Ni‘ihau Area Community Profile

‘Ō‘amoi Kaha‘ino Kamalino Kawa‘ewa‘e Ke‘elināwī Ki‘eki‘e Ki‘i Kikepa Le‘ahi
Makahau‘ena Mauloa Nonopapa Pānī‘au Po‘ooneone Pōleho Pu‘ukole Pu‘uwai Waimea

I‘ihaulu Community Profile

CENTER ON THE FAMILY Aloha United Way
Hawaii Performance Partnerships Board The Health Initiative

Hawaii Kids Count
INTRODUCTION

Hawai‘i nō ka ‘oi—Hawai‘i the best—is a sentiment shared by many people in our island state. Those who have left and yearn to return home speak movingly about missing the best beaches in the world, delicious local grinds found no-where else, a mix of ethnicities at school, play, and work, and the aloha spirit that infuses even the smallest act. There are so many other things we can point to with pride:

• Hawai‘i has the lowest rates of child deaths and teen deaths in the nation
• Life expectancy is higher in Hawai‘i than anywhere else in the nation
• Three-fourths of Hawai‘i’s families eat dinner together 5 or more times a week
• More than 80% of Hawai‘i’s people feel they can rely on others in their community for help
• The average donation to charity is higher in Hawai‘i at every income level when compared to mainland giving.

There are, of course, many serious problems that require our attention and action. Some of these may seem monumental and insurmountable, such as the problem of drug abuse, but Hawai‘i’s people, working together, have overcome major obstacles in the past and can do so in the future.

This is one of 43 community profiles developed by the Center on the Family that can be used as a resource to improve conditions for children and families in your neighborhood. The profiles provide data and information about the people who live in specific geographic areas encompassed by a public high school and all of its feeder intermediate and elementary schools. Factual information provides a good starting point for making informed decisions and plans for strategic action. We hope that this first-ever presentation of data at the school/community-complex level will provide you with a better understanding of your community and spur you to take action to keep Hawai‘i nō ka ‘oi.

Ni‘ihau Area

The privately owned island of Ni‘ihau is home to only 160 people according to the 2000 U.S. Census. However, the actual number of residents is generally believed to be about 230 to 250 people. The number fluctuates, as it is common for some residents to go to Kaua‘i for weeks at a time in order to shop, receive medical treatment, or to secure employment. The Robinson family owns the entire island and employs most of the residents on the Robinson sheep and cattle ranch. For more than 100 years, access to Ni‘ihau has been limited, for the most part, to those families that live and work on the island.

This community ranks top in the State for the percentage of Hawaiian and Part-Hawaiian residents. The language and culture of old Hawaii is preserved at home and the ranch school where children are taught in English and Hawaiian. The per capita annual income is the lowest in the State at $5168 and almost half (45.5%) of all families receive food stamps. Only 11% of the island’s residents own their own homes; the Robinsons provide the houses occupied by their employees. There are no telephones or paved roads. Electricity is produced by in-home generators.

Reportable data for this community are very sparse. Much of the information regarding child safety, education, and adolescent attitudes are not available. Other data are difficult to interpret because the population numbers are so small. For example, this community ranks lowest in the State for teacher turnover (taught in same school for 5 years or more). However, there is only one school on the island and that school has only two teachers. The Census ranks Ni‘ihau as the highest in the State for residential stability (100% of the people lived in the same house for more than 5 years). However, this doesn’t take into account the frequent weeks-long absences of residents who spend time both in Ni‘ihau and Kaua‘i.
**Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ni’ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua’i County</th>
<th>State of Hawai’i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>58,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Race and Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ni’ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua’i County</th>
<th>State of Hawai’i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent choosing only 1 race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian and Asian combinations</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian alone or in combination with 1 or more other races</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race or choosing 2 or more races</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Ni’ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua’i County</th>
<th>State of Hawai’i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 - 64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Your Neighbors at Work**

- Production, Transportation & Moving: 0.0%
- Armed Forces: 0.0%
- Management & Professional: 14.5%
- Construction, Extraction Maintenance: 0.0%
- Farming, Fishing & Forestry: 32.7%
- Sales & Office: 0.0%
- Service: 52.7%
COMMUNITY

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ni'ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua'i County</th>
<th>State of Hawai'i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>$5,168</td>
<td>$20,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home ownership - owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>61.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential stability - lived in same house from 1995-2000</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents who are U.S. citizens born in Hawaii</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New immigrants - foreign-born residents who entered Hawaii since 1990</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents over age 5 with language other than English at home</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population over age 16 in the labor force</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>28,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with high school diploma or higher</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults with Bachelor's Degree or higher</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents reporting unsafe neighborhoods</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents lacking close neighborhood ties</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers with 5+ years at their school</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers with advanced degrees</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers reporting a safe school environment</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL SAFETY PERCEPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ni'ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua'i County</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of teachers, parents, and students who report their schools are safe</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*School quality survey data not available for Ni'ihau

FAMILY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ni'ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua'i County</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of families</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with children under age 18</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with children, headed by married couple</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents reporting close family ties</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents report checking child’s homework and other public school involvement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents reporting poor parental supervision</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents feeling positive about students’ safety</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families receiving food stamps</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population ages 21-64 with disabilities</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households lacking telephone service</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The 2000 Hawaii Student Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Survey was not conducted in Ni'ihau
CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ni‘ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua‘i County</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K – 8 students with health insurance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse rate per 1000 children</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Children ages 0-4 living in poverty</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ages 0-5 with all parents in the labor force</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Children ages 3-5 enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ages 6-8 with untreated tooth decay</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in public school program for limited English proficiency</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Reading: 3rd graders scoring below average</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Math: 3rd graders scoring below average</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school students in Special Education</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school 8th graders who feel safe at school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents reporting exposure to illicit drug use in their school and community</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Adolescents reporting a lack of interest in school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Teens age 16-19, not in school and not working</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school attendance</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rates of public school seniors</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school seniors with plans for 2 or 4 year college</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent accepted of the seniors with plans for college</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ELDERLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ni‘ihau Area</th>
<th>Kaua‘i County</th>
<th>State of Hawai‘i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Individuals age 65 &amp; older living alone</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Individuals age 65 &amp; older living in poverty</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Individuals age 65 &amp; older with a disability</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Grandparents who live in the same household as their grandchildren under age 18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>49,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Grandparents responsible for the care of grandchildren with whom they live</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ The U.S. Bureau of the Census does not report any data that represents fewer than 50 people.
There are various ways to assess the strength of a community. For this report, nine indicators of child, family, and community strengths were selected. Standard scores were derived for each of the nine indicators and summarized into a cumulative score for each of 42 school complex areas. A 43rd community, Ni‘ihau, was omitted from the index because some data were unavailable. Those communities that scored highest on the protection index are more likely to have children who are nurtured and doing well in school, families that are healthy, and communities which are economically vital.

REFERENCES


