

GETTING TO KNOW HAWAII'S CENSUS GEOGRAPHY

(Based on the 2010 Census geography)

- **Hawaii has 5 counties, one of which is Kalawao County.** The 5 counties in the State of Hawaii are Honolulu, Hawaii, Kalawao, Kauai and Maui. Kalawao County is the part of Molokai Island known as the Kalaupapa Settlement. It is administered by the Hawaii State Department of Health. (Count: 5 counties)
- **Islands are not a separate census geographic level.** The 7 populated islands are Hawaii, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau. To obtain data for the island areas of Maui County and Kauai County, census tracts must be utilized. Within Maui County, Lanai Island consists of census tract 316.01; Molokai Island consists of census tracts 317, 318.01, and 319 (the census tract that is a part of Kalawao County); and Maui island consists of the remaining census tracts in the county. Within Kauai County, Niihau and Kaula Island is census tract 412 and Kauai Island consists of the remaining census tracts in the county. (Count: 7 populated islands)
- **Hawaii is the only state where the U.S. Census Bureau does not report data for “incorporated places” (or more commonly “cities”), although legally, the City and County of Honolulu is an incorporated city.** Instead, the Census Bureau, through an agreement with the State of Hawaii, recognized the 151 “census designated places” (CDPs) as “places” for data reporting purposes. Had the City and County of Honolulu been recognized as an “incorporated place”, census geography rules would have precluded the reporting of sub-county data, such as that for East Honolulu, Ewa, Mililani, etc.
- **Census designated places (CDPs) do not cover all land area in Hawaii and their boundaries may change over time.** “Census Designated Places (CDPs) are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places, and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. CDP boundaries may change from one decennial census to the next with changes in the settlement pattern; a CDP with the same name as in an earlier census does not necessarily have the same boundary. “¹ Therefore, CDPs are concentrations of population that only cover selected land areas in Hawaii. CDPs are also referred to as “cities” for only the State of Hawaii. The shortened term of “places” may also be used. (Count: 151 CDPs)
- **Honolulu Census Designated Place (CDP) was separated in 2010 into 3 areas – Urban Honolulu CDP, East Honolulu CDP and a portion placed in the already existing Hickam CDP.**
- **Census tracts cover all land area in the State of Hawaii and have boundaries that are fairly stable over time.** “Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity that are updated by local participants prior to each decennial census as part of the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program. Census tracts generally have a population size between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people. A census tract usually covers a contiguous area; however, the spatial size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement. Census tract boundaries are delineated with the intention of being maintained over a long time so that statistical comparisons can be made from census to census. .”¹ County planning offices in Hawaii provided our Department of Business,

Economic Development & Tourism with area names for each census tract. For example, census tract 52 is called “Chinatown”. We are one of the only states in the U.S. that have names assigned to each census tract. However, these are not official U.S. Census Bureau census tract names. Tracts are often used for “small area” analyses. (Count: 351 census tracts)

