multiracial/multiethnic reporting. Prior censuses allowed respondents to report only one race/ethnicity.

It is well documented that the Native Hawaiian population suffered a great decline that started with initial Western contact and extended into the early twentieth century. Using 1778 as a starting point, Figure 1.1 shows the trend in the Native Hawaiian population living in the Hawaiian Islands up through 2010. The curving line indicates Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the total population in the Hawaiian Islands.

It should be noted that there is considerable dispute about the size of the Native Hawaiian population at the time of Western contact. Estimates range from Nordyke’s (1989) conservative estimate of 300,000 to Stannard’s (1989) estimate of 800,000.

According to the US census, there were 289,970 Native Hawaiians living in Hawai'i in 2010. Based on the conservative estimates published by Nordyke (1989), the number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i is now approaching the level reported at the time of initial Western contact. Native Hawaiians made up about one-fifth (21.3 percent) of Hawai'i's total population in 2010.

**FIGURE 1.1** Trends in the Native Hawaiian population in Hawai'i [1778–2010]

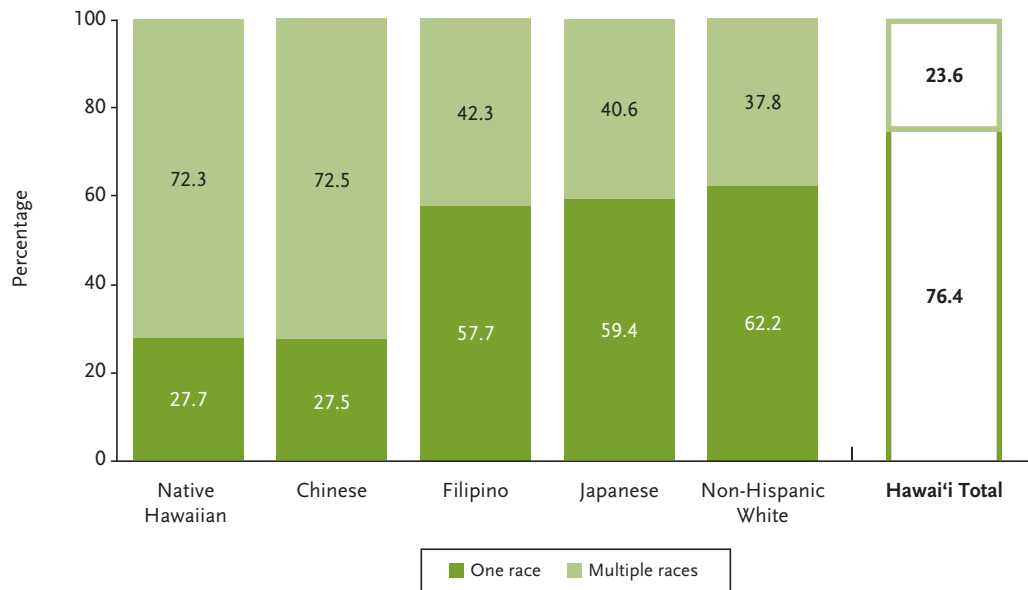


Sources: Nordyke 1989 for population from 1778 through 1980. US Census Bureau 1990, Census of Population; US Census Bureau 2000, Summary File 2; US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

Note: Figures for 1970 are not directly comparable with those of other years due to changes in census definitions of race that year.

One of the unique aspects of the population in Hawai‘i is the prevalence of people who identify with multiple races or ethnicities. Compared with the United States as a whole, Hawai‘i leads the nation in multiracial composition (23.6 percent compared with 2.9 percent respectively). The state with the second-highest prevalence of multiracial individuals is Alaska (7.3 percent) (US Census Bureau 2010).

**FIGURE 1.2** Multiracial diversity in Hawai‘i  
[by race/ethnicity, 2010]



Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

Compared with the state average, Native Hawaiians are more than three times as likely to identify as multiracial. Nearly three in four Native Hawaiians (72.3 percent) identify with at least one other racial or ethnic group compared to the statewide rate of 23.6 percent (Figure 1.2). This is particularly impactful when agencies collapse all people who identify with more than one race or ethnic group under the heading “two or more races” because up to 75 percent of Native Hawaiians are then obscured.

Besides multiracial diversity, another defining feature in the Native Hawaiian population is age structure. Understanding the age structure among Native Hawaiians is important for assessing specific needs—such as housing and schools—and for predicting the size of the labor force and of dependent populations.

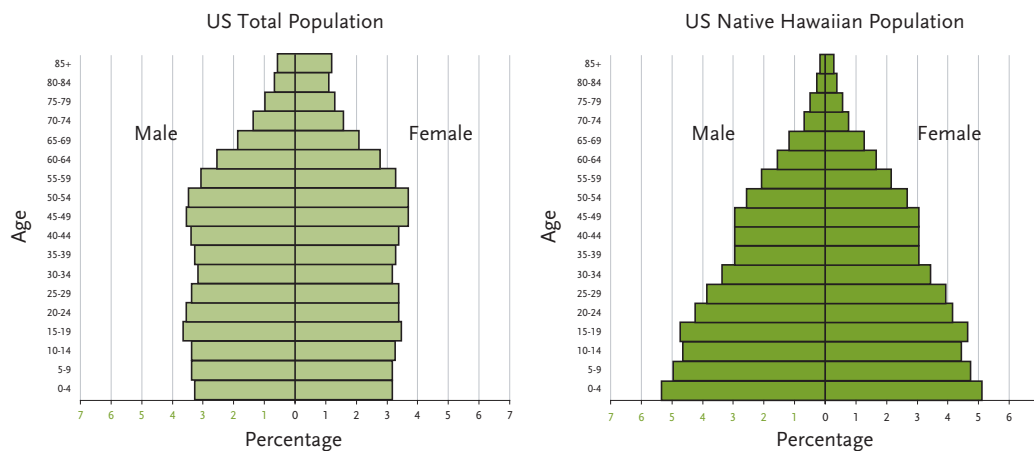
## POPULATION PYRAMIDS

To illustrate the age structure of Native Hawaiians, we use a population pyramid, which shows how the population is distributed across age groups. A pyramid with a wide base denotes a growing population with more young people and best represents the age structure of the Native Hawaiian population. A more rectangular shape denotes a stable population size. An inverted pyramid (narrower at the base) denotes a shrinking population.

