



HĀ O KE KAI



2019 HAWAI'I CLIMATE CONFERENCE

“CLIMATE CHANGE & EQUITY”

Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and
Adaptation Commission

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US EQUITY PERSPECTIVE

- The US has the ***greatest income inequality across individuals among Western industrialized nations – and growing.*** (Gini Coefficient)
- The US ***ranks 27th in terms of “social justice” among the 31 OECD member nations*** – with ***“alarming poverty levels”***.
- Current research on “inequality” in the US and Europe indicates that ***greater inequality of income in the present leads to reduced intergenerational mobility in the future.***



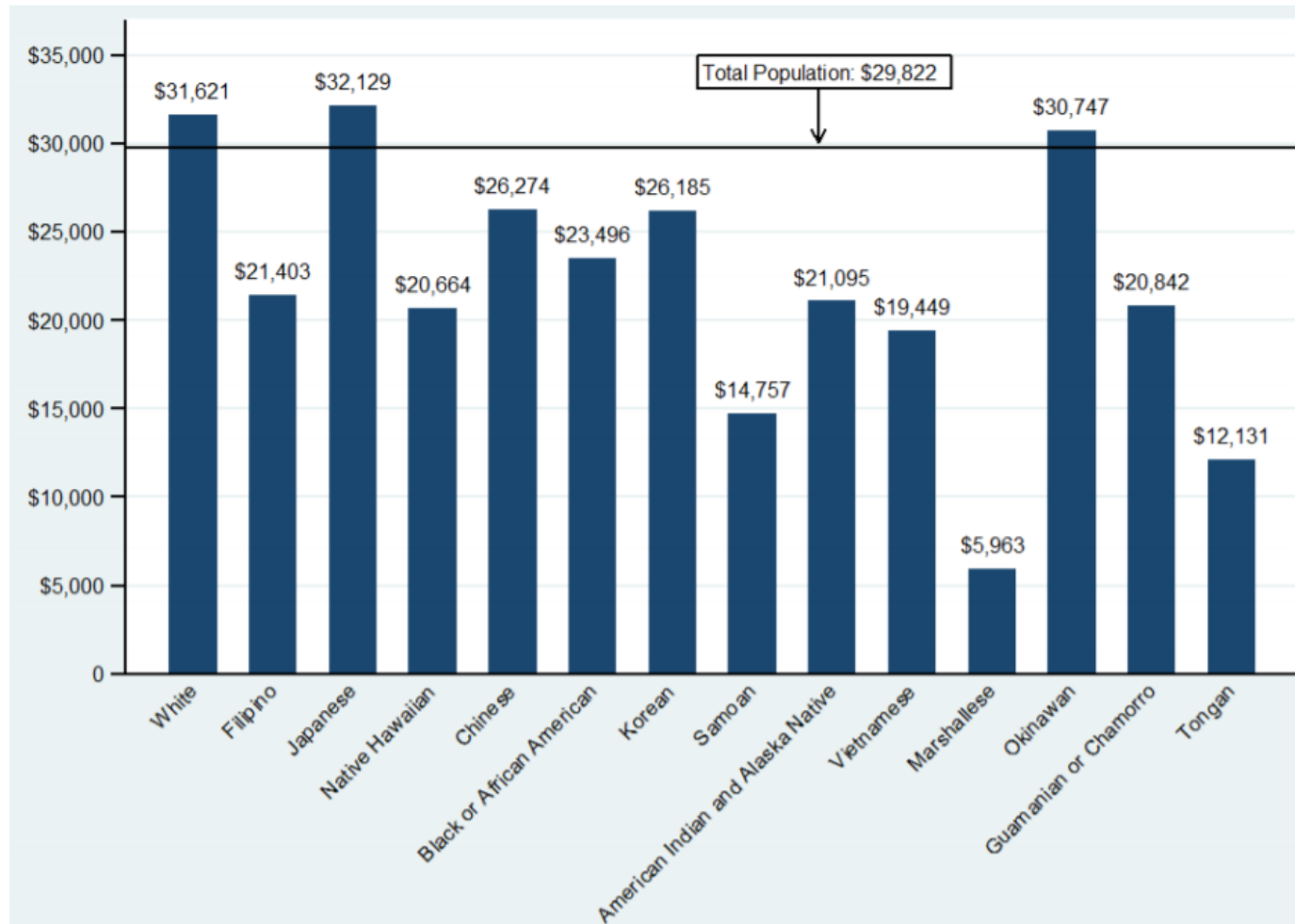


HAWAII EQUITY SCAN: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

- Hawaii “**Better**” in Many Areas Compared to Other States
- Most Diverse State (culture, workforce, lifestyle)
- A Legacy of Community Well-Being and Mutual Support

GRAPHIC FROM HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Figure 6: Per Capita Income by Race Group





HAWAII EQUITY SCAN CHALLENGES



Highest Cost of Living + Lowest Wages in US (*adjusted for Cost-of-Living/Available Govt Assistance*)

Nationally, 2nd Highest Tax Burden on Low-Income Households/Families in Poverty

Housing Crisis (*Affordability; Availability*)



HAWAII EQUITY SCAN CHALLENGES



1 of 8 Residents Face Food Insecurity

14% of Children Living in Poverty; rank **36th** in Education Domain (*2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation*)

- Below National Math & Reading Proficiency
- Low Preschool Enrollment (3-and 4-year olds)

THE JOURNEY FORWARD

Anchor Work in ***GOOD OUTCOMES*** for
“PEOPLE” and “COMMUNITIES” – with
special care for the most vulnerable.

“ALL HANDS ON DECK”. Continuous
Community-Wide Communications, Education
& *Meaningful* Engagement. Plan *“with”* *NOT*
“for” communities.

ALIGNMENT... Connect the Dots . Avoid a
Narrow *“Climate Crisis-Only”* Lens.



THE JOURNEY FORWARD

INSTITUTIONALIZE. Statute and policy trump “practice” and “personalities”.

Well-Developed **TRANSITION PLANS, ACTIONS, MEASURES & PROGRESS REPORTS**

BEST SCIENCE, DATA, REPORTING, PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY





MAJOR CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

- AGRICULTURE
- TOURISM
- TRANSPORTATION
- SMART GROWTH & LAND USE
- HOUSING AFFORDABILITY & AVAILABILITY
- TAXATION BURDENS
- GOOD JOBS/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

Follow the “**DECISION-MAKING**” and follow the “**MONEY**”!

- “WHO” Pays?
- “WHO” Benefits – *environmental, social, economic*?
- “WHO” is at the Table?
- “WHO” is NOT at the Table?





FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

- **What Disparities Currently Exist?** *How Does What is Being Proposed Address these Disparities?*
- **“HOW” and “WHEN” Do “I” Know What is Happening, i.e., meeting times, locations, availability and ease of public access to meaningful information.**
- **OPPOSITION. LISTEN – “WHAT”, “WHO” and “WHY”?**
- **DEEP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – “RADICAL HOSPITALITY”.** What approaches will be used to meaningfully engage *diverse communities, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and our most vulnerable in the process, i.e., homeless?*
- **PERSONAL EDUCATION, i.e., a 100% regular day walking and on transit (work, shopping, medical, etc), an evening schedule, use of an assisted device.**





MAHALO!



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