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Immigrants and Migrants in Hawai‘i

Essential Contributors to the State's Workforce and Economy

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Essential Contributors to the State's Workforce and Economy

Prepared by the Partnership for a New American Economy Research Fund

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Introduction

Hawaii's history as an independent kingdom, a U.S. territory, and as the 50th state in the Union, has resulted in its unique and diverse culture today. Following in the footsteps of the early Polynesian settlers, immigrants from all over the world have come to the Hawaiian Islands and contributed to the shared cultural vibrancy and economic prosperity of Hawai'i since the 19th century. Today, Hawai'i is home to more than a quarter of a million immigrants from countries as varied as Canada, China, Honduras, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Micronesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, and Vietnam. Like those who came before them, they play a vital role in strengthening and expanding Hawaii's workforce and supporting the state's economy to the benefit of all Hawai'i residents.

Using data from the 5-year 2018 American Community Survey as well as qualitative policy data from the NAE Cities Index,[1] this report takes a closer look at Hawaii's foreign-born population[2] to explore how immigrants and refugees play an important role in the state's economy, workforce, and community.

KEY FINDINGS

Immigrants are vital to industries and occupations that are essential to Hawaii's economy.

Despite making up 18 percent of Hawaii's population, immigrants accounted for nearly 40 percent of agricultural workers, and 33 percent of the workers in the tourism, entertainment, and hospitality industry. Within specific industries, immigrants are playing critical roles in certain occupations, accounting for 68 percent of housekeeping workers, over half of all chefs and head cooks, 47 percent of all nursing assistants, and 20 percent of all physicians.

Immigrants make significant economic contributions to Hawaii's economy.

Alongside the $1.55 billion that immigrants paid in federal taxes and $874 million in state and local taxes, immigrants contributed $780 million to Social Security and $195 million to Medicare in 2018. After taxes, immigrants in the state had a spending power of $5.8 billion, and contributed over $17.5 billion to Hawaii's GDP.

Immigrants are creating jobs in Hawai'i.

In 2018, immigrants accounted for over a quarter of all entrepreneurs in the state, making them 24.4 percent more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

CONTINUED

KEY FINDINGS CONT.

Immigrants hail from a diverse range of countries.

While nearly half of the immigrants in Hawai'i are from the Philippines (45.8%), the rest of the top ten countries of origin for immigrants are quite varied: Japan (8.4%), China (7.8%), Korea (7.0%), Micronesia (4.6%), Vietnam (3.9%), Mexico (2.2%), Marshall Islands (2.2%), Canada (1.6%), and Hong Kong (1.5%).

More than half of the immigrants in Hawai'i are naturalized, and many immigrants are likely eligible to naturalize.

Over 56 percent of immigrants in Hawai'i are naturalized U.S. citizens, and over 40,000 immigrants are likely eligible to naturalize, which would allow them to access a greater variety of jobs that may require citizenship, and increase their likelihood of starting a business.

Immigrants are more likely than U.S.-born residents to not have health insurance.

Despite accounting for 18 percent of the population, immigrants accounted for over 31 percent of residents in Hawai'i that did not have health insurance in 2018.

Immigrants are more likely to live in multi-generational households.

In 2018, 48.1 percent of immigrant households involved 2 generations of adults—adult children living with their adult parents—or 3+ generations, compared to 37.5 percent of their U.S.-born counterparts.

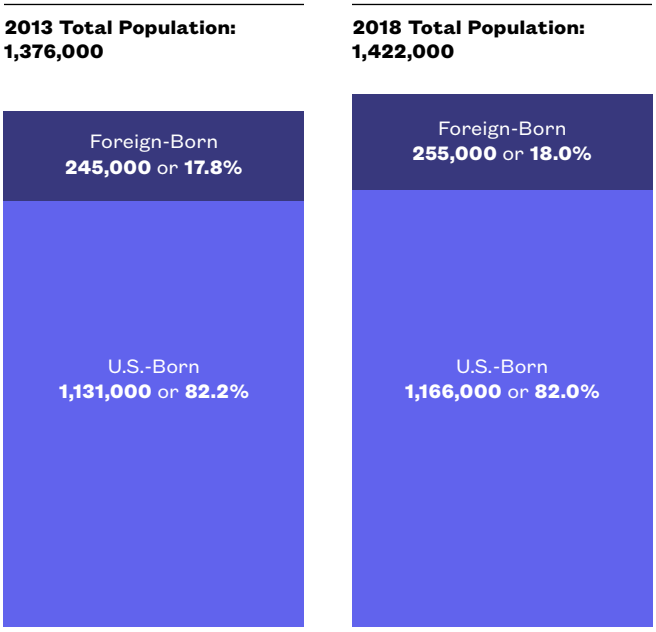
In comparison with other comparable U.S. cities, Honolulu struggles to provide policies that support immigrant integration.