The population pyramids below show the age and sex of the US population, the Native Hawaiian population nationwide, the Hawai'i population, and Native Hawaiians residing in Hawai'i. Additional figures show the population pyramids for Native Hawaiians by island.

Figure 1.3 indicates that the overall population in the United States is relatively stable, with slight bulges for the baby boomer and millennial generations. By contrast, the Native Hawaiian population, with its wide base, is a prime example of a growing population. The narrow top of the pyramid may also reflect high mortality and low life expectancy among Native Hawaiians. These topics are discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

**FIGURE 1.3** Age distribution of the population in the United States [2010]



Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

On the whole, the age distribution of the overall population in Hawai‘i (Figure 1.4) appears stable and is similar to that of the United States. Within the Native Hawaiian population in Hawai‘i, however, there is evidence of continuing growth and a comparatively young population. The relatively wide base of the Native Hawaiian pyramid reflects a more rapidly growing population for Native Hawaiians than for the statewide population.

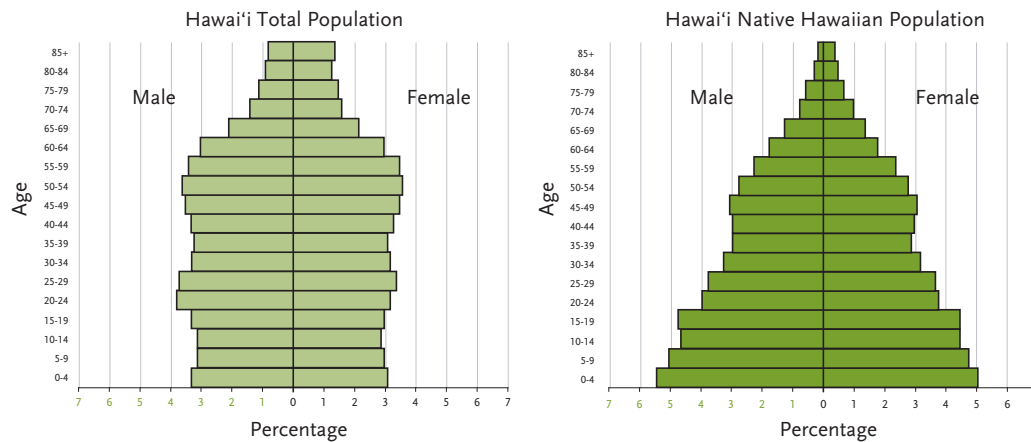
In Hawai‘i, 10.6 percent of Native Hawaiians are preschool age (four and younger), compared with 6.4 percent of the total population. Furthermore, 25.0 percent of Native Hawaiians are school age (five to seventeen), compared with 15.9 percent in the state (not shown). The relatively larger proportion of preschool- and school-aged Native Hawaiians, in addition to the growing Native Hawaiian population, indicates an increasing need for educational support for this population.

Within the Native Hawaiian population, the proportion of college-age individuals (ages eighteen to twenty-four) exceeds that for college-age individuals within the state. However, this trend reverses during the working ages, in which the proportion decreases for Native Hawaiians in relation to the state total population. This may be explained by the fast growth of the younger population, outmigration, and/or higher mortality rates among Native Hawaiians.

In general, population loss among Native Hawaiians accelerates around the ages of forty-five to forty-nine, which contributes to the narrowing peak of the pyramid. This loss is more pronounced among Native Hawaiians than it is among the total population in both the United States and Hawai‘i.

As is typical with most populations, life expectancy of Native Hawaiian females exceeds that of males. This is evidenced in the larger proportion of females compared with males near the top of the population pyramid.

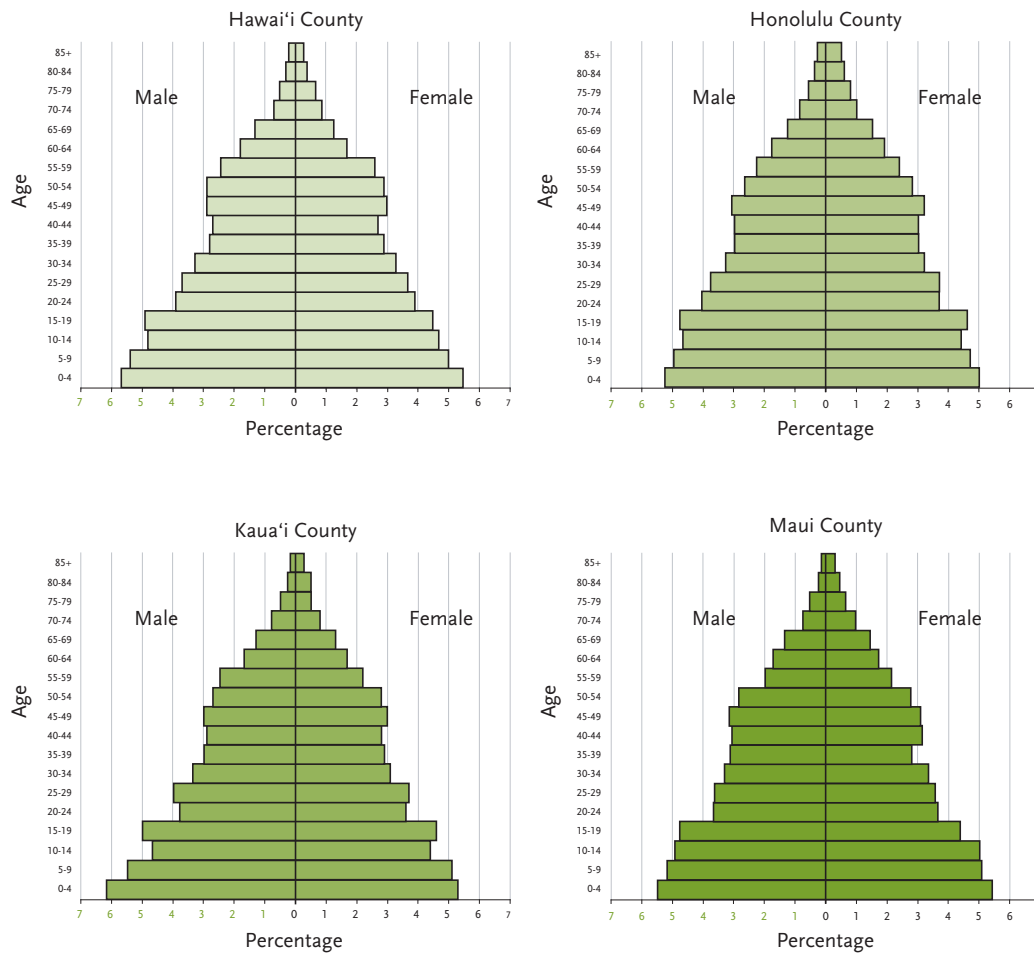
**FIGURE 1.4** Age distribution of the population in Hawai‘i [2010]



Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

The next set of figures shows the population pyramids for Native Hawaiians by county (Figure 1.5). The population pyramid for Honolulu County (which contains the majority of Native Hawaiians in the islands) is similar to that of other counties, with some subtle differences. Compared with the other counties, Honolulu County has a slightly smaller proportion of young Native Hawaiians, indicating that the Native Hawaiian population in Honolulu County is growing at a slower rate than in the other counties.

**FIGURE 1.5** Age distribution of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i, by county [2010]



Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

Note: Kalawao County is combined with Maui County due to the relatively small population of Kalawao County.

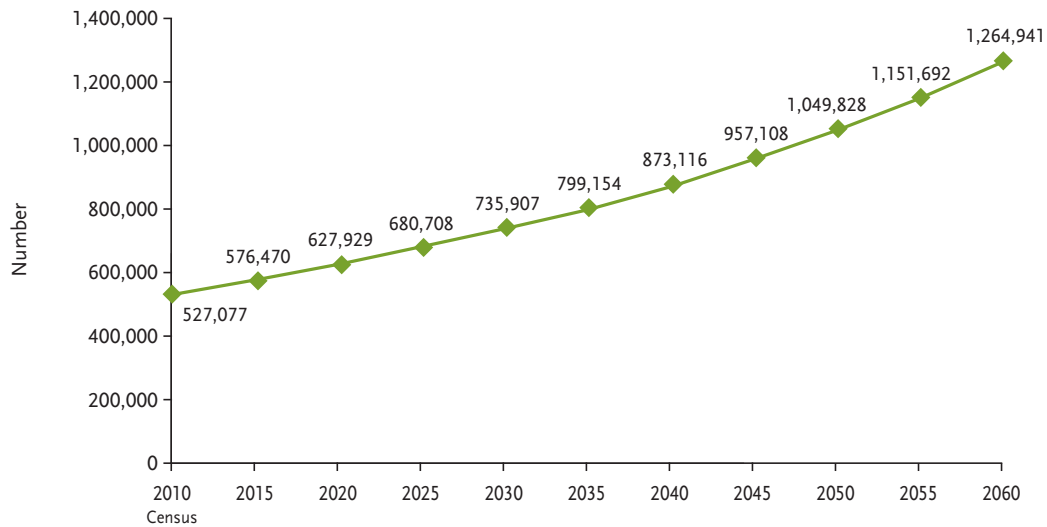
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The population projections in this section are based on a model of stability and constancy, which assumes that current fertility, mortality, and migration rates will hold steady from 2010 to 2060. These projections serve as a baseline for understanding and predicting the growth of the Native Hawaiian population. Numerous factors—such as education, the economy, government policy, health-care, and natural events—influence the growth and structure of a population but are not included in the statistical model.

Figure 1.6 shows the total Native Hawaiian population in 2010 and the projected number of Native Hawaiians in the United States through 2060. Based on the model described above, the US Native Hawaiian population will exceed one million by 2050 and reach 1,264,941 by 2060.

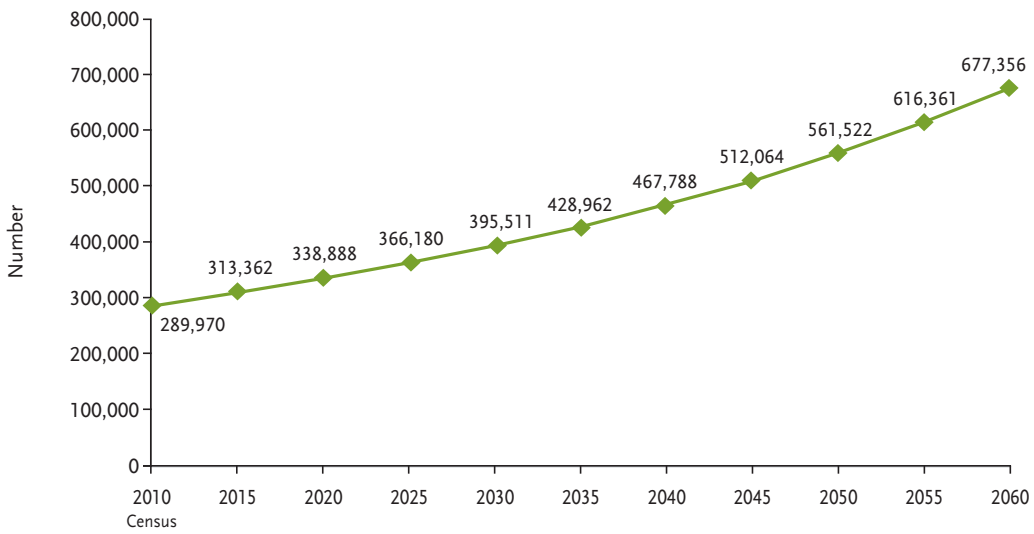
Figure 1.7 shows similar projections for Hawai‘i. According to these projections, the Native Hawaiian population will grow at an average rate of 1.71 percent annually and reach roughly 677,000 Native Hawaiians in 2060. These projections are in line with historical growth trends of Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i after adjusting for irregularities in historical data (see Figure 1.8).

