

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

October 12, 2021

State of Hawaii, 2021 Reapportionment Commission
c/o Scott Nago, Secretary
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chairman Mugiishi and Members of the Commission:

This testimony is offered in my personal capacity and not as a member of the Kauai Advisory Council. The Kauai Advisory Council has yet to take a formal position canoe districting but will likely have this important discussion at its next meeting.

At the regular meeting of the Reapportionment Commission on September 9, 2021, as part of the discussion, decision and actions regarding standards and criteria governing the reapportionment and redistricting process, there was a decision made by the Commission that it would not use canoe districts. As a former State Representative who had the privilege of representing House District 12 from 1996 to 2002, a canoe district that covered east Maui and east and north Kauai, and as a constituent that was affected by the 1982 and 1992 reapportionments resulting in canoe districts, I strongly support the Commission's decision not to consider canoe districts.

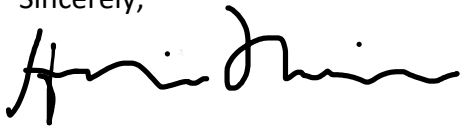
Canoe districts are patently unfair to the island and communities the legislator does not reside in. It takes a lot of extra effort in travel time and coordination to represent more than one island and it is more expensive both to represent and campaign in. But, more importantly, one always struggles to find creative ways to feel integrated in these communities where one does not live, many times having to choose between islands or county governments should conflicting schedules and at times, conflicting issues arise between islands.

When I represented the canoe district that covered east Maui and east and north Kauai, I felt very fortunate as I had lived on Kauai for more than 30 years but as a child grew up in Maui County (on Lanai) and as a teenager worked summer and school vacations in Hana. I had relatives living in east Maui and felt I had an excellent working relationship with my Maui county council counterpart, Kalani English, and senate counterpart, Avery Chumbley. I was a person with ties to Kauai and Maui in a unique position. However, as I mentioned earlier it was unfair to the east Maui communities I served as I was in the area only once or twice a month given the logistics of traveling between islands and the driving time between rural communities. While I understand that today's technologies will allow more opportunities for video conferencing/remote meetings, it is still not a substitute for one's presence in person and feeling a part of these communities. Other districts, which are confined to an island, take this for granted.

Also, a challenge faced when I was first elected as a canoe district legislator was seeking approval to cover additional travel expenses to serve a canoe district. Suffice it to say that during my first term I did not receive much support for the additional expense to serve a canoe district as such approvals were at the discretion by the Speaker of the House. Rightly so, the situation did improve and now, I believe, special considerations are given to legislators who represent more than one island.

I appreciate and support the Commission's decision and desire to apportion within basic island units. Thank you for allowing me to share my past personal experiences representing a canoe district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hermina Morita', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hermina Morita
P.O. Box 791
Hanalei, Kauai, HI 9671

minamoritaenergy@gmail.com

September 13, 2021

To: Members of the Reapportionment Commission
Fr: Julie-Ann Piikea Miller
Re: Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Reapportionment of Manoa Valley into House Districts 20 and 24

I am a long-time resident of Manoa Valley and I oppose the idea of slicing the valley in half into two separate districts. This makes absolutely no sense! We are one valley, one watershed, one ahupua`a. There are issues we must deal with as one community that will be greatly complicated if we have to work across two different districts. This will end up costing more in tax payer dollars and create additional burdens for any state or county agencies involved.

In addition as a resident of the eastern half of the valley I have more in common - sense of place, concerns about specific community issues, etc. with the western half of the valley than I do with people living in Kapahulu.

This is either gerrymandering or poorly informed re-districting!

Aloha Hawai'i State Reapportionment Commission. Mahalo for accepting my testimony on an extremely important item; that of establishing State House Districts for the next ten years. For over thirty years, I have lived in this District, and it feels as if we often seem to be an afterthought!

When I first moved to the north shore of Maui, we were represented in the State House by a resident of Kauai!

Currently, three of the most remote areas of the State, on three separate islands, are bunched together to form one Representative District. This is patently unfair!

This needs to stop and be changed! I would suggest that the section, on the North shore of Maui, which includes the area from Pa'ia to Hana, be placed in a District with part of upcountry Maui; Makawao, Olinda, Pukalani. Of course, the populations needs to be equal in all of the fifty-one Districts. Lanai may be placed with the West side of Maui, including Lahaina and the West side. Both areas are highly concentrated with tourism facilities, along with some rural areas. Molokai may be included in part of the region of central Maui; Wailuku has both urban and rural areas, such as Paukukalo and Kahakuloa.

I know this will then create three Districts with two of them having sections of two islands; Maui and Lanai plus Maui and Molokai. Part of Kauai and Ni'ihau is the only other District which includes parts of two islands. In the fifty-one member House of Representatives, as far as I am aware, there is only the 13th District with three islands bunched together. Actually, it is four islands; yet Kahoolawe currently has no permanent residents.

I am requesting that you give this situation the critical analysis and attention that it merits. The population and residents of the North shore of Maui, plus Lanai and Molokai, deserve to be treated equally to the other legislative Districts in the State. To just put and bunch them together because it may seem to be easy, is unfair and a terrible disservice to the people. No matter how the last few representatives have tried to balance this situation, it is wrong to allow the boundaries of the 13th District to stay and remain as it is currently drawn.

I know this may seem a Herculean challenge; it is not. The State of Hawai'i Reapportionment Commission is up to the task.

Mahalo for accepting my testimony.

NIKHILANANDA
102 West Waipi'o Road
Huelo Maui, Hawai'i
96708-5760
P.O. Box 1704
Makawao Maui, Hawai'i
96768-1704
nikhilananda@hawaiiintel.net
808-572-USUS(8787)
808-269-2218(cell)

Subject: **Reapportionment**
Date: 10/13/2021 4:10:56 PM Hawaiian Standard Time
From: drjlam@aol.com
To: drjlam@aol.com

>> i was just made aware of the reapportionment of manoa valley which will be split into two separate districts. i think this means we will have two different representatives for two sides of the valley. manoa needs a unified voice and splitting the valley will cause a change in loyalty. waahila ridge, manoa shopping center, neighborhood board representation, uh parking problems, paradise park, and countless other issues need one representative and a united voice. the public hearing on this topic is october 14 and the community knows little about this redistricting decision. what is your position on this and can we have more time to educate our community on who did this and why and what is their justification for this move?

>> thanks for your prompt attention to this matter! jeremy lam 222 5235

>>

Sent from my iPhone

October 13, 2021

Hawai'i 2021 Reapportionment Commission
c/o Scott Nago, Secretary
Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

(Via Email Only)

Re: Testimony for the Hawai'i State 2021 Reapportionment Commission's October 14, 2021 Meeting

Dear Hawai'i 2021 Reapportionment Commission:

Common Cause Hawai'i is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy and ensuring a fair and transparent reapportionment and redistricting process.

Common Cause Hawai'i repeats its request that the Commission promptly lists the schedule of meetings and public hearings, once approved, on its website to ensure greater public access and participation in Commission meetings.

Common Cause Hawai'i also repeats its request that the public be provided the opportunity to testify after each agenda item. The policy and intent of the Sunshine Law is clear: "the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of governmental agencies – shall be conducted as openly as possible". Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 92-1. Therefore, given the consequential matters that will be presented during the meeting which could influence public testimony, especially for agenda items IV, VI, and VII, the public should be allowed additional opportunity to testify after each agenda item and not be limited to giving testimony at the beginning of the meeting. "Periodic testimony may be especially appropriate in situations where a controversial or significant issue that was not anticipated develops during the board's discussions and decision-making." Kanahele v. Maui Cty. Council, 130 Hawai'i 228, 248, 307 P.3d 1174, 1194 (2013). Limiting the public to testifying at the beginning of a meeting will decrease the effectiveness and meaningfulness of testimony.

Common Cause Hawai'i specifically addresses Items VII, Presentation of Proposed Legislative Redistricting Plans by the Technical Committee Permitted Interaction Group. Common Cause Hawai'i wants to be sure that the proposed maps do not dilute the voting strength of the Native Hawaiian community. To this end, attached please find maps showing the current State Senate and House districts and locations of Native Hawaiian populations based on the American Community Survey (ACS). The U.S. Census, unfortunately, does not disaggregate the data to this level and consequently ACS data were used.

Special concern is raised with the proposed Senate Districts for Hawaii County – SDs 1, 2, 3, and 4. Given the maps provided by Common Cause Hawai'i, there may be an inference of cracking – where minority Native Hawaiian voters are split or fractured into several districts. If a minority population was placed within one district where they are a majority, the minority community could possibly have an

opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. Care also needs to be taken to prevent packing, which is when minority voters are compressed into a smaller number of districts to waste their collective strength, instead of effectively controlling one district or more.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 provides for drawing of majority minority districts to ensure that minority populations have a fair chance of electing candidates of their choice provided that certain criteria for drawing such majority minority districts may be met:

- The minority group is sufficiently large and geographically concentrated to make up a majority in a district.
- The minority group is politically cohesive. This means that the individuals that make up the group vote in similar patterns, e.g., they usually vote for the same candidates.
- The white majority usually votes together to defeat the minority-preferred candidates.
- Given the “totality of circumstances” listed above, the minority group has less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the electoral process and to elect representatives of its choice.

As for the proposed House Districts, Common Cause Hawai'i raises concerns of political gerrymandering. The proposed Oahu House Districts, while within deviation, from Middle Street to the Diamond Head area look suspect (specifically proposed HD20 and HD21). Further, a significant community of interest – a public housing complex – is split between proposed HD26, HD27, and HD29. Common Cause Hawai'i reserves the right to raise further concerns with the proposed maps.

Common Cause Hawai'i wants to ensure that the Hawai'i 2021 Reapportionment Commission's proposed maps do not dilute the minority vote but instead are equitable and inclusive maps that ensure that voters of color have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Additionally, Common Cause Hawai'i cautions that gerrymandering hurts our communities, and the proposed maps must be fair and drawn to allow the people to vote for and elect representatives of their choice. Redistricting maps should **not** be drawn to make it impossible to vote out incumbent legislators or to retaliate against a legislator who is too independent.

If you have any questions or concerns, I am available to discuss further at 808-275-6275 or sma@commoncause.org.

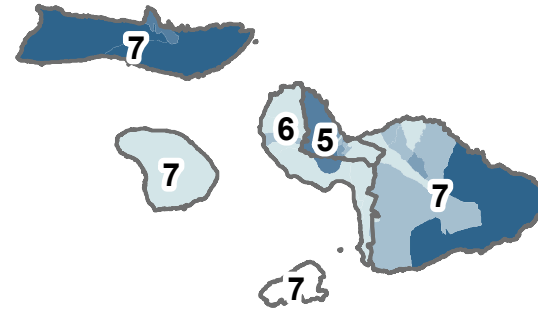
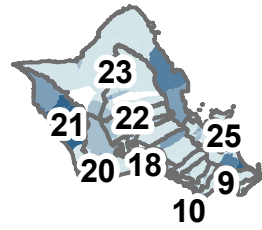
Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma

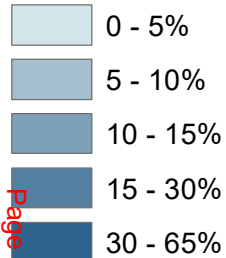
Sandy Ma
Executive Director
Common Cause Hawaii

Attachments

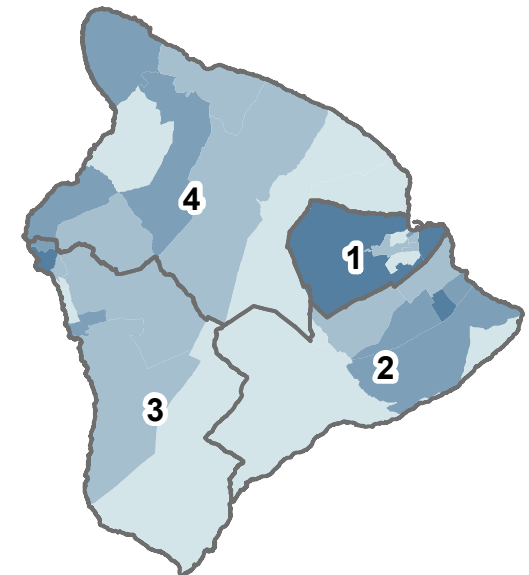
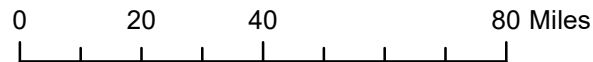
Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State Senate Districts in Hawaii