Looking at NAE's 2020 Cities Index, Honolulu ranked 95th out of the 100 largest U.S. cities in terms of policies and socioeconomic opportunities that support immigrant integration. Factors taken into consideration in the Cities Index include in-state tuition for undocumented residents, cooperation between local police and federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, and statewide cooperation with sanctuary cities.

Population and Demographics

Hawaii's overall population has continued to grow modestly over the years, and immigrants contribute significantly to that growth. In the five-year span between 2013 and 2018, the state's population grew by 3.3 percent from 1,376,000 in 2013 to almost 1,422,000 in 2018. Over the same time period, the number of immigrants in Hawai'i also grew, increasing by 4.3 percent, or approximately 10,000, to more than 255,000 in 2018. Today, immigrants make up 18 percent of the entire population of the State of Hawai'i, a slight increase from their 17.8 percent share of the state's population in 2013. This, however, is a significant increase from as recently as 1990, when a little more than 14 percent, or 160,000, of the state's residents were immigrants.

FIGURE 1: OVERALL AND IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I, 2013-2018

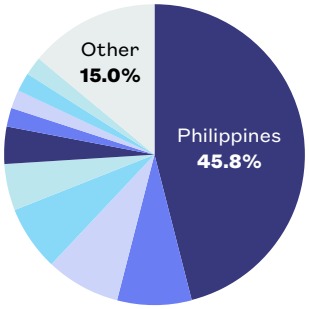


*Immigrants make up **18% of the entire population** of the State of Hawai'i.*

Hawaii's immigrant population is growing faster than the overall population, and as such, a sizeable share—almost one quarter—of the state's population growth between 2013 and 2018 can be attributed to immigrants. This is important because growing economies need growing populations. Without an expanding consumer market, a solid tax base, and an adequate workforce to meet the demands of local employers, states and cities are less able to support a robust and dynamic economy. A stable and growing population is key to all of these factors.

Today, immigrants in Hawai'i hail from a variety of countries (Figure 2). Historically prominent immigrant groups in Hawai'i such as Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean immigrants continue to make up the vast majority of the foreign-born population. Of these, immigrants from the Philippines represent the largest country of origin group, making up nearly half—or 45.8 percent—of all immigrants in Hawai'i. However, more recent immigrant groups such as Mexicans, Vietnamese, and Micronesians also make up sizeable shares of the foreign-born population.

FIGURE 2: IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2018

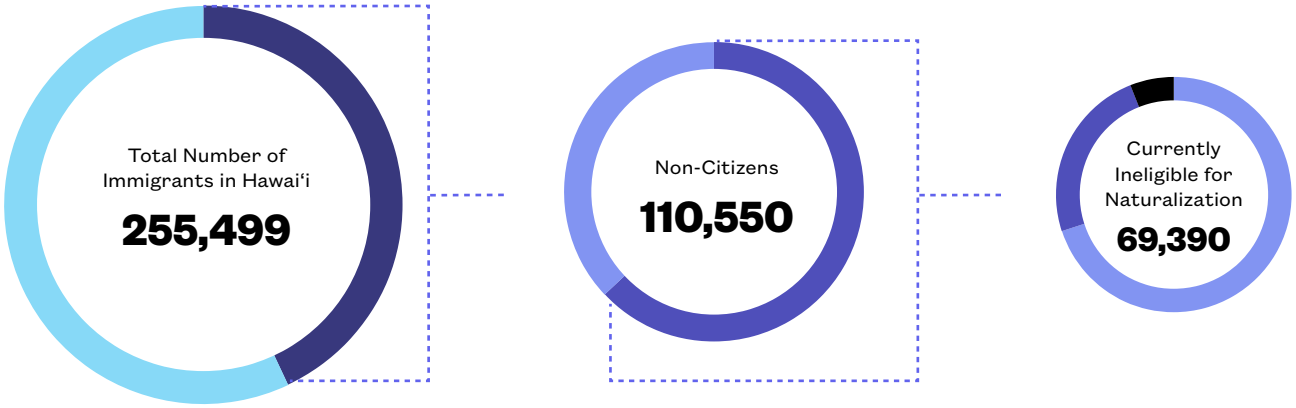


Country of Birth, 2018	Number of Immigrants	Share of Immigrants
Philippines	**117,100**	**45.8%**
Japan	**21,500**	**8.4%**
China[3]	**20,000**	**7.8%**
Korea	**17,900**	**7.0%**
Micronesia	**11,600**	**4.6%**