**FIGURE 1.6** Projected number of Native Hawaiians in the United States [2010–60]



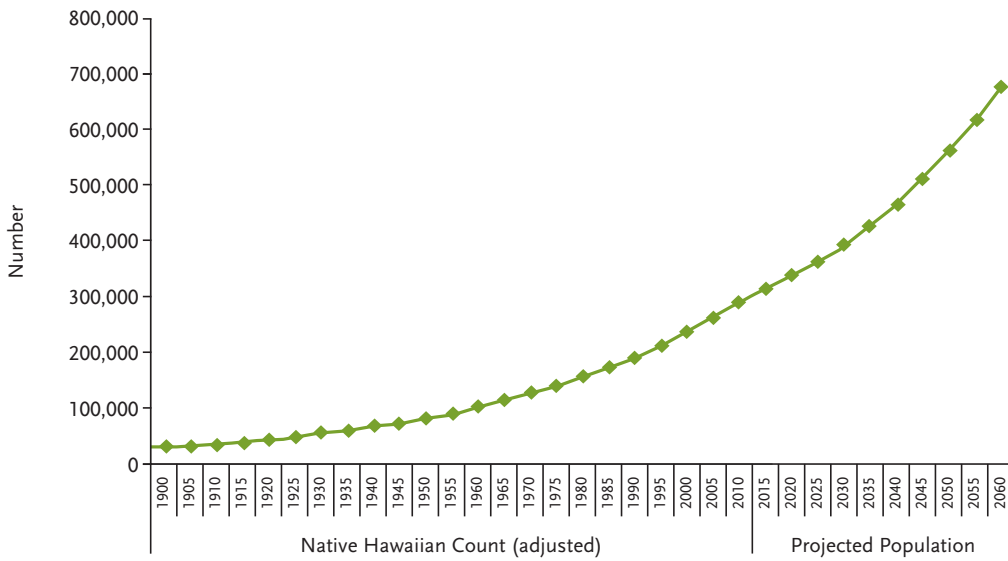
Source: Hong 2012.

**FIGURE 1.7** Projected number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i [2010–60]



Source: Hong 2012.

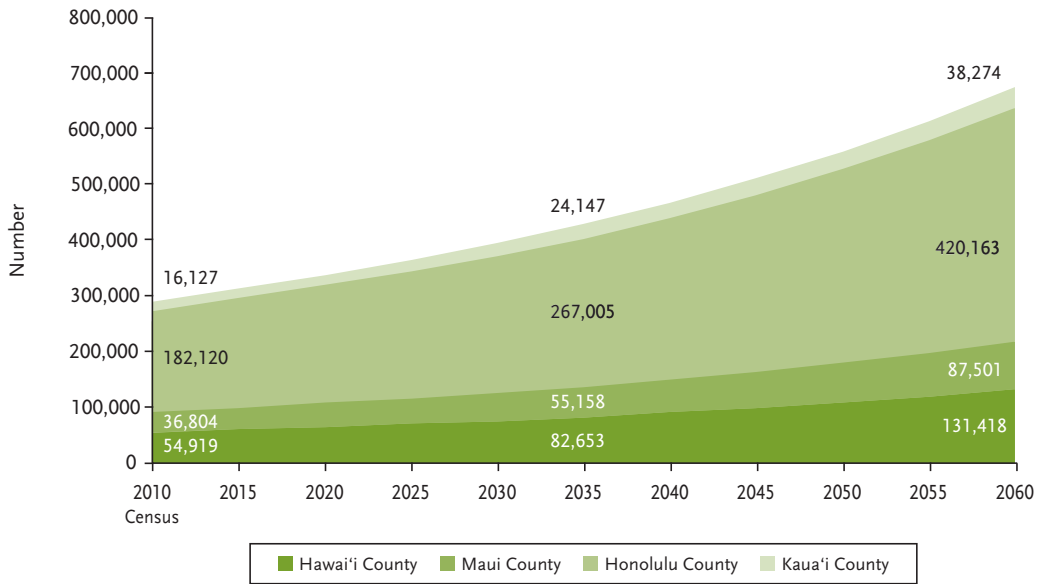
**FIGURE 1.8** Actual and projected number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i [1900–2060]



Source: Hong 2012.

Population projections by county are provided in Figure 1.9. It should be noted that predictions for smaller geographic units are subject to greater uncertainty due to potential changes in factors such as education, the economy, government policy, healthcare, and natural events.

**FIGURE 1.9** Projected number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i by county [2010–60]



Source: Hong 2012.

Note: Kalawao County is combined with Maui County due to the relatively small population of Kalawao County.

The age structure of the population is important for predicting population growth and the needs and resources of specific segments of the population. Table 1.2 and Table 1.3 present the expected age distribution of the Native Hawaiian population between 2010 and 2060.

Table 1.2 contains projections of the Native Hawaiian population in the United States; Table 1.3 provides similar information for Hawai'i.

