



# The Assessment of Native Hawaiian Housing Needs

## WHAT IS THE STUDY?

*The Assessment of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs* is a national study mandated by the U.S. Congress to understand the housing needs of native families. It is sponsored by the Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This study was first conducted in 1996, and the current study plans to update the assessment by presenting a complete overview of the housing needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

The study is conducted by a HUD study team made up of the Urban Institute, Econometrica, and NORC at the University of Chicago.

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE STUDY?

The participants are randomly selected from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) residential application list. Each household that is randomly selected will receive a letter and information about the study. Participation is optional. If a selected household chooses to participate, they will sign and return a consent form.

In order to better understand the housing needs of Native Hawaiians the goal is to interview 500 households on three islands: O’ahu, Hawai’i, and Moloka’i.

## WHAT IF I AM SELECTED AND I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE?

If you choose to participate, an interviewer from NORC (a member of the HUD study team) will contact you to make an appointment to meet you at your home to conduct the survey. He/she will show you proper identification and will also have additional materials to share with you about the project. Wherever possible, interviews will be conducted by Native Hawaiian interviewers hired by NORC. If it is more convenient for you, the interview may be completed by phone.

If you agree to participate, the survey will take about 55 minutes and you will receive a \$25 gratuity as a token of appreciation from us for your time.

## WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED?

The survey questions are easy to answer. You will be asked about how many people live in your house, features of your housing unit (such as electricity, number of rooms, air conditioning, etc.), your preferences for an ideal housing unit, your thoughts on homeownership and renting, and other similar questions. Your answers will help us understand the housing needs of Native Hawaiians. Your participation is voluntary, and if you don’t want to answer certain questions, that’s OK, too.

## WHO WILL KNOW WHAT MY ANSWERS ARE?

Your answers and name are never linked together. The answers from all people taking the survey are grouped together. Your name, address and telephone numbers are used only for locating purposes and are separated from your answers. All NORC interviewers sign a pledge not to reveal any names of participants or discuss the project with anyone besides the survey staff.

## DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS KNOW ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Yes. DHHL has agreed to help with this project and will help contact selected households. DHHL played an important part in the planning of the study. DHHL will NOT know whether you participated or not.

## IS IT OK IF I DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE?

Yes. Participation is completely voluntary. No one except the NORC study staff will know you decided not to participate. Non-participation does not affect your status as a DHHL applicant.

## WHO ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS FOR A HOUSEHOLD?

The DHHL applicant OR their spouse/partner are eligible to answer the questions. The person who answers the questions must be Native Hawaiian.



## URBAN INSTITUTE

The Urban Institute, a nonprofit research organization based in Washington, DC, prides itself on producing policy-oriented research that is objective, based on evidence, and reliable. As with all of its research, the Institute has no “agenda” with respect to Native Indian, Alaskan or Hawaiian policy other than an interest in seeking to understand what the housing needs are for these specific groups, and the policies that work and work best. The Institute’s proposed research team combines outstanding, relevant research skills, substantive knowledge of Native American, Alaskan and Hawaiian-focused programs, and a dedication to discovering both what the housing needs are, and what programs have been effective in addressing these issues.

## ECONOMETRICA, INC.

Econometrica, Inc. located in Bethesda, Maryland, is a small business engaged in research and management consulting. Econometrica has worked extensively for HUD, including the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), as well as for the Indian Health Service on a variety of tribal health delivery issues. Econometrica completed a comprehensive evaluation of HUD’s Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program and its researchers have prior experience working with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

## NORC at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NORC, founded in 1941, is an independent non-profit research organization that conducts social science research that serves the public good. NORC works with federal agencies, tribes, foundations, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. NORC projects in tribal communities have involved communications, health disparities, educational attainment, and historical trust fund accounting. NORC is committed to safeguarding the confidentiality of personal information and survey responses. All NORC staff, including interviewers, sign a pledge to protect confidential information. Your interviewer can give you more details about that pledge.



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