Country of Birth, 2018	Number of Immigrants	Share of Immigrants
Vietnam	**10,000**	**3.9%**
Mexico	**5,600**	**2.2%**
Marshall Islands	**5,500**	**2.2%**
Canada	**4,200**	**1.6%**
Hong Kong	**3,900**	**1.5%**

Overall, more than half, or 56.7 percent of immigrants in Hawai'i are naturalized U.S. citizens. An additional 16.1 percent of immigrants are non-citizens who may already be eligible for naturalization given their length of residency in the United States and English language skills. Finally, 27.2 percent of the immigrant population, or more than 69,000 people, are currently not eligible for naturalization. This includes more than 48,000 undocumented immigrants, as well as more than 4,200 DACA-eligible immigrants. The remaining almost 17,000 in this category are documented immigrants such as lawful permanent residents (green-card holders) who have not yet met the residency requirements for naturalization, COFA immigrants, asylees, and other residents on visas like international students and temporary workers. Individuals in this category, including some currently-undocumented immigrants, may be eligible for other immigration statuses and become eligible for naturalization over time.

FIGURE 3: IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I BY CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION STATUS, 2018



- **43.3% of All Immigrants:** Non-Citizens (110,550 Immigrants)
- **56.7% of All Immigrants:** Naturalized U.S. Citizens (144,949 Immigrants)
- **62.8% of Non-Citizens:** Currently Ineligible for Naturalization (69,390 Immigrants)
- **37.2% of Non-Citizens:** Eligible for Naturalization (41,160 Immigrants)
- **69.7% of Currently Ineligible:** Undocumented (48,394 Immigrants)
- **24.2% of Currently Ineligible:** Documented (16,786 Immigrants)
- **6.1% of Currently Ineligible:** DACA-Eligible (4,210 Immigrants)

SPOTLIGHT ON

PAOLA RODELAS

Communications & Community Organizer, UNITE HERE Local 5

Paola Rodelas came to the United States from the Philippines at age 2, when her father, a Filipino citizen, joined the U.S. Navy. Under a binational partnership in effect until 1992, Filipinos were permitted to join—as long as they had no dependents and made the cut. Every year, as many as 100,000 would put in for 400 slots.

It was such a good opportunity that when Rodelas' father was accepted, three years after applying, he neglected to tell the Navy that he now had a wife and child. It was the 1980s, and even a civil engineering degree couldn't secure him a job in the Philippines. "So he basically lied," Rodelas says.

He served 20 years, one of the tens of thousands of Filipinos to don an American uniform since the end of the Spanish-American Civil War. Yet he did "most of it as a non-citizen," Rodelas says, "even though he literally swore an oath to fight for this country."

"I know the importance of what citizenship means," says Rodelas. She did not gain citizenship herself until she was 16 years old. "I know how scary it is. We could have been deported at any time."

It's one reason Rodelas appreciates being able to help other immigrants today. After graduating from the University of California San Diego, Rodelas moved to Hawai'i in 2013 to serve as the community and communications organizer for UNITE HERE Local 5, labor union chapter that represents Hawaii's hotel, restaurant, and non-professional healthcare workers.

The chapter has more than 12,000 members, three-quarters of whom work in hotels. Rodelas estimates that two-thirds of Local 5's members are of Filipino descent, some from families that came in the early 1900s to work the island's sugar plantations. About one-third are foreign-born workers who are not U.S. citizens.

"In a department like housekeeping the percentages of workers who are non-citizens can go up dramatically; 80 to 100 percent of housekeeping can be immigrants," Rodelas says. "And housekeeping is the hardest job at a hotel."

These workers make Hawaii's tourism industry operate, she says. Yet without citizenship, their homes and livelihoods are tenuous. Since 2018, Rodelas has been organizing citizenship workshops to help. The first one helped 114 immigrants. "And we had something like 180 volunteers show up," Rodelas says. "It really signaled how much the community here in Hawai'i wanted to do more to help the immigrant community."

Today, some 8,000 of Local 5's members, or two-thirds, remain unemployed due to pandemic shutdowns that began in March 2020. "And we don't see any end in sight," she says. Rodelas helped the union pivot to help its members secure unemployment, rent, and food, and information to help combat the high rates of COVID-19 infection in the Filipino and Pacific Islander communities. But, she says, "We need to get people back to work, and we need to get people back to work as safely as possible."