- **There are 2 areas in the State of Hawaii with the census tract number 319.** One is located on the island of Molokai and is comprised of the area designated as Kalawao County. The other is located in Maui County and consists of the area on the island of Maui known as Speckelsville. This is the only duplicate census tract number within the State of Hawaii. Duplicate census tract numbers are allowed within a state if they are in different counties.
- **The congressional districts used for the 2010 Census were the ones in effect for the 111th U.S. Congress.** After reapportionment which was based on the 2010 Census, the congressional districts for the 113th Congress were used by the Census Bureau. Hawaii had 2 congressional districts for both the 111th Congress and the 113th Congress. (Count: 2 Congressional Districts)
- **The census geographic level of Hawaiian Home Land first appeared in the Census 2000.** “Hawaiian home lands are unique to Hawaii and are lands held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended”.³ These boundaries are designated by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands which is a part of the Hawaii State Government system. (Count: 75 Hawaiian Home Land areas)
- **Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) closely approximate U.S. Postal Service’s zip code areas.** “ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are approximate area representations of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) five-digit ZIP Code service areas that the Census Bureau creates using whole blocks to present statistical data from censuses and surveys.”¹ The U.S. Postal Service does make changes to their boundaries at intervals. ZCTAs first appeared as a census geographic level in 2000. (Count: 94 ZCTAs)
- **There are no separate Public Use Microdata Sample Areas (PUMAs) for Kauai County, Kalawao County and Maui County.** PUMAs are geographic areas with populations of 100,000 people or more. They are the geography used to obtain raw data from a sample of the census records. Due to the population size limitations for Kauai County, PUMA 100 is the combined areas of Kauai County, Kalawao County and Maui County. There are no separate PUMA data for each of these 3 counties. Therefore, researchers and others are not able to study these areas separately using PUMAs. Hawaii has a total of 10 PUMAs. In 2013, for the first time, area names for each PUMA were provided to us by the U.S. Census Bureau. For example, PUMA 308 is named “Ewa”. (Count: 10 Public Use Microdata Areas)
- **Judicial districts are not a separate census geographic level.** Judicial district areas may be obtained by utilizing the Census Bureau’s county subdivision geography. See the conversion table contained in the file named “Creating Judicial District Geographic Areas” which is on our DBEDT website. (Count: 28 judicial districts)
- **Urban Honolulu Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers the same area as the City and County of Honolulu.** Urban Honolulu MSA covers the entire island of Oahu and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (except Midway), which is the same area covering the City and

County of Honolulu. The definition of a Metropolitan Statistical Area is that it contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population. Prior to the MSA listing published in 2013, Urban Honolulu MSA was a part of what used to be designated as Honolulu MSA. (Count: 2 Metropolitan statistical areas)

- **Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the State of Hawaii are the same as the counties they are located within.** Hilo Micropolitan Statistical Area consists of Hawaii County and Kapaau Micropolitan Statistical Area consists of Kauai County. Until 2013, Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina was known as Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina Micropolitan Statistical Area and consisted of Maui County (excluding Kalawao County). In 2013, this Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina area became a metropolitan statistical area. Micropolitan statistical areas contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population. (Count: 3 Micropolitan statistical areas prior to 2013)
- **Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was designated as a new MSA in 2013.** Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina MSA was designated as a new metropolitan statistical area by the federal Office of Management and Budget in their listing released on February 28, 2013. This area covers the County of Maui and includes Kalawao County which is on the island of Molokai. Prior to 2013, Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina MSA was known as Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina Micropolitan area. (Count: 2 Metropolitan statistical areas and 2 Micropolitan statistical areas after 2013)
- **There are 23 urban areas in Hawaii, 3 of which are urbanized areas and 20 of which are urban clusters.** The U.S. Census Bureau defines urban areas as “densely developed residential, commercial, and other non-residential areas”². The 2 kinds of urban areas are urbanized areas and urban clusters. Hawaii’s 3 urbanized areas are Kailua (Honolulu County)-Kaneohe (on Oahu Island), Urban Honolulu (on Oahu Island), and Kahului (on Maui Island). (Count: 3 urbanized areas; 20 urban clusters)
- **Rural areas are areas not included within any of Hawaii’s 23 urban areas.**
- **There was only 1 school district for the State of Hawaii.** This is due to Hawaii having one statewide school system. For the Census 2000, however, the National Center for Educational Statistics contracted with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide them with secondary school district (high school administrative districts) data for the State of Hawaii. This Census 2000 data by Hawaii high school districts is available on the National Center for Educational Statistics website. There were 45 secondary school districts in 2000. (Count: 1 school district)
- **The following are additional 2010 Census counts of Hawaii’s geographic area levels:** 44 county subdivisions; 25 Senate Legislative Districts; 51 House Legislative Districts; and 344 voting districts.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, “2010 Geographic Terms and Concepts” <<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/terms.html>>.

² U.S. Census Bureau, “Urban and Rural Classification” <<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/urban-rural.html>>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, “Guide to 2010 Census State and Local Geography – Hawaii” <http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/guidestloc/st15_hi.html>.

Source: Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis Division, Hawaii State Data Center.