



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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In reply refer to:
Serial No. DOC-145

January 7, 2008

Mr. Frank Vitrano
Chief, Decennial Management Division
US Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-7100

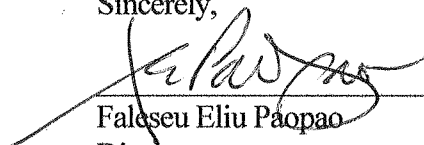
Dear Mr. Vitrano:

The American Samoa Census 2010 Interagency Committee once again met to review the proposed contents of the 2010 census. I am happy to report that the American Samoa Interagency Census Group (IC) concurred with the majority of the proposed contents, however, the following contents submitted to your office in April last year have not been addressed.

1. Language – language information is needed for several local and federal programs including voting rights act, educational, social services and employment. One important element of language use needed for language preservation programs is the ability to speak this language. The IC recommended adding another part of the language question inserting part 14c to read, “How well do you speak this language?” Response categories are Good, Fair, Not Good.
2. Grandparents – the ‘aiga’ system of strongly interwoven family community living, the lack of hospice and nursery homes for the elderly, and a significant number of grandparents being taken care of at home needs to be addressed. The IC recommended a part 23d question to address this issue. Possible question, “Are you taking care of any person in your housing unit due to old age or disability?” Possible responses are Yes, No.

Once again the IC Group have concurred with the rest of the proposed contents provided in your submittal to us dated November 12, 2007. I want to thank you for the opportunity to review the 2010 census materials.

Sincerely,



Faleseu Eliu Paopao
Director
Department of Commerce

Cc: Mr. Lelei Peau, Deputy Director
Mrs. Idabelle Hovland, Decennial Management Division
American Samoa Interagency Census Group Members
Census 2010 File



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April 19, 2007

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Serial: 641

Honorable Charles Louis Kincannon
Director, United States Bureau of the Census
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20233



Dear Mr. Kincannon:

I thank you for the opportunity extended to American Samoa to review and make recommendations on subject matter contents for the next decennial census in 2010. Following direct consultations with Ms. Idabell Hovland of the Puerto Rico and the Outlying Area Branch, the American Samoa Interagency Committee for the 2010 contents was established and began its work on subject matter contents.


Submitted herewith are content recommendations for the 2010 census of American Samoa. The exclusion of American Samoa from the American Community Survey makes it extremely important to capture all of American Samoa data needs in the census and as mandated by both local and federal laws.

We are asking for additional materials similar to the Stateside proposal now with Congress. Most importantly, the veteran service-connected disability service and health insurance coverage. At the local level, we are asking for additional materials primarily for clarification and usefulness of census data on land ownership of where housing units are located, caretakers of grandparents and old folks, language proficiency and computer/internet access.

Honorable Charles Louis Kincannon
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I hope that will consider these recommendations as we plan for a meaningful and successful census in 2010, and I look forward to a fruitful working relationship with your office in fulfilling the census mandate.

Sincerely,



TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

TTAT:jvs

Enclosure: American Samoa Census 2010 – Contents Proposal

cc: Honorable Faleomavaega E. Hunkin, Jr.
Honorable Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia
Director, Department of Commerce
Chairman, American Samoa Census 2010
Interagency Committee

American Samoa Census 2010 Subject Matter Contents Proposal

American Samoa 2010 Interagency Committee (IC)

Item	Justification	IC Recommendation
Household Relationship.	American Samoa is very family oriented. With its extended family structure it is essential to gather data on changes in family composition. Household size is used for determining poverty levels, low income and housing needs, educational and social services.	Retain household relationship content and categorizations used in 2000 census.
Gender.	Many local and federal programs use gender statistics for distribution of funds and services.	Retain gender content used in 2000 census.
Age.	Age statistics is needed for local and federal programs such as education, employment, social services, housing, justice, voting and general government planning.	Retain age content used in 2000 census.
Race/Ethnicity.	Race is important for education, employment, social services and general government programs and services. The distinctions between the different ethnic groups will make census data more meaningful and useful at the territorial level.	Retain race/ethnicity content and categories used in 2000 census.
Tenure.	Home ownership and housing inventory served as an indication of economic growth and wealth. The information is used for determining housing needs, rental cost, low-income eligibility units and home energy assistance and housing markets.	Retain tenure content used in 2000 census.
Land Ownership	The committee discussed the need to distinguished tenure by land ownership. This distinction will produce reliable data on real rental cost, property valuation and marketable housing units.	Recommendation: Is this living quarter situated on communal land, privately own land, freehold land or Church land?
Vacancy Characteristics.	Because of the unique land tenure system, characteristics of vacant units differentiate real marketable vacant units from social-cultural-no rent units.	Retain vacancy characteristics content used in 2000 census.
Marital Status.	American Samoa is excluded from the American Community Survey (ACS). Many local and federal government programs use marital status to differentiate housing needs, poverty	Retain marital status content used in 2000 census.