**TABLE 1.2** Projected number of Native Hawaiians in the United States by age  
[2010–60]

Age group	Census 2010	Projection estimates									
		2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Total	527,077	576,470	627,929	680,708	735,907	799,154	873,116	957,108	1,049,828	1,151,692	1,264,941
0 to 4 years	55,794	75,610	79,865	83,503	88,446	99,166	112,613	125,305	136,632	148,589	163,432
5 to 9 years	51,852	55,511	75,215	79,451	83,070	87,981	98,638	112,016	124,645	135,916	147,808
10 to 14 years	48,491	51,817	55,473	75,164	79,397	83,014	87,921	98,571	111,940	124,561	135,823
15 to 19 years	50,053	48,318	51,631	55,274	74,895	79,112	82,716	87,608	98,222	111,543	124,118
20 to 24 years	45,029	49,496	47,783	51,058	54,659	74,066	78,235	81,799	86,638	97,137	110,310
25 to 29 years	41,628	44,397	48,799	47,111	50,339	53,889	73,024	77,134	80,648	85,419	95,772
30 to 34 years	36,293	41,024	43,752	48,087	46,426	49,605	53,103	71,960	76,011	79,473	84,175
35 to 39 years	32,320	35,583	40,219	42,891	47,135	45,511	48,626	52,053	70,541	74,511	77,905
40 to 44 years	31,817	31,388	34,571	39,066	41,664	45,775	44,204	47,227	50,554	68,515	72,369
45 to 49 years	32,349	30,266	29,846	32,897	37,159	39,636	43,526	42,043	44,914	48,075	65,165
50 to 54 years	28,019	29,999	28,075	27,674	30,528	34,467	36,768	40,353	38,992	41,649	44,574
55 to 59 years	22,481	25,360	27,156	25,418	25,049	27,652	31,209	33,288	36,519	35,296	37,694
60 to 64 years	17,629	19,800	22,333	23,913	22,388	22,048	24,375	27,491	29,325	32,142	31,082
65 to 69 years	12,707	14,736	16,566	18,683	20,007	18,738	18,445	20,416	23,012	24,544	26,880
70 to 74 years	8,229	10,252	11,895	13,386	15,096	16,172	15,149	14,906	16,518	18,608	19,841
75 to 79 years	5,921	6,250	7,791	9,033	10,182	11,478	12,293	11,526	11,321	12,589	14,155
80 years and older	6,465	6,663	6,960	8,098	9,466	10,845	12,274	13,412	13,396	13,126	13,839

Source: Hong 2012.

**TABLE 1.3** Projected number of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i by age  
[2010–60]

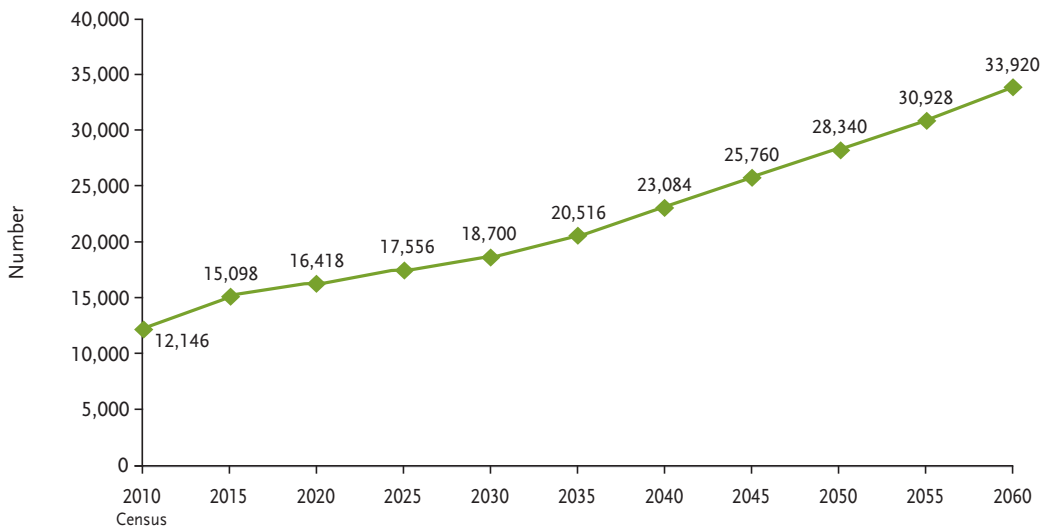
Age group	Census 2010	Projection estimates									
		2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Total	289,970	313,362	338,888	366,180	395,511	428,962	467,788	512,064	561,522	616,361	677,356
0 to 4 years	30,727	38,965	42,103	44,930	48,107	53,404	59,998	66,672	73,082	79,830	87,768
5 to 9 years	28,829	30,571	38,760	41,883	44,696	47,854	53,120	59,680	66,320	72,698	79,410
10 to 14 years	26,801	28,809	30,550	38,734	41,855	44,666	47,822	53,084	59,640	66,275	72,649
15 to 19 years	27,233	26,705	28,706	30,440	38,596	41,705	44,506	47,651	52,896	59,428	66,040
20 to 24 years	22,450	26,931	26,408	28,387	30,101	38,169	41,243	44,013	47,124	52,311	58,771
25 to 29 years	21,538	22,133	26,551	26,036	27,987	29,676	37,632	40,663	43,394	46,461	51,576
30 to 34 years	18,982	21,224	21,810	26,163	25,656	27,578	29,242	37,084	40,071	42,762	45,785
35 to 39 years	17,235	18,609	20,805	21,378	25,646	25,148	27,033	28,663	36,353	39,281	41,918
40 to 44 years	17,175	16,736	18,077	20,206	20,763	24,909	24,424	26,254	27,835	35,310	38,152
45 to 49 years	17,971	16,336	15,912	17,199	19,216	19,747	23,691	23,227	24,967	26,468	33,585
50 to 54 years	16,058	16,661	15,149	14,749	15,955	17,818	18,310	21,968	21,536	23,150	24,537
55 to 59 years	13,484	14,530	15,078	13,713	13,345	14,445	16,125	16,569	19,880	19,490	20,948
60 to 64 years	10,368	11,869	12,790	13,272	12,074	11,741	12,727	14,197	14,588	17,505	17,157
65 to 69 years	7,958	8,662	9,923	10,695	11,099	10,101	9,816	10,652	11,874	12,199	14,639
70 to 74 years	5,158	6,422	6,988	8,011	8,637	8,966	8,163	7,927	8,611	9,593	9,854
75 to 79 years	3,750	3,918	4,879	5,302	6,085	6,561	6,809	6,206	6,014	6,556	7,289
80 years and older	4,253	4,282	4,399	5,083	5,695	6,474	7,127	7,554	7,336	7,045	7,279

Source: Hong 2012.