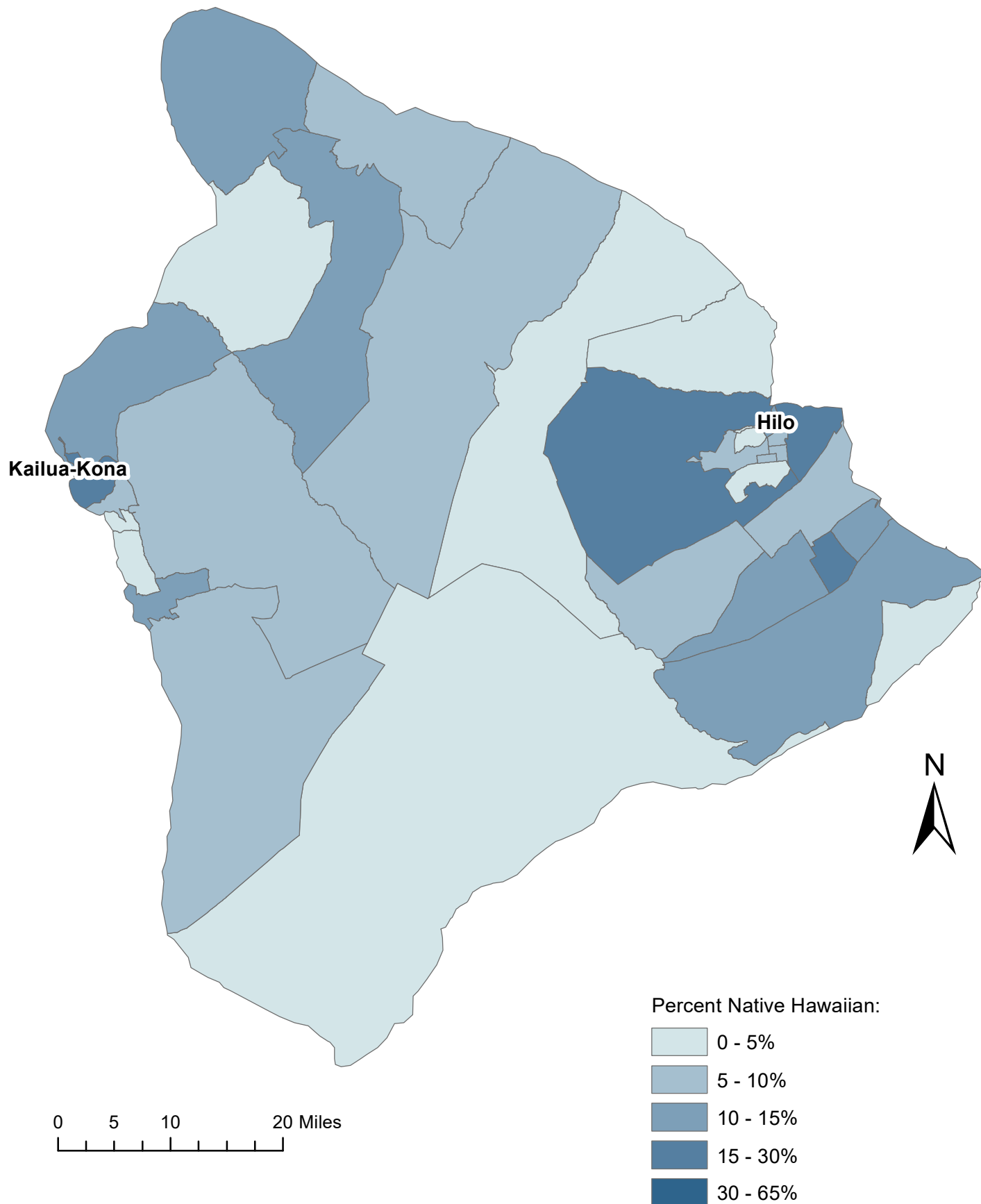
Percent Native Hawaiian:



State Senate Districts

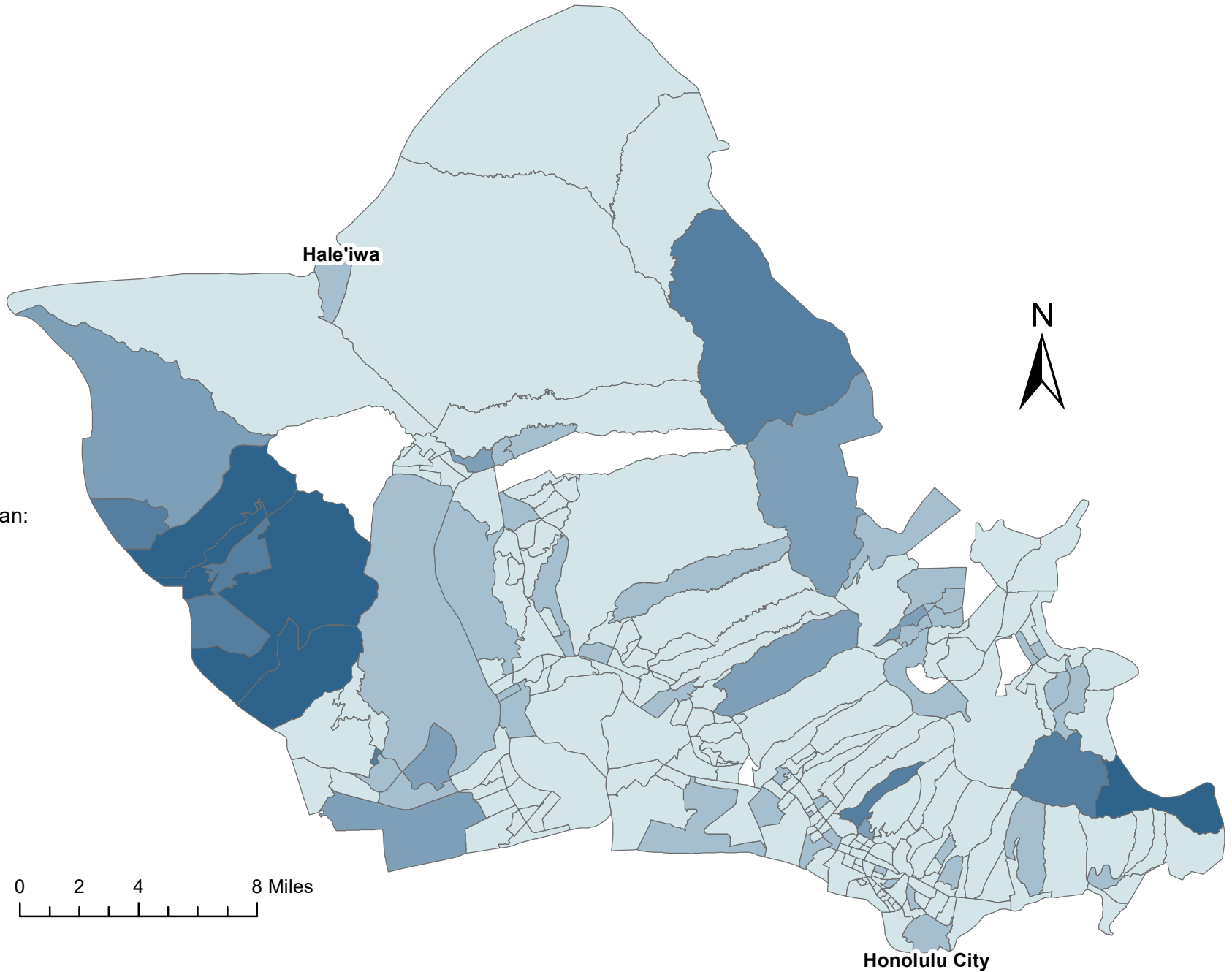
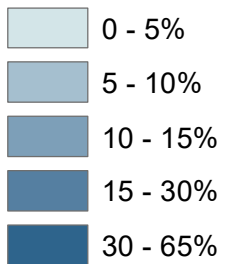


Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population in Hawaii County (2019)



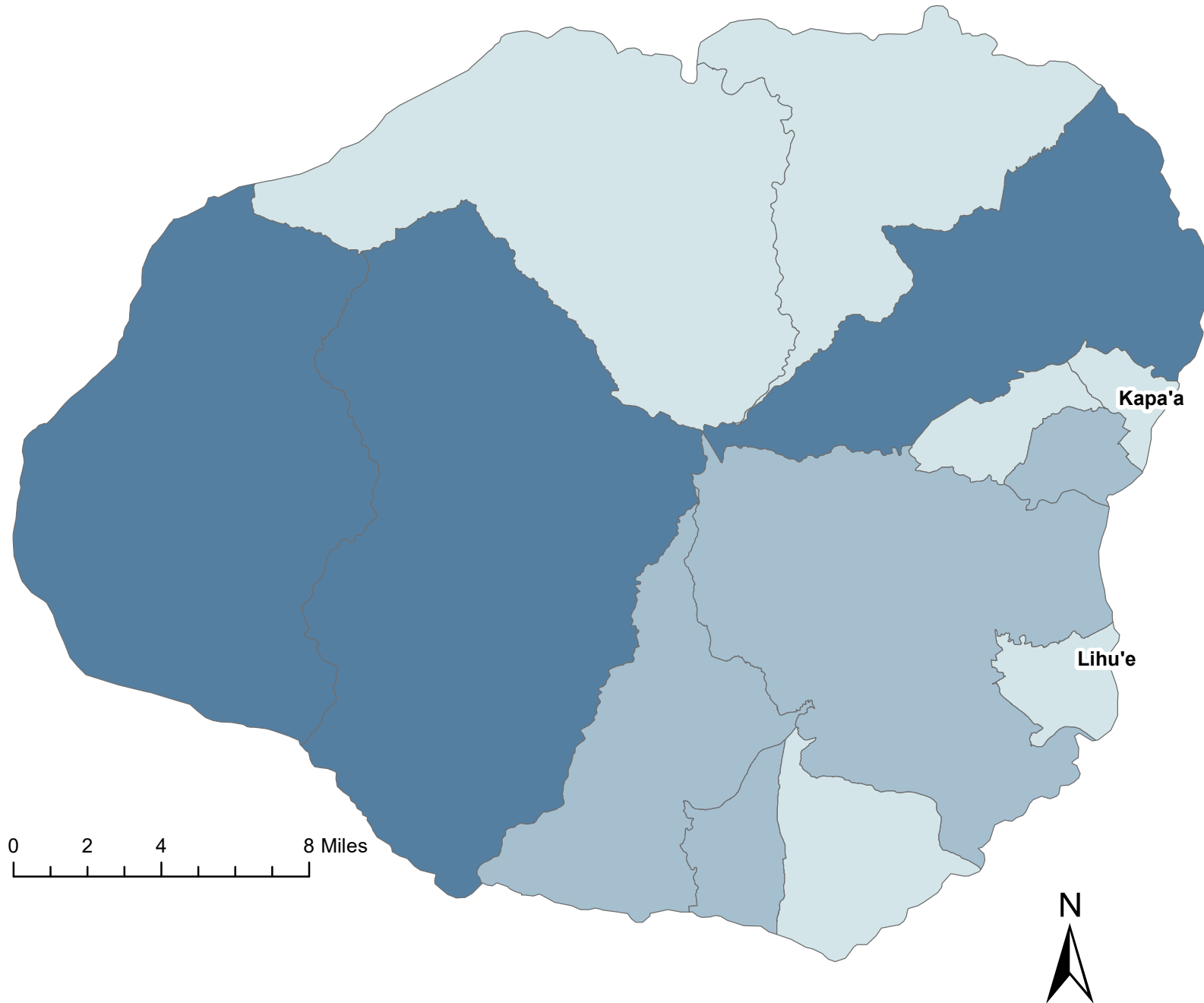
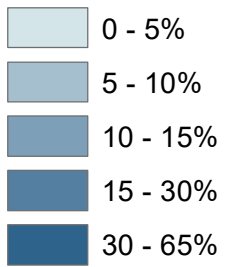
Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population in Honolulu County (2019)

Percent Native Hawaiian:



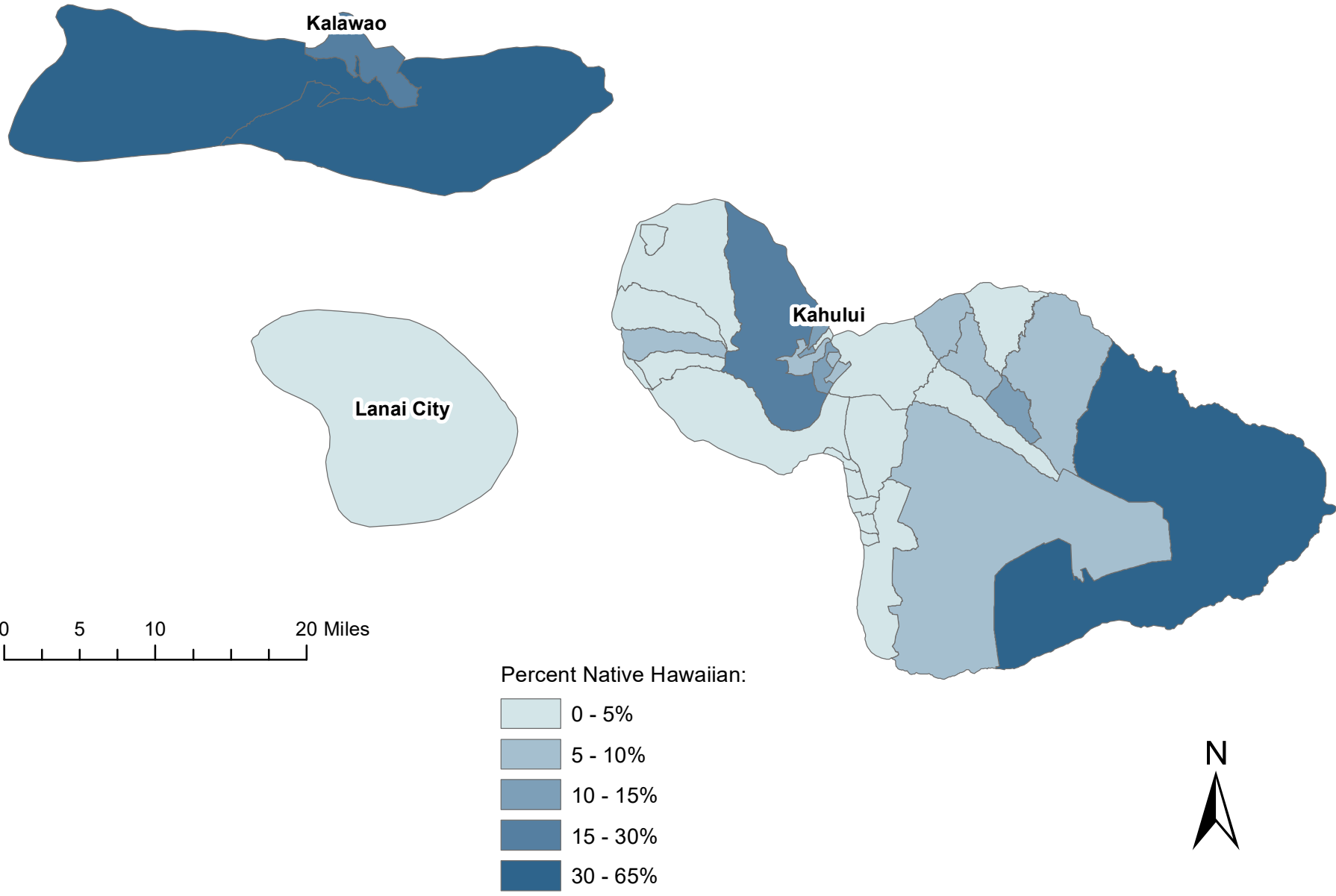
Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population in Kauai County (2019)

Percent Native Hawaiian:



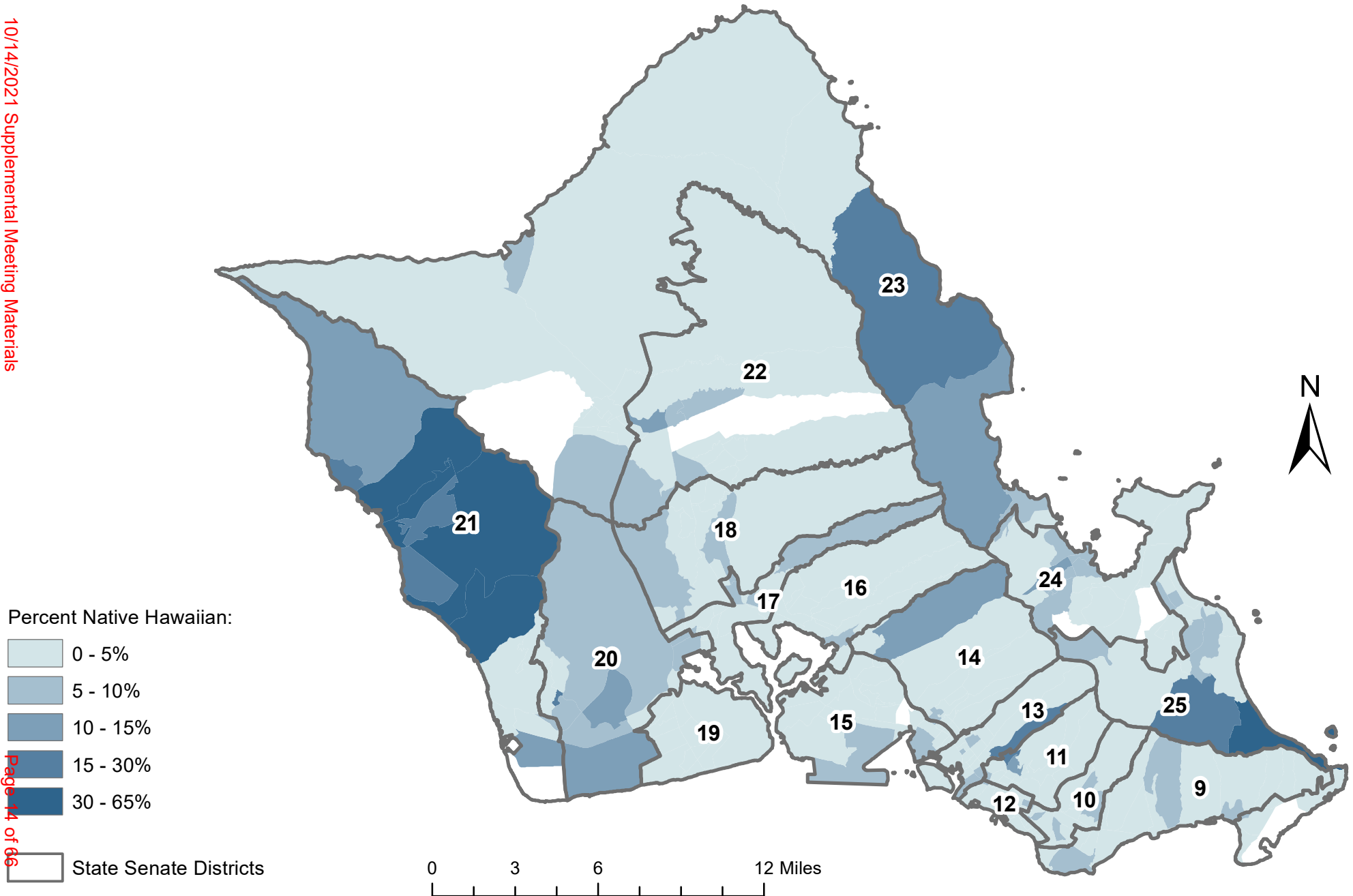
Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population in Maui & Kalawao County (2019)

10/14/2021 Supplemental Meeting Materials



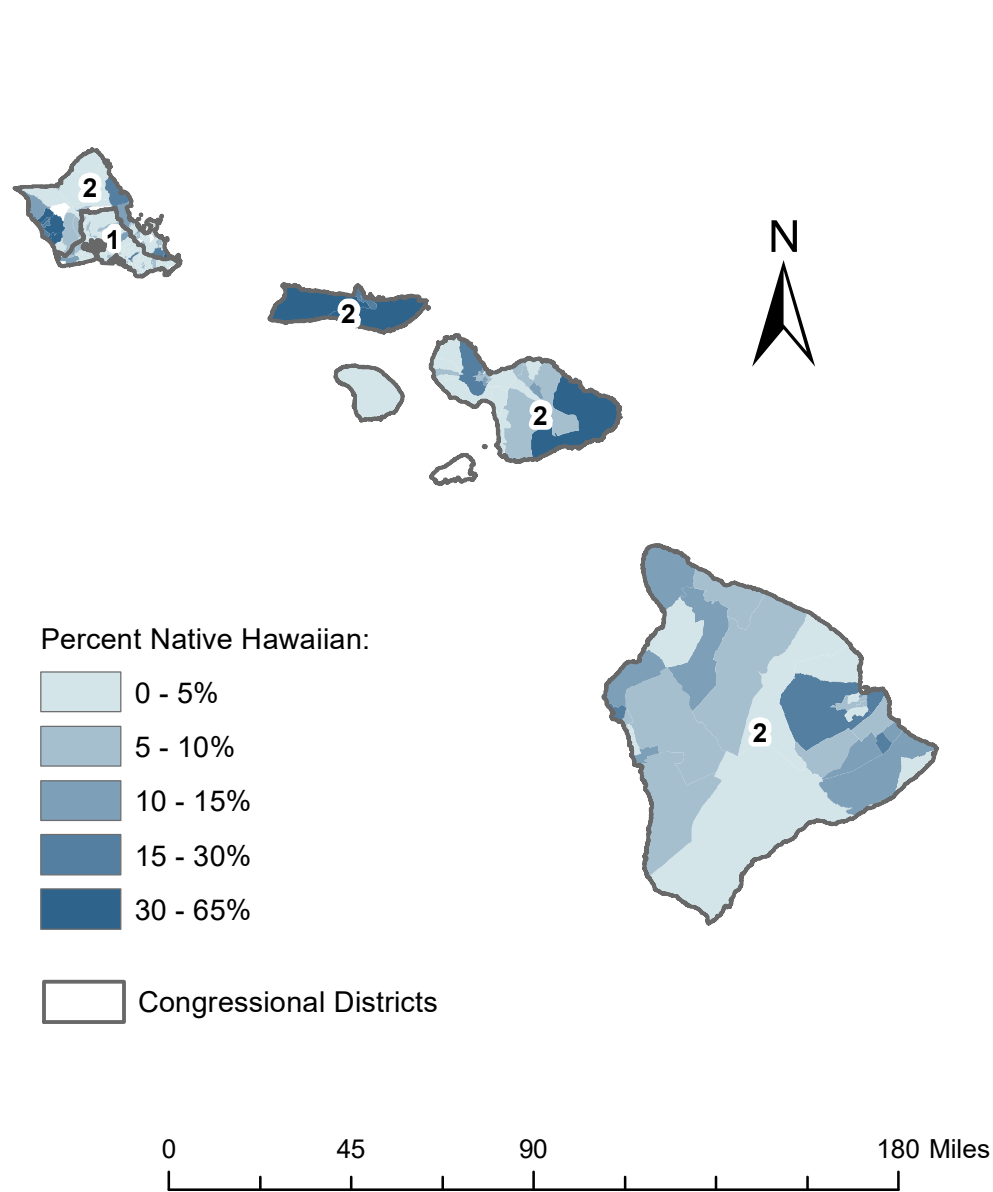
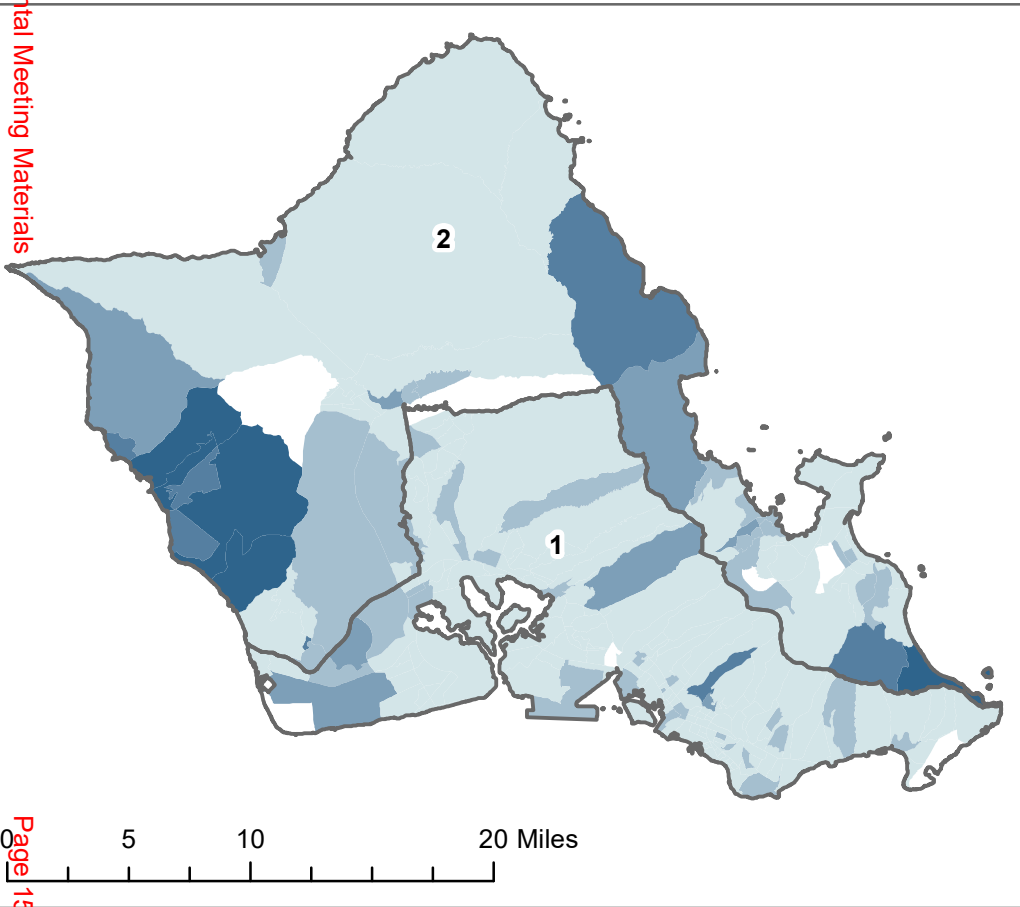
Sources: (State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development: "Census Tracts - 2015"; U.S. Census Bureau: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates")

Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State Senate Districts in Honolulu County

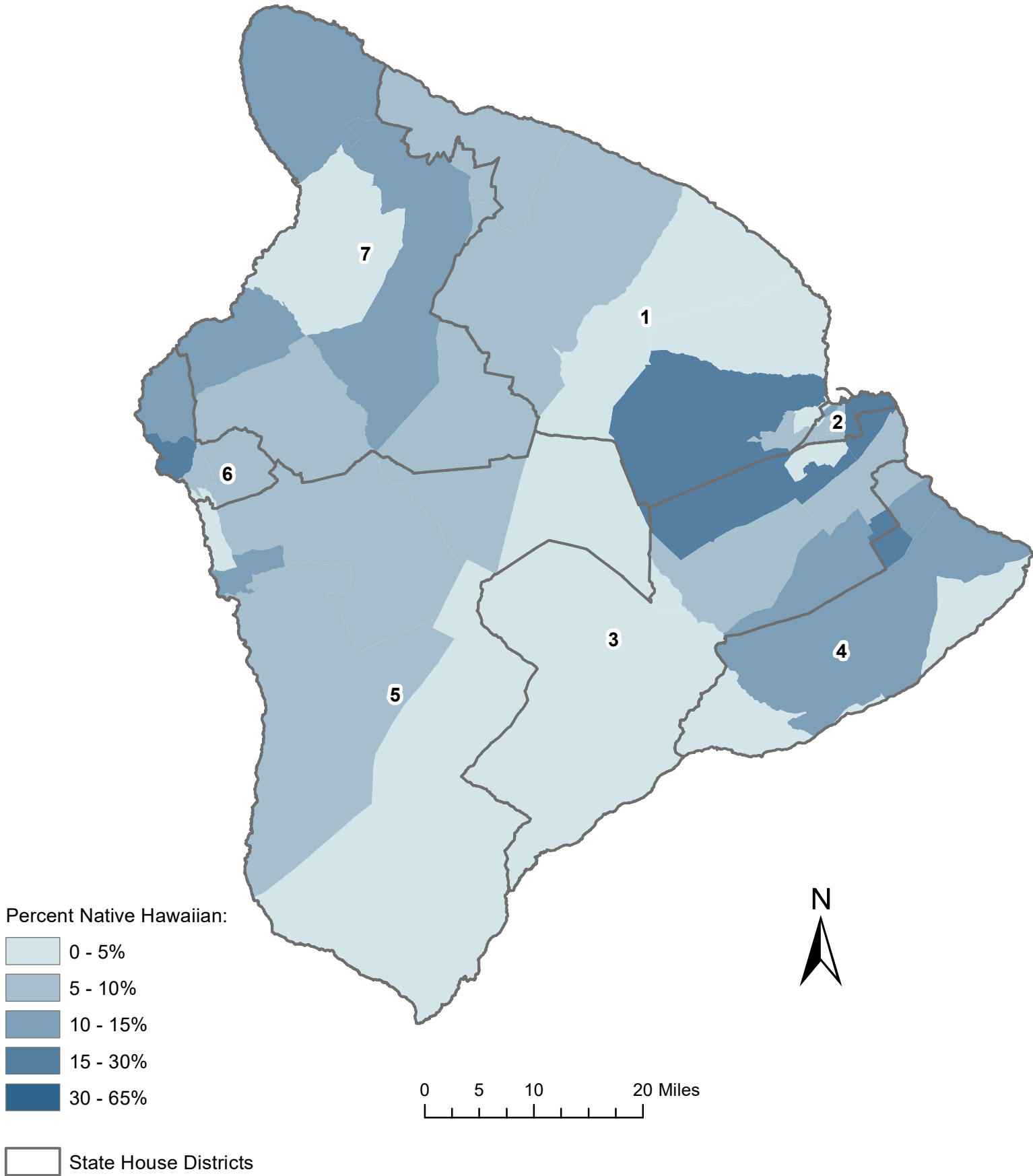


Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2011 Congressional Districts

10/14/2021 Supplemental Meeting Materials

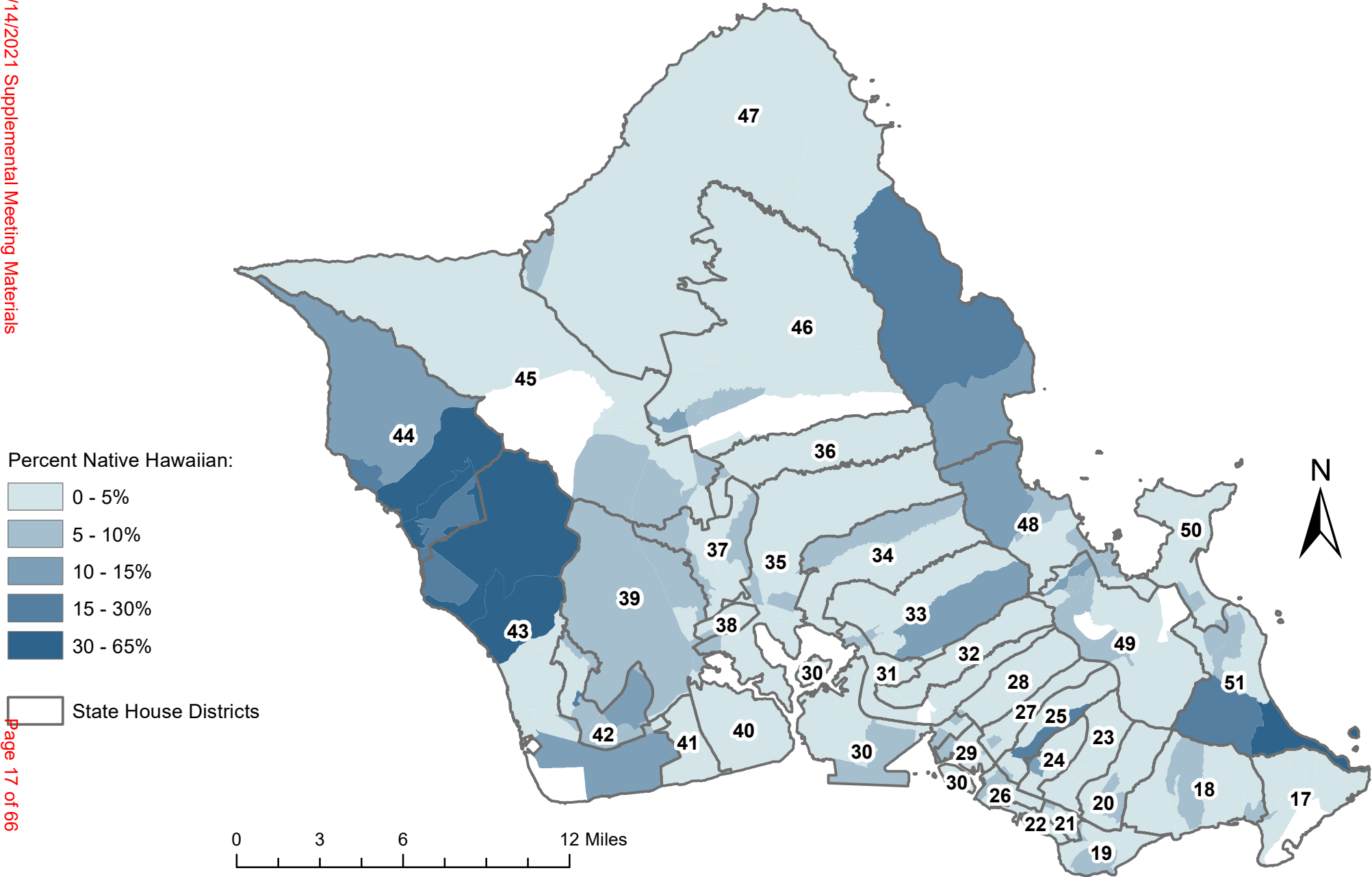


Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State House Districts in Hawaii County



Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State House Districts in Honolulu County

10/14/2021 Supplemental Meeting Materials

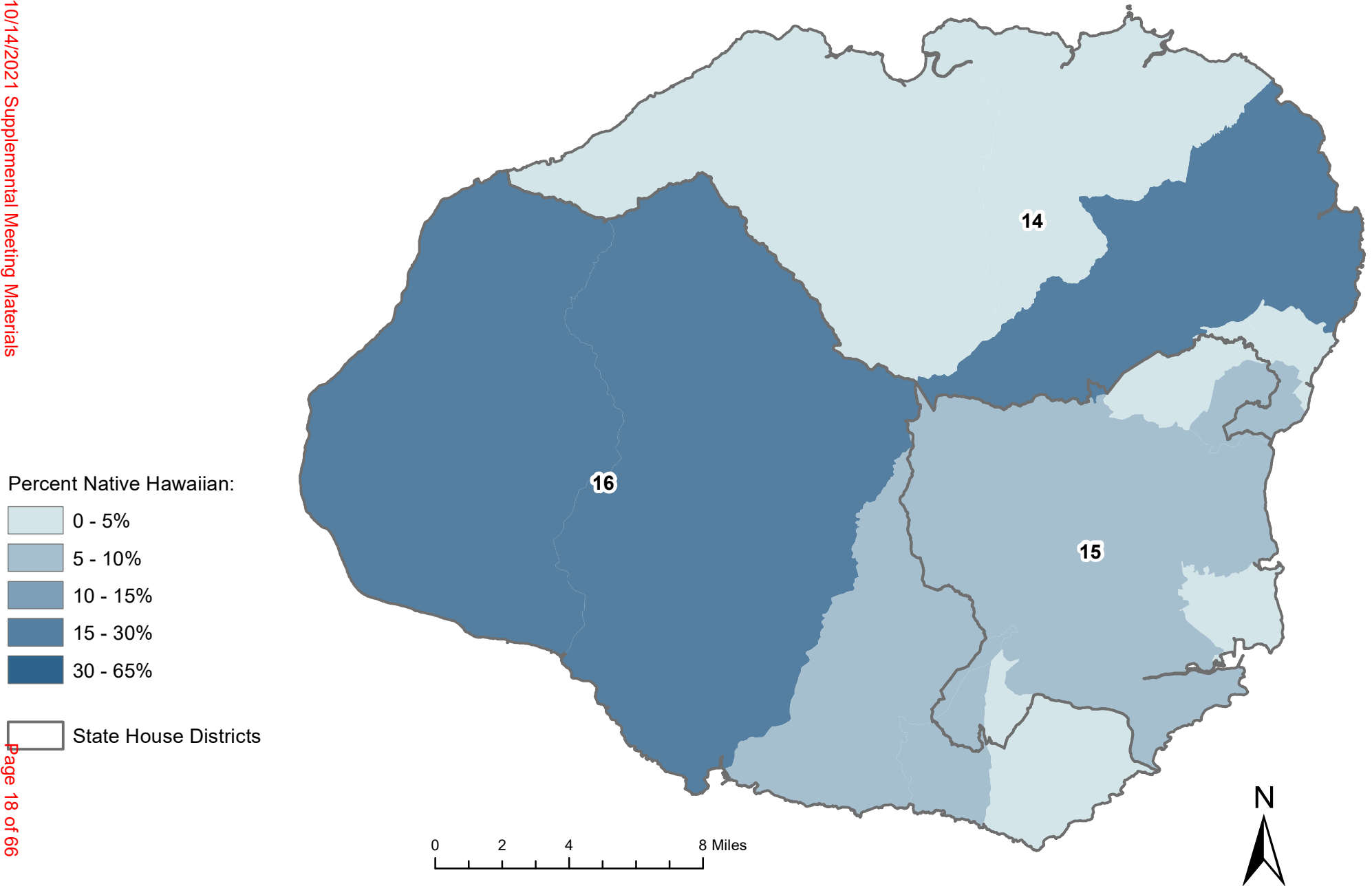


Page 17 of 66

Sources: (State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development: "Census Tracts - 2015"; State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development: "State House of Representatives Districts - 2012"; U.S. Census Bureau: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates")