	statistics, delivery of social services and community projects, employment and labor force characteristics.	
Place of birth, citizenship and year of entry.	American Samoa is excluded from the ACS. Migration is a key component of local population growth affecting all sectors of the community. Long-term migration and internal movements help reassessed planning needs and government services redistribution. Migration statistics is used by local and federal agencies for educational, social services, employment and government distribution of funds and resources.	Retain place of birth, citizenship, year of entry contents and categorizations used in the 2000 census.
Parental birthplace.	Federal legislation pertaining to the One Parent Law and qualifications for US passports need parental birthplaces. There is no other source of this information except the census.	Retain parental birthplace content used in the 2000 census.
Fertility, including date of birth of last child.	Fertility statistics is useful to project future growth, especially in areas where the median age is much lower. Information is used for family planning, childcare services, human and social services, education and housing needs.	Retain fertility, including date of birth of last child content used in the 2000 census.
Educational attainment and school enrollment and vocational training.	Local and federal agencies require educational attainment and school enrollment data for funding allocations. Data is also used for educational programs and the No Child Left Behind act, employment and job placements, adult education programs and the voting act. Vocational training data provided statistics for on the job training needs and continuing education.	Retain educational attainment and school enrollment and vocational training contents used in the 2000 census.
Migration (resident five years ago) and reason for migration.	Because of the huge migrant population in American Samoa, long-term migration statistics is useful for future projections, determining eligible population for many federal and local programs. Statistics is used also for educational, health and employment programs and general planning. Reason for migration data is used for restructuring eligibility and entry permitting criterion. The "Other" category was the third largest category reported in the previous census. The IC recommended reducing the number categories. The "Other" category should also be specified.	Retain migration and reason for migration content used in the 2000 census. Recommendation: "Other" category should be open ended and specified.
Disability	Local and federal programs need	Retain disability content used in the 2000

	disability data for distribution of benefits. Functional limitations data is need for program development and enforcement of disability act.	census.
Language spoken at home, frequency of English usage, and language proficiency.	Language information is needed for several local and federal programs including voting right act, educational, social services and employment. One important element of language use needed for local Language Preservation Programs is the ability to speak this language. The IC recommended adding another part of the language question inserting before part c to read, "How well do you speak this language?"	Retain language spoken at home, frequency of English usage and add part c to read, "How well do you speak this language?" Suggested categories are: Good, Fair, and Not Good. Change current part c to part d.
Veteran status and period of military services.	Office of Veteran Affairs require veteran status including period of military services to evaluate programs on veteran continuing education, employment placement, housing needs and healthcare.	Retain veteran status content used in the 2000 census. Add additional categories where necessary.
VA service - connected disability service	Veteran population is growing. Many of those in the local reserve units became active duty status during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. This information is needed for VA healthcare programs.	Recommendation: use stateside proposed content.
Grandparents as caregivers	A significant percent of American Samoan Grandparents are taking care of their grandchildren. This information is needed for family stability research, primary caretakers of children and assistance to needy family programs. The committee also discussed the need to identify whether grandparents are being taken care of in households. The committee proposed a question on this issue in the upcoming census.	Retain grandparents as caregivers content used in the 2000 census. Add a question on caretakers of grandparents.
Labor force status	Labor force data is used for labor market analysis, employment and unemployment, minimum wage determinants, workforce investment act and economic profiles.	Retain labor force status content used in the 2000 census.
Place of work and journey to work	Information on commuting patterns and travel time is used for infrastructure developments. Planning of new roads, access and expansion to new undeveloped areas where people are moving to and place of work need travel time data.	Retain place of work and journey to work content used in the 2000 census.
Occupation, industry and class	Statistics is used for career development, on the job training, minimum wage	Retain occupation, industry and class of workers contents used in the 2000 census.

	allocation of resources/services.	
Plumbing and kitchen facilities	These data are considered essential components of Fair Market Rental programs. These characteristics are standard measuring tools for HUD programs.	Retain plumbing and kitchen facilities contents used in the 2000 census.
Telephone	Information is needed for local and federal service providers including communication linkages, universal access and disaster/warning programs.	Retain telephone service content used in the 2000 census.
Vehicles available	Vehicle availability is needed for transportation and energy programs consumption programs. It is also used for social service providers, special needs population, emergency needs and isolated areas.	Retain vehicle availability content used in the 2000 census.
Source of water	Public or government water supply is treated and many families and villages depend on untreated village water systems or other means. The information is used for village programs, small village funds and Community Development programs.	Retain source of water content used in the 2000 census.
Sewage disposal	The local government continued to expand the sewer system to different parts of the island. This information is useful in assessing current program needs, priorities and a count of number of families connected.	Retain sewage disposal content used in the 2000 census.
Condominium status	Less than 100 condo units were reported in the last census. This information gives new insight to future housing needs and affordable housing in the territory.	Retain condominium status content used in the 2000 census.
Battery operated radio	Information is needed for local and federal service providers including communication linkages, universal access and disaster/warning programs.	Retain battery operated radio content used in the 2000 census.
Computer usage and internet access	Technology has changed how island economies function. The use of computer at home and access to the internet is critically important for both economic reasons and Homeland Security. American Samoa does not have administrative data nor a regular program to collect this data.	Recommendation: Do you have a computer and internet access at home?
Business/medical office on property	Many housing units have small-scale businesses attached. This question will provide information on number of family run businesses and data needed for national accounts system.	Retain business/medical office on property contents used in the 2000 census.
Utilities, mortgage,	Utility cost, mortgage payments,	Retain utilities, mortgage, taxes, insurance

taxes, insurance and fuel costs	insurance and fuel costs are measure of housing affordability. HUD depends on this data for all housing programs, including local Community Development Block Grant programs, HOME program and CPD.	and fuel costs contents used in the 2000 census.
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