In anticipating the educational needs of Native Hawaiians, the projected population for traditional school-age groups can be particularly informative. The next three figures show the projected Native Hawaiian population for age groups typically associated with preschool (ages three and four) (Figure 1.10), K–12 (ages five through seventeen) (Figure 1.11), and college (ages eighteen to twenty-four) (Figure 1.12).

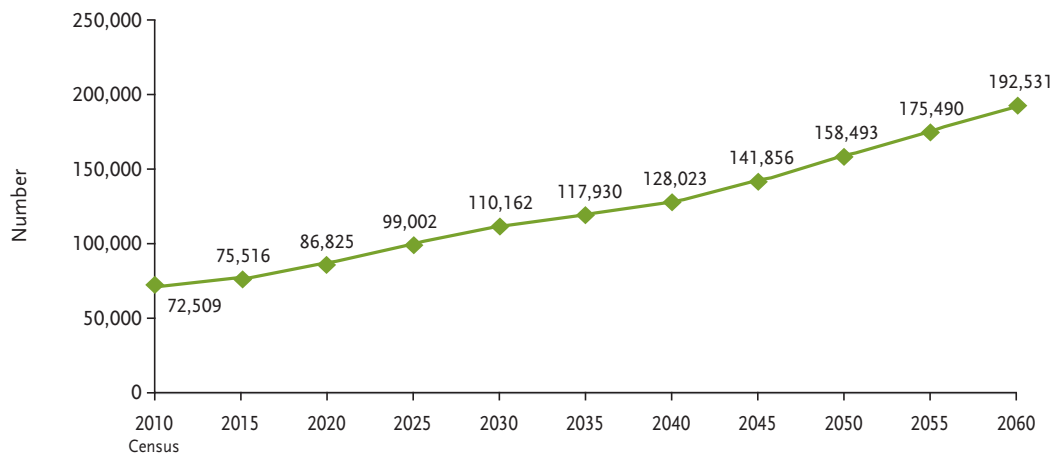
Figure 1.13 presents the estimate for adults ages twenty-five to sixty-five, as many people in this group are likely to be engaged in lifelong learning to maintain job skills and/or for personal growth.

**FIGURE 1.10** Projected number of preschool-age Native Hawaiian children in Hawai‘i  
[Native Hawaiian children ages 3–4, 2010–60]



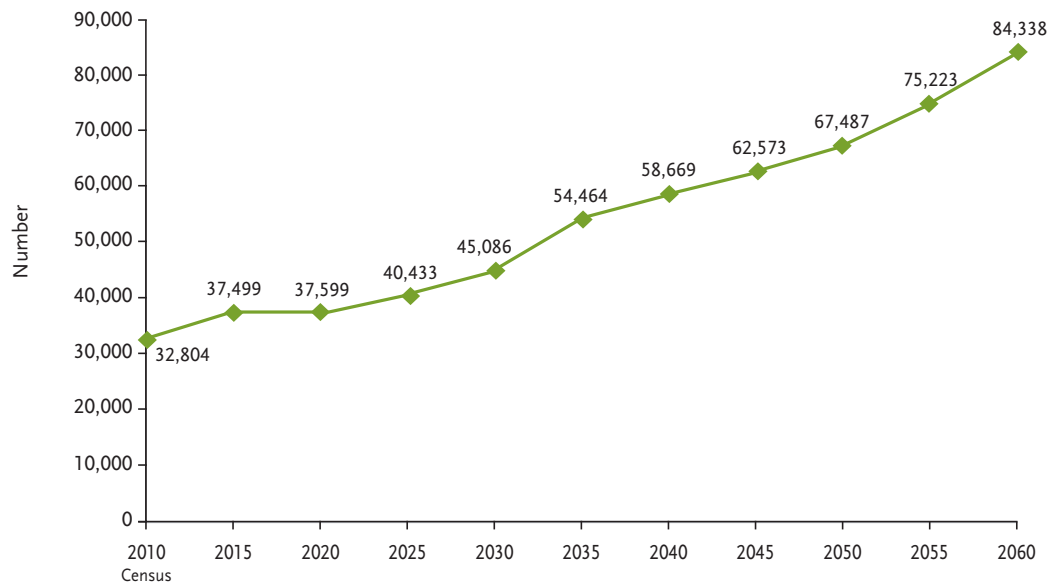
Source: Hong 2012.

**FIGURE 1.11** Projected number of school-age Native Hawaiian children in Hawai‘i  
[Native Hawaiian children ages 5–17, 2010–60]



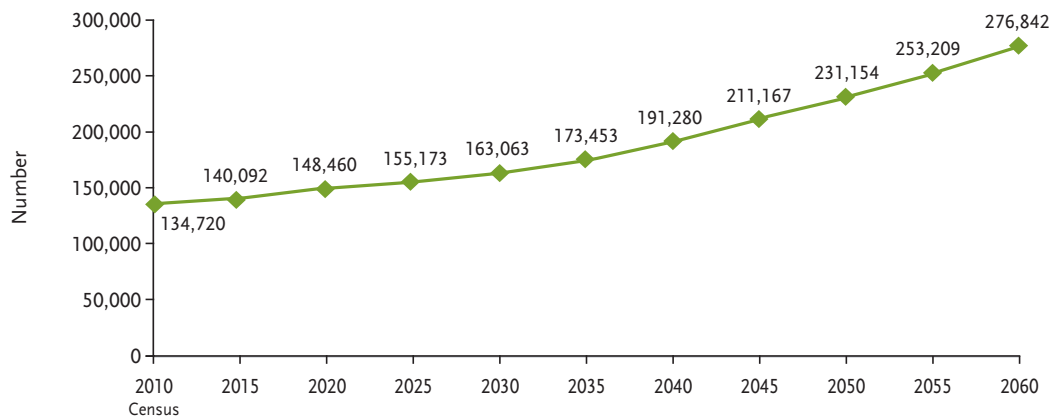
Source: Hong 2012.