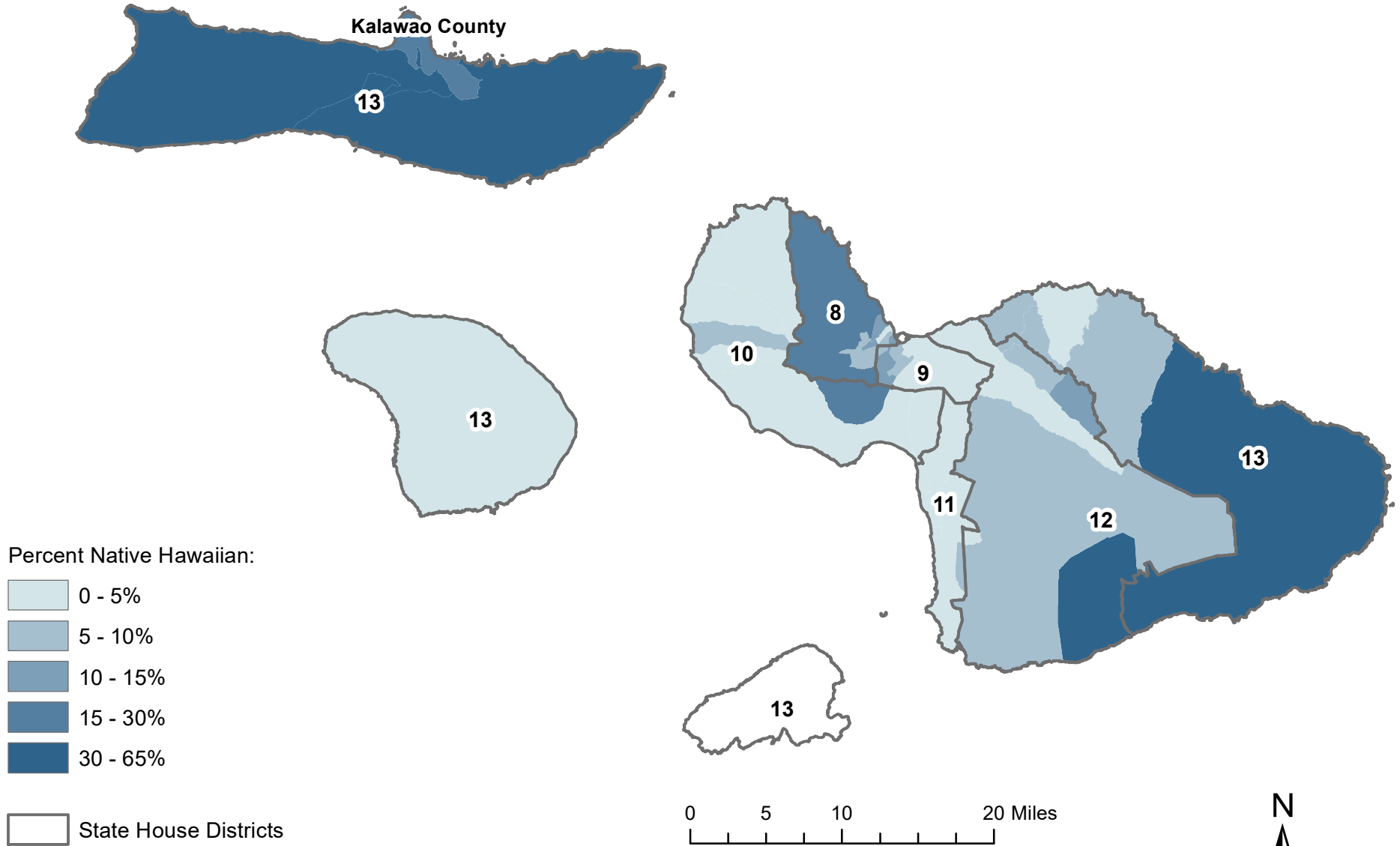
Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State House Districts in Kauai County

10/14/2021 Supplemental Meeting Materials



Page 18 of 66

Distribution of Native Hawaiian Population & 2012 State House Districts in Maui & Kalawao County



From: [Lucy Inouye](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please vote NO on splitting Manoa
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 6:35:44 PM

Manoa is a neighborhood with lots of residences, but how can you divide it fairly so all of us have an equal voice on the issues that affect all of us? Zoning, the schools, Paradise park, just two roads in and out of the valley, and UH parking issues, and so many more affect all of us equally!
Please do NOT do this to our valley.
Lucy Inouye

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII STATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

TO: Members of the Commission

From: JC Watson

Subject: Opposition to Redistricting Manoa into two House districts.

Date: October 13, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission

I am writing in great opposition to the proposed redistricting plan to divide Manoa into two House districts. This is a dividing action that goes against the historic management boundaries set up by our Kupuna and would effectively split up a close-knit community with shared values and resources. We have always been one valley and one community and deserve to remain so. I sincerely urge you all to think very carefully about the decision to divide a community and ask yourself how you would feel if you were suddenly separated politically from where your children go to school, your community park, your closest emergency responder, and from your natural resources.

Please do not divide our valley.

Mahalo nui,

JC Watson

From: acson99@gmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:40:59 PM

Please do not spit up the Wahi Pana of Mānoa. The entire valley is sacred space and must not be divided.

Mahalo,
Veneeta Acson

Veneeta Acson
2231 Hyde Street.
Honolulu, HI 96822

I just found out about this proposal to divide Manoa Valley into 2 districts. I am very curious why this is being proposed, and hope that we residents will all be informed of the reasons for and the pros and cons of the proposal before it is too late to have an informed opinion and express it to the decision makers.

From: kshimata@hawaiiintel.net
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Division of Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:10:47 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

I strongly oppose the division of Manoa Valley into two districts. We are not two districts. We share the same issues now & historically. I do not know where this proposal came from but it is not beneficial for those of us who live in the valley.

Please put us back together on paper as we are in spirit.

Respectfully,
Kathy Shimata
3453 Pawaina St
Honolulu 96822

From: [Katherine Kingsley](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No need to cut the valley into 2
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:11:55 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a Manoa resident, I disagree with the decision to change the current districting of Manoa Valley from one into two districts. We are one unified area.

Thank you
Katherine Kingsley

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Linda Legrande](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Cc: [Andrew Garrett](#); [Arleen Garcia-Herbst](#); [Dale Gilmartin](#); [Gail Baron](#); [Harry Spiegelberg](#); [JC Watson](#); [Jess Braden Cruz](#); [Jim P. Hasselman, #102](#); [Kama Hopkins](#); [Kimie Hirabayashi](#); [Linda Legrande](#); [Mark Tom](#); [Tai Crouch](#); [Thalya DeMott](#); [Vanessa Distajo](#); [Audrey Tanaka](#); [Barbara Lowe](#); [Beryl Blaich](#); [Helen Nakano](#); [Helen Taufaasau](#); [Jean Trapido-Rosenthal](#); [John Whalen](#); [Joseph Ferraro](#); [Joyce Arizumi](#); [Kim Birnie](#); [Leslie Uptain](#); [Lowell Angell](#); [Mary Cooke](#); [Scott Wilson](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reapportionment of Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:49:25 PM

Aloha Reapportionment Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to the current Reapportionment Plan proposal on behalf of Mālama Mānoa, a local, nonprofit organization with over 4,700 members who are residents of Mānoa Valley.

Since 1992, the mission of Mālama Mānoa has been to promote community; celebrate our cultural diversity and heritage; and preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities of historic Mānoa Valley. Our board of directors UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSES the arbitrary separation of Mānoa Valley into Eastern (District 20) and Western (District 24) portions, split along East Mānoa Road and University Avenue per page 106. Historically, since the days of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, our valley has been one, cohesive community in the Kona District, ahupua'a of Waikīkī. We wish to remain as such, with one, unified voice to represent the needs and desires of our people.

The natural, geographic borders of the mountains, as well as the artificial borders of the H-1 Freeway, should be used to delineate the State House district in Mānoa. We implore you to have the technical group make the necessary changes to keep Mānoa Valley as one district, as one cohesive community.

Sincerely,
Linda Legrande
President, Mālama Mānoa

From: [Linda Legrande](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reapportionment of Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:34:57 PM

Dear Reapportionment Commissioners,

I am dismayed to learn of this effort to divide a very cohesive and engaged community; my community of Manoa Valley. Many Valley organizations have worked for years to build community and to organize the different stakeholders in the effort.

Please reconsider this attempt to carve up the work that has taken place by a very committed group of people from various backgrounds and abilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to send in my thoughts.

Best, Linda Legrande

2243 Mohala Way, Honolulu, HI. 96822

808) 384-0450

Sent from my iPad

From: [Charles Prentiss](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on District 51
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:04:41 PM

Aloha: As former Chair of the Kailua NB I am very much aware of the many differences between Windward Side issues and East Honolulu, and, of course the physical separation. It would be inappropriate to have the two areas be in District 51 and represented by the same person. Enchanted Lake is also a close knit community which should not have split representation.
Chuck Prentiss, Ph.D., Kailua

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Ruth Freedman](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Cc: [.Lam Dr. Jerry](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Proposed Reapportionment of Manoa Valley into two districts.
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:23:51 PM

Reapportionment? Dividing Manoa Valley? It doesn't make sense, no more than dividing the Red Sea—and directionless, diving in, with hopes we're doing the right thing. (At least then, we had Moses.)

I'm not so sure, now. I vote no. Nothing about the proposal assures me that it's wise.

Sincerely,
Ruth FreedmanRN

On Oct 13, 2021, at 4:25 PM, Jerry <drjlam@aol.com> wrote:

okay. please send in written testimony or zoom testimony as outlined below. if you are not sure about your thoughts, just write that you need more education as to the where and why and how. thanks
jerry p s sorry if you get this twice.

From: vanvanes@aol.com
To: mcmahonj001@hawaii.rr.com
Cc: DRJLAM@aol.com, csay@honolulu.gov, sentaniguchi@capitol.hawaii.gov, dakobayashi@yahoo.com, annkobayashi@gmail.com, jackiekiemi@gmail.com, allisonrachelfisher@gmail.com, ches@hawaii.edu, gord.aoyagi80814@gmail.com, jihydo@gmail.com, manoavalley2004@yahoo.com, lindalegrande2243@gmail.com, mbingham@hawaii.edu, jtomheinrich@hotmail.com
Sent: 10/13/2021 3:59:37 PM Hawaiian Standard Time
Subject: Re: Brian! Proposed Reapportionment

Please consider providing testimony for the Reapportionment Commission meeting tomorrow.
<[image.jpg](#)>

If you would like to submit written testimony, please use [this form](#) or email to reapportionment@hawaii.gov

Mahalo nui loa!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 13, 2021, at 3:00 PM, Jimmy McMahon
<mcmahonj001@hawaii.rr.com> wrote:

We are 1 valley and should stay unified.

Aloha,
Jimmy McMahon

Phone: (808) 228-7946
Address: 1932 Awapuhi St.
Honolulu, HI 96822
mcmahonj001@hawaii.rr.com

<PastedGraphic-2.tiff>

Jimmy McMahon | Sales Representative
coola.com • 3200 Lionshead Ave, suite 100. Carlsbad, CA 92010
T: 808.228.7946 • F: 760.940.2126 • C:.228.7946
Facebook • Instagram • Twitter • Pinterest

On Oct 13, 2021, at 2:56 PM, Jerry <drjlam@aol.com>
wrote:

**i was just made aware of the reapportionment of manoa valley which will be split into two separate districts. i think this means we will have two different representatives for two sides of the valley. manoa needs a unified voice and splitting the valley will cause a change in loyalty. waahila ridge, manoa shopping center, neighborhood board representation, uh parking problems, paradise park, and countless other issues need one representative and a united voice. the public hearing on this topic is october 14 and the community knows little about this redistricting decision. what is your position on this and can we have more time to educate our community on who did this and why and what is their justification for this move?
thanks for your prompt attention to this matter! jeremy lam 222 5235**

To: drjlam@aol.com
Cc: lindalegrande2243@gmail.com
Sent: 10/12/2021 5:33:45 PM Hawaiian Standard Time
Subject: Re: Proposed Reapportionment

Hi Dr. Lam,

I am against how the commission is aiming to arbitrarily split Mānoa Valley down the middle into two separate East and West districts, and then place Punahou and portions of lower Mānoa into the district with Makiki and Tantalus. Doesn't seem pono, nor historically accurate to divide the valley like that. Mānoa Valley should be one district because the residents of the valley have similar concerns. Shifting the districts may effect zoning down the road. It will cause divisiveness in our neighborhoods.

We should discuss this more in depth at our next board meeting, and even consider sending in testimony for the next reapportionment commission meeting on October 14th.

All the best,
Vanessa
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 12, 2021, at 5:23 PM, JEREMY LAM <drjlam@aol.com> wrote:

Are we for or against our district's borders?

Sent from my iPhone

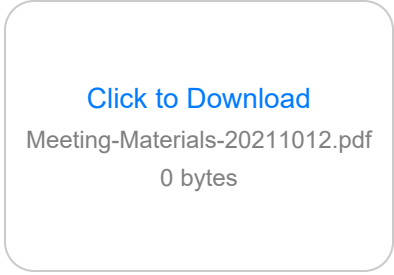
On Oct 12, 2021, at 2:51 PM, vanvanes <vanvanes@aol.com> wrote:

Download Attachment

Available until Nov 11, 2021

FYI

<https://elections.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/Meeting-Materials-20211012.pdf>



Sent from my iPhone

<image.jpg>

From: [Helen Nakano](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Cc: [Helen Nakano](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the Splitting of Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:07:41 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to state my opposition to the splitting of the Manoa Valley community into two separate House districts for the coming election and the next 10 years.

I have lived here in this Valley for over 30 years and have been actively involved in nearly every aspect of Valley life. We have a vibrant community with many of us actively involved with our neighbors to make this community a wonderful place to raise our families.