Citizenship remains an important milestone for most immigrants to the United States as well as the communities that welcome them. There are real economic benefits for communities that embrace naturalized citizens and encourage immigrants to take the steps towards naturalization when they become eligible: studies have shown that naturalized citizens out-earn non-citizens by as much as 16 percent, giving them more income to contribute to taxes and to spend in the local economy.[4] Naturalized citizens are also eligible to work in a number of occupations that require citizenship—most notably, government service positions and scientific research posts requiring a security clearance. Lastly, due to the increased ease with which they can apply for licenses and insurance, naturalized citizens are also more likely to establish U.S.-based businesses, creating jobs that support the local economy in the process.[5]

Looking more specifically at the non-citizen population—which may include legal permanent residents, temporary workers, undocumented immigrants, visiting scholars, and international students, among others—the data show that Filipino immigrants also make up the largest group by country of birth. All told, more than 38 percent of all non-citizens were born in the Philippines.

Although Filipino immigrants make up the largest non-citizen immigrant group in Hawai'i, Filipino immigrants have one of the highest rates of naturalization among immigrant national groups. Nearly two-thirds of all Filipino immigrants have naturalized, while the remaining 36.3 percent of Filipino immigrants are non-citizens (Figure 4). Other immigrant groups are proportionately more likely to be non-citizens. For example, the vast majority of immigrants from Micronesia and the Marshall Islands remain non-U.S. citizens, likely due to their unique status under a federally-negotiated compact, while more than 60 percent of all immigrants born in Japan remained without U.S. citizenship.

Overall, the data shows that there is a fairly significant imbalance in terms of men and women among immigrants in Hawai'i, regardless of citizenship. Among all immigrants, 56.1 percent are female and 43.9 are male. Among non-citizens, the skew towards women increases slightly, with 56.7 percent of non-citizens identifying as female and 43.3 percent male.[6] Conversely,

FIGURE 4: NON-CITIZEN IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2018

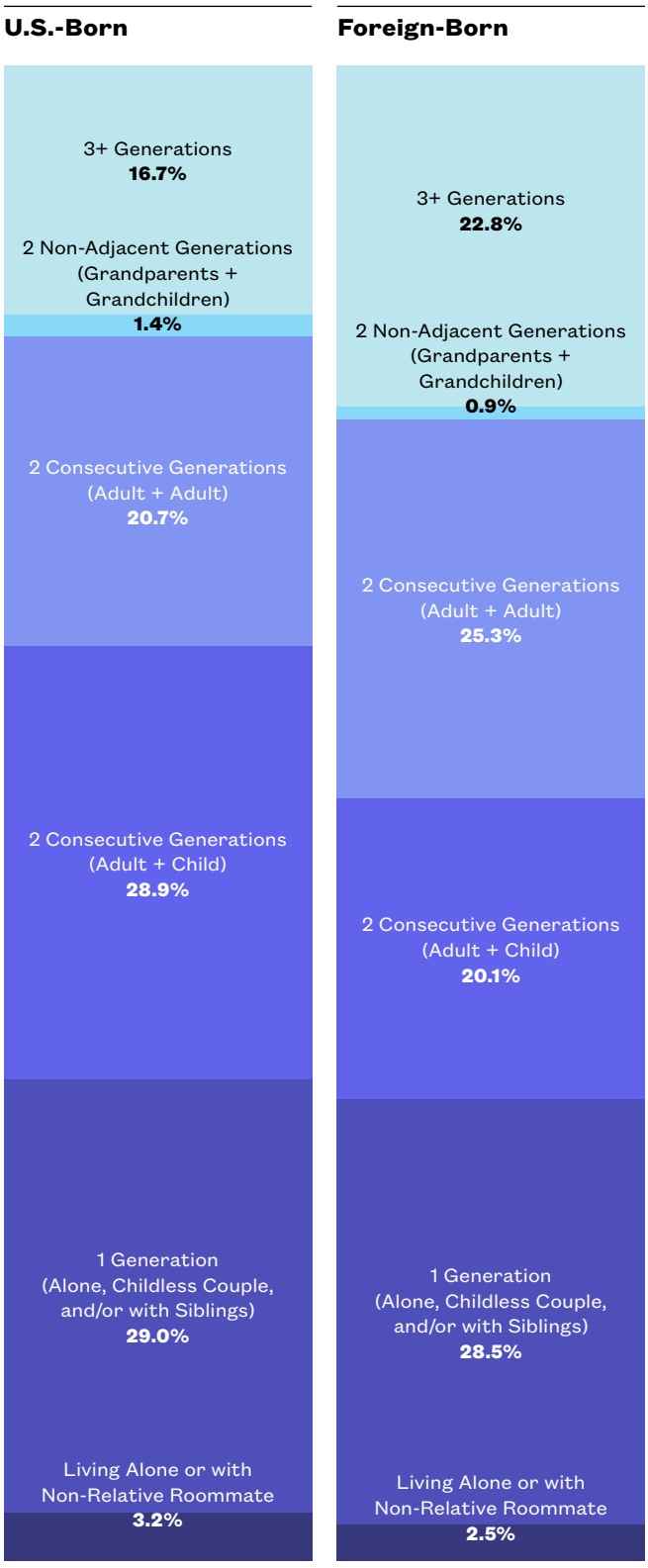
Country of Birth, 2018	Number of Non-Citizens	Share of All Non-Citizens	Non-Citizen Share of Immigrants
Philippines	**42,500**	**38.4%**	**36.3%**
Japan	**12,900**	**11.7%**	**60.3%**
Micronesia	**11,200**	**10.1%**	**96.2%**
China	**7,800**	**7.0%**	**38.8%**
Korea	**6,500**	**5.9%**	**36.3%**
Marshall Islands	**5,200**	**4.7%**	**93.6%**
Mexico	**3,600**	**3.3%**	**64.3%**
Canada	**2,500**	**2.3%**	**59.1%**

