HAWAII

PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2026

PROPOSED 2030 CENSUS RULE

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE SAYS Published Sept. 10, 2026 (91 FR 57524). Comments closed Nov. 2, 2026.

Who is counted, and where (Part 60). People who are not U.S. citizens or green card holders, including students, workers on visas, refugees, and asylum seekers, would not be counted for apportionment (§ 60.4). Everyone else would be counted where they spent the most days from Jan. 3 to April 1, matched to tax records (§ 60.2, § 60.6).

What the census asks (Part 70). The form could not ask about race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, and only sex, date of birth, and household relationship would be required (§ 70.2). Demographic data could not be published if privacy protection would add any uncertainty to state or national counts (§ 70.3).

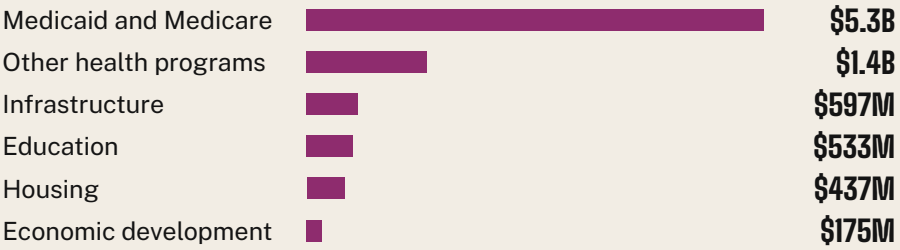
What it would mean: less accurate, less usable census data across the country.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR HAWAII

$8.2 billion

of federal spending guided by census data went to Hawaii in fiscal year 2023, through 371 programs. That is the 6th smallest of 50 states and DC.

WHERE THAT MONEY WENT



POGO's rough rule of thumb: missing 1% of Hawaii's residents could shift about **$82 million a year** until the next census. The real effect varies by program and by who is missed. Some programs count in more than one category. **SOURCES:** Sean Moulton and Janice Luong, "Census Matters: Why an Accurate Count Is Essential to Funding Our Communities" (POGO, Oct. 28, 2025) and its Hawaii fact sheet; Janice Luong and Sean Moulton, "How to Use POGO's Census Funding Data" (POGO, Mar. 19, 2026).

WHAT HAWAII TOLD THE CENSUS BUREAU

331 comments came from Hawaii. **>99% opposed the rule**. Of all comments that name a state, 97% opposed; of all comments, 88%.

331
COMMENTS
6th fewest of 50 states and DC

>99%
OPPOSED THE RULE
330 comments opposed; 1 supported

23
PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
18th lowest of 50 states and DC; the median is 28

57
ASKED FOR MORE TIME
to comment on the rule

ISSUES HAWAII COMMENTERS RAISED MOST

Share of comments raising each issue. Hawaii | All comments that name a state



HOW TO READ THESE NUMBERS

Every published comment counts once, including each copy of a form letter. Position is inferred from each comment by the comment analysis. State is inferred from the comment text and is subject to error. About 62% of all 148,532 comments name a state, so state totals undercount. Most comments that support the rule (85%) name no state, so Hawaii is compared with all comments that name a state. The government and organization lists on page 2 are a sample, not everyone who commented; each was checked by reading the comment. Quotes are exact; individuals are described as they describe themselves.

A SAMPLE OF HAWAII GOVERNMENTS AND OFFICIALS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES
County of Kauai (mayor)

A SAMPLE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATIONS WITH OPPOSING COMMENTS

Hawaii State Teachers Association
Ward Research
HIPRES
HCAN Speaks!
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center

IN THEIR WORDS: OPPOSING COMMENTS FROM HAWAII

> *"The Bureau held virtual consultation with tribal nations, but we are not aware of comparable consultation with the Native Hawaiian community or with Pacific Islander communities."*
>
> **Hawai'i Perinatal Research, Equity, and Systems Collaborative**
> Indigenous-led nonprofit for maternal and child health · Comment 148182

> *"Removing these questions would prevent people from identifying as Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, or another Pacific Islander group on the census form."*
>
> **Palauan and Native Hawaiian resident of Honolulu**
> writing as an individual · Comment 147046

> *"Just because you do not count them does not mean they are not there."*
>
> **Hawaii resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 97183

> *"Any undercount could negatively affect resources available to Hawaii's students and schools for years to come."*
>
> **Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA)**
> speaks for public educators in Hawaii's schools · Comment 117923

> *"During the period examined, Pacific Islanders represented approximately 4% of Hawai'i's population but accounted for 22% of reported COVID-19 cases and deaths. [...] we cannot make informed decisions about our communities when the data does not allow us to see them"*
>
> **Hawaii resident**
> writing as an individual · Comment 148310

> *"With this rule change you want to take away the one thing that we still have, to identify as a Native Hawaiian."*
>
> **Family born and raised on the island of Maui**
> writing as an individual · Comment 73776

> *"Native Hawaiians have a unique political and historical relationship with the United States, including federal trust responsibilities that must be honored."*
>
> **Pacific Islander working alongside NHPI communities**
> writing as an individual · Comment 140551

> *"This could discourage immigrant families from participating in the census, putting their children, most of whom are United States citizens, at risk of being missed."*
>
> **HCAN Speaks!**
> nonpartisan nonprofit for Hawai'i's children and youth · Comment 128394

Sources: public comments on docket USBC-2026-0628 at regulations.gov, as read and labeled by the analysts' comment analysis; position and state are inferred from each comment's text and are subject to error. Federal funding: Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Census Matters, Oct. 28, 2025 (fiscal year 2023 data). Prepared by Hands Off Our Census. Run Nov 23, 2026, 2:49 PM ET.

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