If you split this valley into two separate House districts with different representatives and attach us to different neighborhoods we have never worked with before, you will destroy the special sense of place Manoa Valley has and diminish the cohesiveness we have worked so hard to promote.

We love living in this Valley because we feel connected to our community. Other urban districts lack our community spirit. They don't support their schools, their parks or take care of their streams. Neighbors don't know their neighbors.

Please don't let this happen to Manoa Valley.

Sincerely,
Helen Nakano
3080 Puhala Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 927-0993

From: [vanvanes](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Personal testimony for the State Reapportionment Commission meeting on October 14, 2021
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:50:46 PM

Aloha Reapportionment Commissioners,

As a resident of Mānoa, I would like to provide personal testimony opposing the proposed State Reapportionment Plan as it relates to Mānoa. The map on page 106 was alarming and incredulous to see. What is the reasoning for figuratively disemboweling our beloved valley?

The State of Hawai'i should not permit any forms of injustice via gerrymandering or disenfranchisement. Thus, I emphatically question the political motivations and possible ethical violations at play, and call for the immediate amelioration to respect the historic Hawaiian and natural boundaries of the Mānoa Valley, to keep the Mānoa community as one whole. We deserve to have one, unified voice to represent us in the State House.

Our friends, family, and neighbors living a stone's throw across the street from us should not be in a different district. Our children's assigned public schools should not be in a different district from where we actually live. Our neighborhood marketplace, where we shop and bank daily, should not be in a different district from us. It simply doesn't make sense for the State to divide us down the middle. It is utterly antithetical to our State's values and motto to reapportion in this way.

The possible consequences of an arbitrary East/West split, cutting the historical ahupua'a of the Mānoa Valley down East Mānoa Road and University Avenue, disjoining the main UH Mānoa campus (proposed District #20) from the UH President's House at College Hill and the UH Atherton building (proposed District #24), are troublesome to fathom. Our notable educational institutions like Punahou School, should not be politically excised from their place of origin that has been recorded in Native Hawaiian legends. This is confusing for our keiki to comprehend, and even more so for our kūpuna!

We should be considering the long-lasting impacts this will have on the future of zoning, property taxes, HIDOE public schools, and CIP funding. Let's be honest, and acknowledge that the single-family, residential zoned residents of Mānoa have more in common with each other, than people in mixed-use zoning areas like Makiki or Kaimuki and Kapahulu. Fix page 106!

E kūpa'a i ka pono. (Stand strong in the right.)

Please do what is right to rectify the situation, and ask the technical group to restore Mānoa Valley as one district.

Mālama pono,
Vanessa Distajo

Sent from my iPhone

From: [helen taufaasau](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Cc: [helen taufaasau](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Splitting Manoa Valley
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:59:11 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to state my **opposition** to the splitting of the Manoa Valley community into two separate House districts for the coming election and the next 10 years.

I have lived here in this Valley for over 25 years and have been actively involved in many activities and organizations of Manoa Valley. My husband and I have raised two children here and feel very connected to this wonderful community. My husband grew up in Manoa Valley and he thrived here, knowing that he was part of this very special place.

If you split this valley into two separate House districts with different representatives and attach us to different neighborhoods we have never worked with before, you will destroy the special sense of place Manoa Valley has and diminish the cohesiveness we have worked so hard to promote.

We love living in this Valley because we feel connected to our community - where we all work together to promote this sense of place unlike any other neighborhood on the island. We know our neighbors and ALL work together toward similar goals - attending Manoa Neighborhood Board meetings to keep on top of what is happening around us - protecting our unique character. We have beautiful historic homes that unite us and are proud of these homes that stretch through-out the valley. We all work together to promote a clean and healthy Manoa Stream that runs from the mountains to the ocean. We all share the Manoa Valley Marketplace - we are so fortunate to shop and visit with our neighbors.

We have a history that goes back many years and our valley is well-defined by the natural borders - the mountains on three sides of us - we are ONE Manoa Valley!

Please listen to us and take us seriously - this issue is extremely important to us.

Sincerely,

Helen Taufa'asau
3440 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: [Rhiannon Callahan](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for Reapportionment meeting 10/14/2021
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:19:10 PM

Aloha kākou. ‘O Piliāoha ko’u inoa. I have lived on the windward side my entire life and currently reside in the beautiful Waimānalo.

This proposal to redraw the lines that make up our districts raises a few concerns. What these new boundaries mean to me is...

1)the land tax and cost of living will increase for the current Waimānalo community, potentially having adverse effects.

Homestead land should be more affordable than the average home here in Hawai’i and our houses are already being priced at over half a million dollars. I can only imagine the possible increase with adding regions such as Port Lock into our district zone.

2)Waimānalo will potentially lose its federal designation as a ‘RURAL’ community meaning that community nonprofits and organizations that serve our people will no longer access special funding. Whether it’s in the Health, education, housing, or agriculture industries, programs may potentially be reduced or cut.

As a community it is of great importance for us as mākuā to help our keiki thrive in all areas of their lives and the programs and resources we have available today, helps us all toward that future. Threatening that, only seems foolish.

3) Cultural, environmental, socioeconomic and state government issues related to current Waimānalo be it unresolved or future will now include non Waimānalo voices in decisions for Waimānalo.

As far as I can see, this only affects our community negatively.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear out my concerns. I urge you not to move forward with this proposed plan.

From: [iris kurashige](#)
To: [Helen Nakano](#)
Cc: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Opposition to the Splitting of Manoa Valley
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:10:21 AM

Amen! I've lived here for 70 years and Manoa Valley is a whole valley! The only difference between the two sides is when the sun rises! Leave us united!

Iris Kurashige

On Wed, Oct 13, 2021, 10:07 PM Helen Nakano <hanafudahawaii@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for the opportunity to state my opposition to the splitting of the Manoa Valley community into two separate House districts for the coming election and the next 10 years.

I have lived here in this Valley for over 30 years and have been actively involved in nearly every aspect of Valley life. We have a vibrant community with many of us actively involved with our neighbors to make this community a wonderful place to raise our families.

If you split this valley into two separate House districts with different representatives and attach us to different neighborhoods we have never worked with before, you will destroy the special sense of place Manoa Valley has and diminish the cohesiveness we have worked so hard to promote.

We love living in this Valley because we feel connected to our community. Other urban districts lack our community spirit. They don't support their schools, their parks or take care of their streams. Neighbors don't know their neighbors.

Please don't let this happen to Manoa Valley.

Sincerely,
Helen Nakano
3080 Puhala Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 927-0993

Dr. Mark Mugiishi, Chair
Reapportionment Commission

Dear Chair Mugiishi and members of the Commission:

Please redraw the boundaries of District 23, renumbered as the new House District 20 in your proposed reapportionment plan.

The Commission has been assigned the task of redrawing district boundaries in response to new census data. Of paramount concern is to have roughly the same number of people in each district. A secondary concern is that the new boundaries should try to keep communities together and to acknowledge geographical features.

The new boundaries for the former House District 23 do neither. Manoa Valley is split up into two districts and the Diamond Head portion of the Valley gets two far-flung areas grafted onto it: Kaimuki as far as Koko Head Avenue and Kapahulu all the way to the slopes of Diamond Head. It would appear that the Commission got stuck and had to dump its problems into one district, ours being the one. If you were to look up “gerrymandering” in a dictionary, the shape of the new District 20 would be at home among the sample shapes.

The Commission should try again. Surely you have a computer program that can rearrange the census tracts to distribute awkward configurations more fairly instead of having one really artificial and non-viable district. We got the short end of stick. The other districts don't look too bad. That's not fair.

Although I am Vice Chair of the Manoa Neighborhood Board and Democratic Party of Hawai'i District 23 Chair, I write in my individual capacity as a Manoa resident.

Sincerely,

Elton T. Fukumoto

Aloha members of the commission,

My name is Will Caron and I was born in Honolulu, raised in Kahalu, am a former resident of Manoa, Mo'ili'ili and Liliha, and am a current resident of Palolo on the island of O'ahu. I am testifying today to ask you to reject the proposed State House redistricting map for the island of O'ahu.

The proposed redistricting before this commission does not fulfill the requirement that state house districts keep cohesive communities together as much as possible—quite the opposite. There are multiple examples of proposed house districts splitting cohesive communities apart, including communities in which I have spent many years. It also combines together—often through very *creative* means—communities with totally different lived experiences. Sometimes it does both of these things at the same time.

Examples include:

- Splitting Portlock off from the rest of Hawai'i Kai and combining it with Waimanalo and Lanikai, which—by comparison anyway—have more in common with Kailua.
- Splitting Niu Valley in half right down the middle.
- Dividing Kaimuki up into thirds—one third with Kahala, 'Aina Haina and Wailupe as District 18, one third with Palalo-Wilhelmina-St Louis as the new District 19, one third with upper Manoa as the new District 20, in the process eliminating Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi's existing District 19 entirely.
- Splitting Manoa in half between the upper valley portion combined with Kapahulu and one-third of Kaimuki as the new District 20, while giving the lower half of Manoa over to District 24.
- Adding Diamond Head to Mo'ili'ili and McCulley via a “bridge” consisting of nothing but the Ala Wai Golf Course.
- Cutting Kahalu'u in half. In particular, this change is painful for me to see proposed.

I have submitted an alternate proposed redistricting map that solves these and other problems and keeps cohesive communities together. I urge the commission to adopt my proposal instead.

Natalia Hussey-Burdick

PO Box 51
(808) 688-3481

Honolulu, Hawai‘i, 96810
nataliah@hawaii.edu

October 14, 2021

Hawai‘i State Reapportionment Commission
c/o Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, Hawai‘i 96782

Chair Mark M. Mugiishi, M.D.
Commissioner Charlotte Nekota
Commissioner Randall Nishimura
Commissioner Grant Y. M. Chun
Commissioner Diane T. Ono

Commissioner Robin
Kennedy
Commissioner Kevin Rathbun
Commissioner Cal Chipchase
Commissioner Dylan Nonaka

Aloha Chair Mugiishi and Honorable Members of the Commission,

As a lifelong resident of Windward O‘ahu, I humbly request that you redraw the proposed lines to keep Waimānalo compact and contiguous with Windward O‘ahu. Waimānalo is more naturally aligned with Windward O‘ahu than with Hawai‘i Kai.

I currently serve on the Honolulu City Council Reapportionment Commission, and although I am testifying in my own capacity, I speak on behalf of the overwhelming majority of residents from the Windward community who strongly opposed connecting Waimānalo with Hawai‘i Kai when similar proposals were offered at the Council level. No one from Waimānalo testified in support of combining Waimānalo with Hawai‘i Kai. The concerns and lived experience of those in Waimānalo are profoundly different than those of resident in Hawai‘i Kai.

Their testimonies can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RaeiFWekK_3nIUgv1fFnFXDPnd4UPZGp

Our Council Reapportionment Commission gave the public a week’s notice from the time our maps were proposed and the public hearing. At the time we received an overwhelming majority of testimony in direct opposition to separating Waimānalo from the Windward side. As your commission only gave 48 hours notice, I would encourage you to please consider these Council testimonies as they are likely unaware that your maps have even been published.

You may also want to revisit the border lines between the proposed districts 18-27 as many of their boundaries are not geographically contiguous or compact, particularly districts 18, 20, and 21 are the most egregious. It would make more sense to end a lot of these districts at H-1 as the most distinct dividing landmark in the area. Communities are naturally oriented around the highways and large streets, yet many of the proposed districts encompass both sides of these major landmarks, with borders along the smaller streets.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration,

Natalia Hussey-Burdick
808-688-3481

From: [Deborah Eng](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:47:33 AM

I reject the proposed redistricting that separates parts of Kailua. The town and community should remain intact.

Sincerely,
Deborah Ng
429 Wanaao Road Kailua Hawaii 96734

Mobile 310 880-2055

(formerly 487 Kihapai Street Kailua Hawaii 96734)

From: [Ann](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to redistricting of district 51 to include Portlock
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:29:53 AM

To whom it may concern:

I write in opposition to the proposed reapportionment of House District 51 that reduces Kailua and includes Portlock.

Current boundaries include a portion of Kailua and all of Waimanalo. It is difficult as is with Kailua being split in two districts. Wouldn't it make more sense to include a larger portion of Kailua rather than opening up to a portion of Hawaii Kai? By reducing the Kailua district and increasing to include Portlock, the plan presents an imbalance of wealth. The financial status of Lanikai and Portlock will further push the economic struggles of Waimanalo even further.

I am not in support of this plan.

Mahalo.
Ann Medeiros

To: Dr. Mark Mugiishi, Chair
Members of the 2021 State of Hawaii Reapportionment Commission

Date: October 14, 2021

Aloha, my name is **Trish La Chica** and I am a resident of Mililani Town, where I am raising my little family. I am a community leader, advocate, Chair of District 36, Democratic Party of Hawaii, and a member of Neighborhood Board #25 representing Mililani Town, Waipio Acres and Melemanu.