**FIGURE 1.12** Projected number of traditional college-age Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i  
[Native Hawaiian adults ages 18–24, 2010–60]



Source: Hong 2012.

**FIGURE 1.13** Projected number of Native Hawaiian adults in Hawai‘i  
[Native Hawaiian adults ages 25–65, 2010–60]



Source: Hong 2012.

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

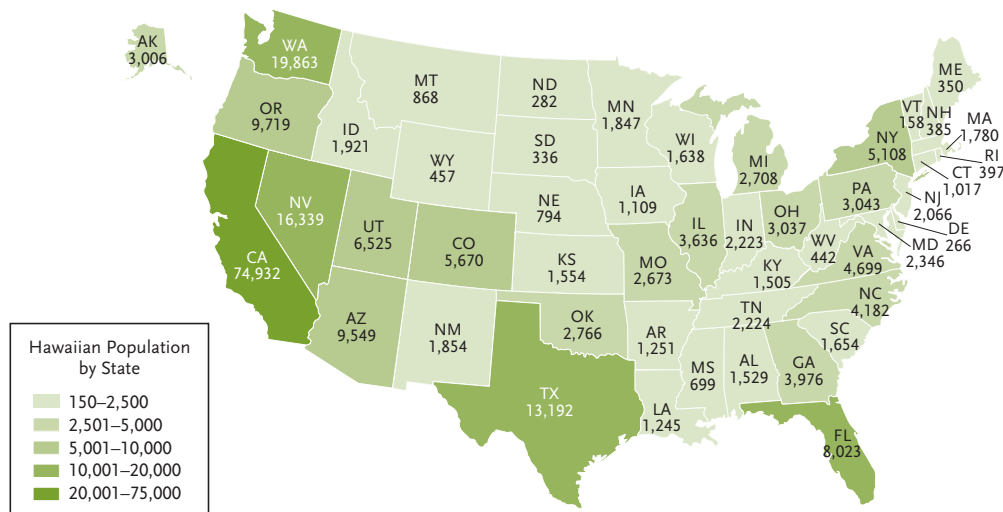
Many Native Hawaiians live outside the islands but maintain strong ties to Hawai‘i as a homeland and cultural base. Access to homelands, traditional practices, and community is central to Native Hawaiian well-being, regardless of place of residence (Kana‘iaupuni and Malone 2006). These realities are important to consider when planning the delivery of programs and services for Native Hawaiians.

Today, there are nearly as many Native Hawaiians who reside outside Hawai‘i as there are living in Hawai‘i. Forty-five percent of the total 527,077 Native Hawaiians identified in the 2010 census live within the continental United States or in Alaska. On the continent, the two states with the most Native Hawaiians are California and Washington. When Native Hawaiians living in Alaska and Hawai‘i are included, a total of 83.6 percent (440,673) of all Native Hawaiians in the United States live in the westernmost states.<sup>1</sup> The West Coast states alone contain nearly 20 percent of the total Native Hawaiian population (see Table 1.4).

In the past decade, the state of Nevada experienced some of the most dramatic growth in the Native Hawaiian population outside Hawai‘i. Nevada’s Native Hawaiian population was reported as 8,264 in 2000 (not shown) and nearly doubled to 16,339 by 2010. The majority of this growth was contributed by Clark County, the most populous county for Native Hawaiians outside Hawai‘i, where 14,071 Native Hawaiians currently reside (not shown).

Just as the concentration and distribution of Native Hawaiians vary across the nation, significant regional differences exist within Hawai‘i. This variation is highlighted in the table and figures that follow. Being aware of the geographic distribution of Native Hawaiians is critical for understanding the role that community resources play in Native Hawaiian outcomes and for ensuring appropriate planning and delivery of support services.

**FIGURE 1.14** Map depicting Native Hawaiian population in the United States, excluding Hawai‘i [by state, 2010]



Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

1. The westernmost states include Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, and Hawai‘i.

**TABLE 1.4** Concentration and distribution of Native Hawaiians in the United States by size of the state's Native Hawaiian population  
[2010]

State	Total population	Native Hawaiian population		
		Number	Concentration (%) <sup>1</sup>	Distribution (%) <sup>2</sup>
Hawai'i	1,360,301	289,970	21.32	55.01
California	37,253,956	74,932	0.20	14.22
Washington	6,724,540	19,863	0.30	3.77
Nevada	2,700,551	16,339	0.61	3.10
Texas	25,145,561	13,192	0.05	2.50
Oregon	3,831,074	9,719	0.25	1.84
Arizona	6,392,017	9,549	0.15	1.81
Florida	18,801,310	8,023	0.04	1.52
Utah	2,763,885	6,525	0.24	1.24
Colorado	5,029,196	5,670	0.11	1.08
New York	19,378,102	5,108	0.03	0.97
Virginia	8,001,024	4,699	0.06	0.89
North Carolina	9,535,483	4,182	0.04	0.79
Georgia	9,687,653	3,976	0.04	0.75
Illinois	12,830,632	3,636	0.03	0.69
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	3,043	0.02	0.58
Ohio	11,536,504	3,037	0.03	0.58
Alaska	710,231	3,006	0.42	0.57
Oklahoma	3,751,351	2,766	0.07	0.52
Michigan	9,883,640	2,708	0.03	0.51
Missouri	5,988,927	2,673	0.04	0.51
Maryland	5,773,552	2,346	0.04	0.45
Tennessee	6,346,105	2,224	0.04	0.42
Indiana	6,483,802	2,223	0.03	0.42
New Jersey	8,791,894	2,066	0.02	0.39
Idaho	1,567,582	1,921	0.12	0.36
New Mexico	2,059,179	1,854	0.09	0.35
Minnesota	5,303,925	1,847	0.03	0.35
Massachusetts	6,547,629	1,780	0.03	0.34
South Carolina	4,625,364	1,654	0.04	0.31
Wisconsin	5,686,986	1,638	0.03	0.31
Kansas	2,853,118	1,554	0.05	0.29
Alabama	4,779,736	1,529	0.03	0.29
Kentucky	4,339,367	1,505	0.03	0.29
Arkansas	2,915,918	1,251	0.04	0.24
Louisiana	4,533,372	1,245	0.03	0.24
Iowa	3,046,355	1,109	0.04	0.21
Connecticut	3,574,097	1,017	0.03	0.19
Montana	989,415	868	0.09	0.16
Nebraska	1,826,341	794	0.04	0.15
Mississippi	2,967,297	699	0.02	0.13
Wyoming	563,626	457	0.08	0.09
West Virginia	1,852,994	442	0.02	0.08
Rhode Island	1,052,567	397	0.04	0.08
New Hampshire	1,316,470	385	0.03	0.07
Maine	1,328,361	350	0.03	0.07
South Dakota	814,180	336	0.04	0.06
North Dakota	672,591	282	0.04	0.05
Delaware	897,934	266	0.03	0.05
District of Columbia	601,723	264	0.04	0.05
Vermont	625,741	158	0.03	0.03

Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

<sup>1</sup> Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the state's total population.

<sup>2</sup> Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the total Native Hawaiian population in the United States.

**TABLE 1.5** Concentration and distribution of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i by region/county subdivision  
[2010]

Region/county subdivision	Total population	Native Hawaiian population		
		Number	Concentration (%) <sup>1</sup>	Distribution (%) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Hilo–Puna–Ka'ū</b>				
Hilo	45,714	15,357	33.6	5.3
Ka'ū	8,451	2,409	28.5	0.8
Kea'au–Mountain View	34,266	11,362	33.2	3.9
North Hilo	2,041	421	20.6	0.1
Pāhoa–Kalapana	11,060	3,155	28.5	1.1
Pāpa'ikou–Wailea	5,213	1,170	22.4	0.4
<b>Kona–Kohala–Hāmākua</b>				
Honoka'a–Kukuihaele	3,925	1,156	29.5	0.4
North Kohala	6,322	2,284	36.1	0.8
North Kona	37,875	8,821	23.3	3.0
Pā'auhau–Pa'auilo	2,588	635	24.5	0.2
South Kohala	17,627	5,125	29.1	1.8
South Kona	9,997	3,024	30.2	1.0
<b>Maui</b>				
Ha'ikū–Pa'uwela	10,088	2,036	20.2	0.7
Hāna	2,291	1,314	57.4	0.5
Kahului	26,328	5,633	21.4	1.9
Kihei	23,677	2,643	11.2	0.9
Kula	11,580	2,152	18.6	0.7
Lāhainā	22,156	3,164	14.3	1.1
Makawao–Pā'ia	20,219	5,656	28.0	2.0
Pu'unēnē	8	0	0.0	0.0
Spreckelsville	461	40	8.7	0.0
Waihe'e–Waikapū	6,907	2,757	39.9	1.0
Wailuku	20,729	6,271	30.3	2.2
<b>Lāna'i</b>				
Lāna'i	3,135	611	19.5	0.2
<b>Moloka'i</b>				
East Moloka'i	4,503	2,616	58.1	0.9
Kalawao	90	46	51.1	0.0
West Moloka'i	2,752	1,865	67.8	0.6
<b>Kona O'ahu</b>				
Honolulu	390,738	48,024	12.3	16.6
<b>Ko'olaupoko–Ko'olaupoko</b>				
Ko'olaupoko	21,406	6,709	31.3	2.3
Ko'olaupoko	115,164	33,761	29.3	11.6
<b>'Ewa–Waialua</b>				
'Ewa	323,118	56,828	17.6	19.6
Wahiawā	41,216	6,018	14.6	2.1
Waialua	13,046	2,376	18.2	0.8
<b>Wai'anae</b>				
Wai'anae	48,519	28,404	58.5	9.8
<b>Kaua'i</b>				
'Ele'ele–Kalāheo	8,403	1,611	19.2	0.6
Hanalei	7,828	917	11.7	0.3
Kapa'a	8,385	2,176	26.0	0.8
Kaunakani–Hanapēpē	3,771	1,085	28.8	0.4
Kekaha–Waimea	5,561	2,069	37.2	0.7
Kōloa–Po'ipū	5,683	1,189	20.9	0.4
Lihū'e	5,943	1,311	22.1	0.5
Puhi–Hanamā'ulu	8,740	1,700	19.5	0.6
Wailua–Anahola	12,607	3,920	31.1	1.4
<b>Ni'ihau</b>				
Ni'ihau	170	149	87.6	0.1

Source: US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.

<sup>1</sup> Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the area's total population.

<sup>2</sup> Native Hawaiians as a percentage of the total Native Hawaiian population in Hawai'i.

Of the state’s total population of Native Hawaiians, the majority (about 62.8 percent) reside on the island of O‘ahu. Nearly one-quarter (22.5 percent) of all Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i reside in the ‘Ewa–Waialua area. Although residents of rural areas such as Moloka‘i and Ni‘ihau are predominantly Native Hawaiian, these regions account for a small fraction of the state’s total Native Hawaiian population (1.5 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively).

## CONCLUSION

The combined findings of this chapter demonstrate that the Native Hawaiian population is growing at a fast rate, is ethnically diverse, and is distributed throughout various regions in the Hawaiian Islands and on the continent. Of particular note is the relatively large growth occurring in the population of preschool- and school-age Native Hawaiian children.

As organizations seek ways to better serve Native Hawaiians through education and other programs, several persistent questions arise: Which age groups are the highest priority? What balance should planning efforts strike between regions that have the greatest numbers of Native Hawaiians and those with the highest concentrations of Native Hawaiians?

Regardless of how these policy questions are answered, population projections allow organizations to make informed decisions, target specific benchmarks, and determine strategic priorities.

Throughout the remainder of the text, geographic regions are referred to by their traditional Hawaiian moku name. The following map illustrates the naming conventions used throughout *Ka Huaka‘i*.

FIGURE 1.15 Geographic regions and naming conventions