I am writing to express my concern on the proposed map that continue to divide our Mililani community. While the H-2 freeway geographically splits Mililani Town and Mauka, we still consider Mililani to be one community with the same characteristics. I represent many working families that choose to live in Mililani and raise our kids here because of the great schools, safe neighborhoods, recreational facilities, and green, open spaces that promote active living. The Mililani Town Association has done a great job preserving the integrity of our neighborhood while continuing to make this a wonderful place to live.

I am opposed to splitting the community as I do not believe that the current proposals represent our community well. I support keeping Mililani intact as one community, including the 96789 areas of Waipio Acres (Waimakua Drive), Launani Valley/Mililani Tech Park (Leilehua Drive), and Melemanu (Waikalani Drive). These are areas that represent seats on Neighborhood Board #25.

The master planned community of Mililani is currently represented by three state representatives and two senators. While I believe that our two senators work closely together to advocate for Mililani's needs, our state representatives do not. Having three representatives makes it very difficult and confusing for neighbors on opposite sides of the street to have different representatives. Mililani is one of two master planned communities on Oahu and we are a community sharing the same resources, schools, and shopping centers. The proposed map currently separates Waipio Acres, the oldest neighborhood in Mililani while Mililani Town and Mililani Mauka are split. Waipio Acres can only be accessed through Wainihi Street from Kipapa Drive and it should belong together with District 36 (35 in the proposed map).

Mililani experiences unique issues. One can only enter and exit Mililani through Kamehameha Hwy or the H-2. We do not have direct access to rail and majority rely on their personal vehicles to get around as we have limited bus service. Accidents on the H-1 will create backups that add additional hours to our daily commute. Aging residents have limited access to healthcare as many have to drive to town to see specialists. Residents of Waipio Acres have complained about having to cross H-2 just to get to their voting precinct at Mililani Mauka elementary school despite residents of this district attending Kipapa Elementary and Mililani High School. It takes Mililani Mauka parents 30 minutes to drop off kids

at Mililani High School in Mililani Town as Meheula Parkway gets pretty congested. And there's only one lane to take the exit ramp from Mililani Mauka.

Mililani is in a beautiful Central Oahu district where neighbors know one another, children play and grow up together, and residents stay year-round, extending to successive generations. I believe it is time that our community is made intact again.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Trish La Chica

94-081 Puanane Loop, Mililani HI 96789

tqlachica@gmail.com | 808-799-4620 (c)

Hawaii Reapportionment Commission

14 October 2021

Aloha Chair Mark M. Mugiishi and Members of the Reapportionment Commission,

Thank you for your service on this important Commission and for allowing me to testify today on the proposed Oahu redistricting of Districts 51 and 17.

I am privileged to serve as President of Friends of Hanauma Bay, a 501(c)(3) founded in 1990 to promote the best stewardship of Hanauma Bay. The proposed fragmentation of District 17 to move the Kaiwi Coast (which includes Hanauma Bay) into Kailua District 51 severely and needlessly fragments District 17 and measurably decreases Hawai'i Kai residents' ability to steward this unique and environmentally fragile part of Oahu's coastline.

Please do not move the Kaiwi Coast into District 51.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay
(808) 748-1819

From: [reapportionment](#)
To: "Aria Juliet"
Cc: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: District 51 Boundaries
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:59:09 AM

Hi Aria,

We have forwarded your testimony to the State Reapportionment Commission.

Doris

Doris Lam
Office of the City Clerk, Elections Division
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Rm 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 768-9234
Mobile: (808) 265-1293
Email: doris.lam@honolulu.gov

From: Aria Juliet [mailto:ariajuliet@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:54 AM
To: reapportionment <reapportionment@honolulu.gov>
Subject: District 51 Boundaries

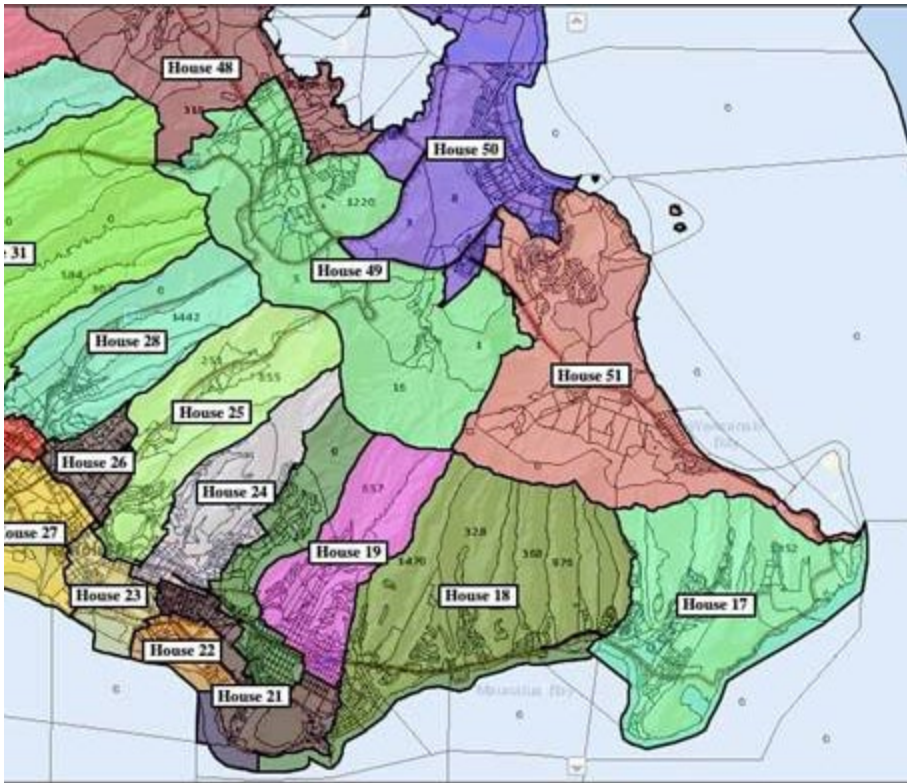
CAUTION: Email received from an **EXTERNAL** sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

Aloha Chair

I am writing to oppose the proposed redistricting for District 51, Kailua, and Waimanalo.

Taking away the areas of Pohakupu, Kukanono, Enchanted Lake and replaces it with part of Hawaii Kai does not fit any of the guidelines that define a district; compact, contiguous, and similar in character. I understand that the senate district was gerrymandered in this fashion; however, it does not mean that the house needs to replicate this egregious mistake.

Please refer to Rep Martins's proposal for this area.



Aria Juliet Castillo
District 50
1015 Aoloa Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [reapportionment](#)
To: "Karen Kiefer"
Cc: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: District 51- dont split us up
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:59:55 AM

Hi Karen,
We have forwarded your testimony to the State Reapportionment Commission.
Thank you.
Doris

Doris Lam
Office of the City Clerk, Elections Division
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Rm 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 768-9234
Mobile: (808) 265-1293
Email: doris.lam@honolulu.gov

From: Karen Kiefer [mailto:karen@karenkiefer.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:05 AM
To: reapportionment <reapportionment@honolulu.gov>
Subject: District 51- dont split us up

CAUTION: Email received from an **EXTERNAL** sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify. As a life long resident of Kailua, I strongly oppose the redistricting of Distict 51 to include areas of Hawaii Kai while excluding areas of Kailua. Kailua is a strong community with strong representation in government. We have cohesive goals that are shared by our environmentally connected community that absolutely should stay intact. In no way is Hawaii Kai connected to our ahupua'a, our infrastructure, our natural and community resources. This is clearly an effort to shift power rather than serve the community.

thank you, Karen Kiefer

Karen Kiefer
karen@karenkiefer.com

For information about art, art classes, and creative services go to <http://www.karenkiefer.com>

From: [Jonathan Scheuer](#)
To: [OE.Elections](#); [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to proposed House District 20
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:02:04 AM

Aloha,

I am in opposition to the proposed House District 20 boundaries, which I will henceforth refer to as the "upside down sock puppet". I know the job is hard and some difficult decisions need to be made, but this makes no sense on its face.

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer

--

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.
Managing Environmental Conflict

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___http://www.linkedin.com/in/likeke___!!LIYSdFfckKA!nSSrs3c5vUpOy5Vk0K2U0s99YMYzOS-T7fSU4E5-3MbEq0f1KqbSVRJDY1Lk6hsYU6o\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___http://www.linkedin.com/in/likeke___!!LIYSdFfckKA!nSSrs3c5vUpOy5Vk0K2U0s99YMYzOS-T7fSU4E5-3MbEq0f1KqbSVRJDY1Lk6hsYU6o$)

From: [Elisa Johnston](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Manoa Valley
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:05:50 AM

Dear Reapportionment Committee,

I am writing to object to the division of Manoa Valley into two separate districts. I have lived or worked (or both) in Manoa for 46 years, and know it to be both historically and functionally one community.

A healthy future for the environment and people of Manoa Valley require that it always be thought of and treated as a whole—NOT as two or even three districts whose needs may be represented by some as being at odds, when in fact they are entirely connected.

Thank you,

Elisa W. Johnston

1429B Nehoa Street

96822

Elisajohnston35@hotmail.com

From: mlawrence808@gmail.com
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting of District 51
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:10:04 AM

I am opposed to the proposed redistricting of District 51. I do not understand the reason behind this proposal and feel it would be important to notify the members of this community prior to instituting any change. Kailua, Waimanalo and Hawaii Kai are very different communities with very different issues and concerns. This proposal would only make it more difficult to address issues of each community and lead to a loss of cohesiveness. I hope this does not pass as I am strongly opposed.

Sincerely,
Melissa Lawrence
Kailua resident

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII STATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

TO: Members of the Commission
From: Marilyn B. Lee
Subject: suggested changes to the plan
Date: October 9, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission,

I am a 40year resident of Mililani Town and a former Elected Official. The last reapportionment plans have given Mililani Mauka a huge district made up completely of Mililani, however Mauka is divided by the H2 Highway from the town. It is very much a separate place from the town in demographics and socioeconomic status. Launani Valley is part of the Mililani Neighborhood Board district and is more suited for inclusion in the Mauka district.

Therefore, the area around the Town Center and Mililani High school could again become a separate district with the addition of Waipio Acres and the area on the left side of Meheula Parkway which includes Makaunala Street.

Waipio Acres is the very oldest part of Mililani, and it has been shamefully cut in half to form district 45. Waipio Acres has a Mililani address, and the children attend Kipapa School and Mililani High school. Imagine taking the smallest part of Mililani, cutting it in half with neighbors on the opposite of the Street in different Districts. This was cruel and unthinking.

In addition, the area taken away was put into a district including Waialua!

If these changes are made, district 37 could expand to include the new Koa Ridge development and become another Mililani district, eliminating district 45.

I sincerely hope you will consider what I have proposed and restore Waipio Acres to its rightful place.

Respectfully,
Marilyn B. Lee
95-170 Newe Place
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
808 623-6707
808 542-4438

From: [Marilyn Lee](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:16:42 AM

To Commission:

From : Marilyn B Lee

Mililani map

Very disappointed that Waipio Acres is still split on this map.

In my opinion this is very disrespectful to the oldest residents of Mililani. Please make them whole!!!

Aloha

Marilyn Lee

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marilyn Lee](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mililani
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:22:42 AM

Please do not take Yamane out of Mililani. He has done a lot for us and will continue to do so. District 45 is far away from our district and should be moved.

Marilyn B Lee

Sent from my iPhone

October 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Reapportionment Commission,

I oppose splitting Manoa into two Districts.

We in Manoa share a common reverence and appreciation of Manoa, we cherish Manoa Valley, support each other on initiatives and issues that impact Manoa. We in Manoa nurture and care for one-another. Our Manoa Community is a strong Ohana and we lookout for each other. Manoa residents get activated; whether it is saving trees at Manoa Market Place, saving our Post Office, Supporting and Preserving “green space and native trees/vegetation or Disaster Preparedness Initiatives. We generally speak in one voice while actively communicating both individually and through organizations based in Manoa.

We are our “Brother’s Keeper” please keep Manoa Unified.

Thank you for listening,
Ellen Watson
Manoa Resident
3285 Pinaoula Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Email pehi@hawaii.rr.com
Cell tel (808) 778-0309

From: [Lisa Joy Andres](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Cc: [Helen Nakano](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Opposition to the Splitting of Manoa Valley
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:45:00 AM

I, too, Lisa Joy Andres, am opposed to the separation of the Manoa community into two House districts. The diverse encompassing residents ~ multigenerational family residents, single family homes, temporary residents of professors & students, and community retailers and resources, make up our thriving community. To split this evolving & growing community would be splitting the community in many ways with negative effects.

I would like my children and grandchildren to live in a diverse community and learn how symbiotic we all can learn from each other as well as live in a great community. Please do not split the Manoa Valley community.

Sincerely,
LJ Andres

> On Oct 13, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Helen Nakano <hanafudahawaii@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Thank you for the opportunity to state my opposition to the splitting of the Manoa Valley community into two separate House districts for the coming election and the next 10 years.

>

> I have lived here in this Valley for over 30 years and have been actively involved in nearly every aspect of Valley life. We have a vibrant community with many of us actively involved with our neighbors to make this community a wonderful place to raise our families.

>

> If you split this valley into two separate House districts with different representatives and attach us to different neighborhoods we have never worked with before, you will destroy the special sense of place Manoa Valley has and diminish the cohesiveness we have worked so hard to promote.

>

> We love living in this Valley because we feel connected to our community. Other urban districts lack our community spirit. They don't support their schools, their parks or take care of their streams. Neighbors don't know their neighbors.

>

> Please don't let this happen to Manoa Valley.

>

> Sincerely,
> Helen Nakano
> 3080 Puhala Rise
> Honolulu, HI 96822
> (808) 927-0993

My name is Bill Hicks.

Mahalo for letting me provide comment on the reapportionment proposal.

I live in the Enchanted Lake area of Kailua which is currently part of House District 51.

I took a look at the Technical Committee's proposed map last night and was disappointed to see District 51 very contorted and stretching from Lanikai to Portlock.

I know you have a task and there will inevitably be changes, but the district 51 proposal looks like a real stretch, literally a real stretch. Visually it makes no sense.

Oahu is like a ribbon with District 17 in Hawaii Kai one anchor and District 51 in Kailua-Waimanalo as the other end.

Both Districts 17 and 51 are quite well drawn right now. Makapu'u Point is a logical boundary. 17 is most of Hawaii Kai and 51 is all of Enchanted Lake, with Waimanalo at one side and Lanikai at the other. District 51's current population is right on target.

I am concerned because the proposal:

- (1) Divides Enchanted Lake between Districts 50 and 51.
- (2) Stretches District 51 to include Portlock and sheds some of Kailua.
- (3) This dilutes the voice of Kailua, especially Enchanted Lake.
- (4) It also splits off Portlock from the rest of Hawaii Kai, dividing Hawaii Kai between Districts 17 and 51.
- (5) This dilutes the voice of Hawaii Kai, especially Portlock.
- (6) The proposed district 51, with a small part of Kailua and a small part of Hawaii Kai together with Waimanalo, would be a more challenging district for anyone who is elected to represent three very different communities.

I would hope that there is a more logical answer that doesn't split up District 51 like this.

Logically it seems like you keep one anchor, 51 Kailua/Waimanalo, mostly unchanged, and for the other anchor, 17 Hawaii Kai, you would move the boundary west to around Kawaihae Street to make the math right. That would actually make Hawaii Kai more intact with 17 and keep southern Kailua and Waimanalo intact with 51.

Mahalo.



October 14, 2021

Re: Public Testimony on Reapportionment Commission Meeting October 14, 2021

Aloha, Commissioners:

My name is Becky Gardner and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself as Principal and Founder of Policy Matters LLC. My comments today are focused on extraction process as outlined in Article IV, section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution and relevant statutory and case law. I am concerned that this Commission has committed errors of law by:

- (1) Conflating the methods and procedures it is to follow in Article IV, section 6 with that of Article IV, section 4; and
- (2) Relying on a misinterpretation of a recent amendment to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 25-2 through Act 14, Session Laws Hawaii 2021 (Act 14) as justification for an under-extraction of non-permanent residents.

ERRORS CONFLATING ARTICLE IV SECTION 4 AND SECTION 6 IN THE EXTRACTION PROCESS

First, as to the error on the constitutionally-mandated 2-step process: I had emphasized in my September 9, 2021 testimony that Solomon v. Abercrombie, 126 Haw. 283 (2012) clearly explained that *Census Block-specific information was improperly and unconstitutionally relied upon for Step 1* when the Hawaii Supreme Court stated that the 2011 Reapportionment Commission “did not properly separate the step one process . . . from the step two process[.]” I again provide below certain excerpts from the decision which are the most instructive on this point.

- “The Commission undertook its reapportionment task by focusing solely on identification of non-permanent residents for step two and using the results for step two to identify the non-permanent resident population for step one.”
- “The Commission’s method of apportioning the state legislature did not properly separate the step one process of allocating the legislative members among the four counties from the step two process of apportioning the members within county districts. Identifying the non-permanent resident population for step one and identifying the non-permanent resident population for step two were separate processes.”

I am concerned that this Commission has committed the same error as the 2011 Commission by putting undue focus on census-block/Zip+4 digit-specific data, which may be ideal for executing Step Two – the process of drawing district lines, but is probably not the best available data for Step 1.

What has not been made clear to the public is whether the data provided by the military is exclusively census-block/zip +4 to the exclusion of military population data that is not attached to a zip+4 – which indicates their census block. It appears from the staff presentation that the total number was added up from this base census-block specific data, to the possible exclusion of non-permanent residents to which no zip+4 data was available.

To reframe this as a question, to which I respectfully request a clear response: **“Did the military exclude from the population total it gave to this Commission any service members and/or dependents for which it did not have census block-specific/zip+4 data?”** If yes, then there clearly was an under-extraction.

The sequential process outlined by Article IV of the Hawaii State Constitution *prioritizes* the extraction of non-permanent residents off the top - from the total population first - in Step One. This extraction is paramount. This

Commission has a duty to use the best data *for that purpose*. Based upon the public presentations, deliberations, and comments made by this Commission in its decision-making, I am not confident that it is using the best information to perform Step One, and is instead unduly focused on Step Two.

The Commission's Statutory Authority to Ascertain Most Accurate Population Data

What would give me confidence that this Commission is doing its due, constitutionally-mandated diligence to make the *most accurate* extraction of non-permanent residents of the total state population is if it were to, at a minimum, invoke one of many of its many powers granted by statute – especially since this issue is so contentious. These powers are outlined in HRS Chapter 25.

For example, **HRS Section 25-3** authorizes this Commission to summon appearances, testimony, and documents – under oath - from anyone it deems necessary. HRS Section 25-4 outlines the steep penalties for failure to answer questions from the Commission completely and truthfully. It does not appear that the Commission has summoned anyone for this purpose in a public forum. HRS 25-3 provides in relevant part:

"§25-3 Powers. The commission may require all such persons as it deems necessary to appear personally and testify before it and to produce to it all books, records, files, papers, maps and documents as shall appear to be necessary for the purpose of formulating a reapportionment plan. The chairperson of the commission or any member thereof acting on behalf of the chairperson shall have power to administer oaths to persons summoned to appear before the commission and such persons may be questioned, under oath, concerning all matters necessary for the due execution of the duties vested in the commission by the Constitution and by this chapter...[.]

Also, under **HRS Section 25-6**, this Commission has the authority to enlist the cooperation from any state agency. Because of the repeated concerns over the inconsistencies of data from DBEDT and the military, I respectfully request this Commission ask the military, DBEDT, and the University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute (UH SSRI) – from which relevant permanent resident population data was obtained during the 1991 reapportionment, to testify in a public forum as to why DBEDT's population data is inferior to that provided by the military for the purposes of performing the Step One – Article IV Section 4 extraction of non-permanent residents off the top of Hawaii's total population. HRS 25-6 provides in relevant part:

"§25-6 Cooperation. The commission may request and shall receive from every department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the State cooperation and assistance in the performance of its duties."

Moreover, under **HRS Section 25-2**, this Commission is mandated to consult with the various county advisory councils. Apparently, the Advisory Council for Hawaii County had testified in June 2011 before the 2011 Commission. In 2021, this Commission is only hearing Advisory Council testimony in October – and after it had voted on the specifics for extracting non-permanent residents – matters to which these advisory councils are perhaps most concerned. HRS 25-2 provides in relevant part:

§25-2 Duties. (a) Legislative reapportionment. The commission shall reapportion the members of each house of the legislature on the basis, method, and criteria prescribed by the Constitution of the United States and article IV of the Hawaii Constitution. Pursuant thereto, the commission shall conduct public hearings and consult with the apportionment advisory council of each basic island unit. . . . [.]

This Commission has tremendous power and authority to execute its duties, but it has not demonstrated to the public that it has invoked any of these powers to resolve concerns.

ERROR OF LAW MISINTERPRETING ACT 14 WITH UNDUE FOCUS ON “TOTAL POPULATION” LANGUAGE

SECOND, in this Commission’s vote on September 9, 2021 on the number of non-permanent residents to extract, there was a discussion of Act 14 (hour 2 minute 57 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvQ90kYoBUU>) which put undue focus on the term “**total population**” added by amending HRS section 25-2. To be specific, Act 14 provided:

“For purposes of legislative reapportionment, a “permanent resident” means a person having the person's domiciliary in the State. In determining the total number of permanent residents for purposes of apportionment among the four basic island units, *the commission shall only extract non-permanent residents from the total population of the State counted by the United States Census Bureau for the respective reapportionment year.*

It’s not clear to me why this term “total population” was so significant to the Commission, as the Attorney General’s opinion letter on this matter indicates that the focus of this Commission should be on the “permanent resident” population. I fear that this tacit misinterpretation indicates an error of law, reviewable by the Hawaii Supreme Court under Article IV, section 10.

Commissioners indicated how they relied heavily on the presentations by the Deputy Attorney General on the impact and significance of Act 14. Unfortunately, the public was not privy to this presentation because the matter was discussed during executive session.

Act 14’s amendments to HRS sec 25-2 are unclear and confusing. This amendment language was inserted into SB1350 – also dealing with salary raises for legislators - during conference committee, and the public did not have a chance to review and comment on this proposed language. No testimony or committee report helps to adequately explain what the legislative intent and purpose of this language was. However, what was elucidating during the September 9, 2021 Commission meeting was testimony and an exchange with Commission Staff and Senator Dela Cruz (hour 1 minute 5 - here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvQ90kYoBUU>) - indicating that the purpose of that amendment was to address the possible overextraction of military. **Reapportionment Staff indicated however that the policy impetus provided to Senator Moriwaki was based on an erroneous understanding of census data.**

Accordingly, reliance on Act 14 – premised on an error of fact – indicates a possible error of law. The public would have thus benefited greatly from the same legal briefing provided to the Commission during executive session.

Finally, as a matter of policy, it’s important that this process be conducted with the utmost integrity – as not only will it serve as the baseline for fair, constitutionally sound representation for the next 10 years; but if loose, faulty precedent in the process is calcified here, it will be vulnerable to future manipulation for ends that are adverse to the the general public, *and* to all of those working on this today. Such errors of law may be challenged as an abuse of discretion reviewable by the Hawaii Supreme Court under Article IV section 10 – resulting in undue delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Rebecca (Becky) Gardner, Esq.

From: [James Hasselman](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the Splitting of Manoa Valley
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:44:35 AM

Aloha - I am writing to you to express my opposition to the splitting of the Manoa Valley community into two separate House districts for the coming election and the next 10 years. Such an act is completely illogical in my view, and goes against all the work we in the Valley have done to create a sense of community. Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,
James P. Hasselman
2820 Kalawao Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.avast.com/antivirus_!!LIYSdFfckKA!lh0S_Tovgk-iekBHe4W12pLLh5rFeR0jLcV-S6qqIVx2hZBVHyT-duRWSr6Dn2wIh4OMoE\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.avast.com/antivirus_!!LIYSdFfckKA!lh0S_Tovgk-iekBHe4W12pLLh5rFeR0jLcV-S6qqIVx2hZBVHyT-duRWSr6Dn2wIh4OMoE$)

From: [Gordon Aoyagi](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Reapportionment of Manoa into Two Districts
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:48:53 AM

I am a resident of Manoa and oppose the reapportionment proposal to split Manoa valley into two districts. While potentially the proposal would offer the opportunity to provide the Manoa community politically two house votes to address community concerns, the proposal splits a cohesive community in half. It dilutes common issues by politically inferring that what happens on one side of the valley does not affect the other side. The Manoa valley is one entity. The principles of following geographic features that naturally separate settlement patterns; established neighborhood, land use, zoning and urban planning boundaries; and cohesive community interests with common social and economic infrastructure is violated with the reapportionment proposal. Surely the principles of community cohesiveness and common infrastructure is more important to political community viability than balancing arithmetic models. People count!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide and your considering my comments.

Gordon Aoyagi
Sent from my iPhone

IV. REPORTS BY THE APPORTIONMENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

REPORT OF THE KAUAI ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO THE STATE OF HAWAII REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
Thursday, October 14, 2021

The Kauai Advisory Council met on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 via zoom. The meeting was initiated and opened by Hawaii Reapportionment Commissioner, Randall Nishimura, who also serves at the Hawaii Reapportionment Commission's liaison to the Kauai Advisory Council (KAC). Members of the KAC present were Hermina Morita, Chris Nii and Laurie Yoshida. Member Maryanne Kusaka was absent.

An agenda was agreed upon. Hermina Morita was named the Chair of the KAC by acclamation. Chris Nii was delegated the responsibility of recording the meeting minutes.

The reapportionment staff gave a demonstration of the redistricting website and also gave a status update of the redistricting process.

There was no written or oral public testimony submitted.

The KAC agreed to meet again after the presentation of the proposed legislative redistricting plans by the Technical Committee Permitted Interaction Group is completed and made public to provide further feedback to the Commission.

Submitted by:
Hermina Morita, Chair
Kauai Advisory Council