*Nearly **two-thirds** of all Filipino immigrants have naturalized.*

among U.S.-born Hawai'i residents there are more men than women, with 51.5 percent of U.S.-born residents identifying as male and 48.5 percent identifying as female.

While immigrants are more likely to be female, the data also suggests that extended family structures are more prevalent among immigrant households (see Figure 5 on next page.) More than 1 in 5 immigrant households, or 22.8 percent, consist of at least 3 generations of family members, compared to just 16.7 percent of U.S.-born households. Immigrant households are also more likely to include grown adult children living with their parents. More than one quarter of all immigrant households consist of two consecutive adult generations living under the same roof, compared to 20.7 percent of U.S.-born households.

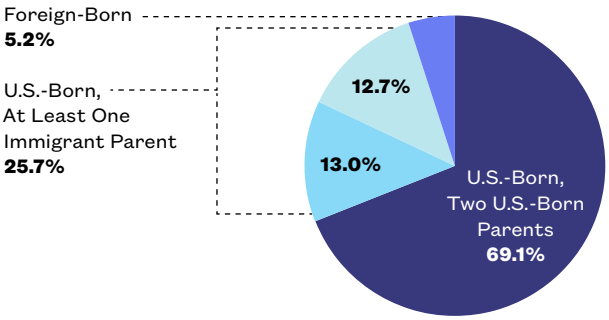
FIGURE 5: HOUSEHOLDS IN HAWAI'I BY GENERATIONAL COMPOSITION, 2018



Overall, immigrants in Hawai'i have a higher median age than the U.S.-born. While the median age for U.S.-born residents is 39, the median age for foreign-born non-citizens is 43. The median age of foreign-born naturalized citizens is even higher at 56. This, however, belies the fact that relatively few immigrants come to the United States as children. Rather, immigrants tend to come in the prime of their working lives as adults. Many immigrants once settled in the United States also settle down to start families and have U.S.-born children. This phenomenon is reflected in the numbers when we look at the Hawai'i resident minors and their parentage.

In 2018, there were approximately 300,000 Hawai'i residents who were under the age of 18. More than two-thirds of minors were U.S.-born to two U.S.-born parents. Meanwhile, just over a quarter of minor children had at least one immigrant parent, including 12.7 percent of all minors who had at least one non-citizen parent. Lastly, with only 5.2 percent, immigrant children make up a significantly smaller share of the under 18 population than immigrants do in the overall population of Hawai'i. Overall, naturalized citizens averaged a higher number of U.S.-born children, with an average of 1.9 U.S.-born children for every naturalized citizen parent. Non-citizen parents on the other hand averaged 1.6 U.S.-born children. All in all, 12 percent of non-citizens had at least one U.S.-born child under 18 in their household.

FIGURE 6: PARENTAGE AMONG HAWAI'I RESIDENT MINORS UNDER 18, 2018



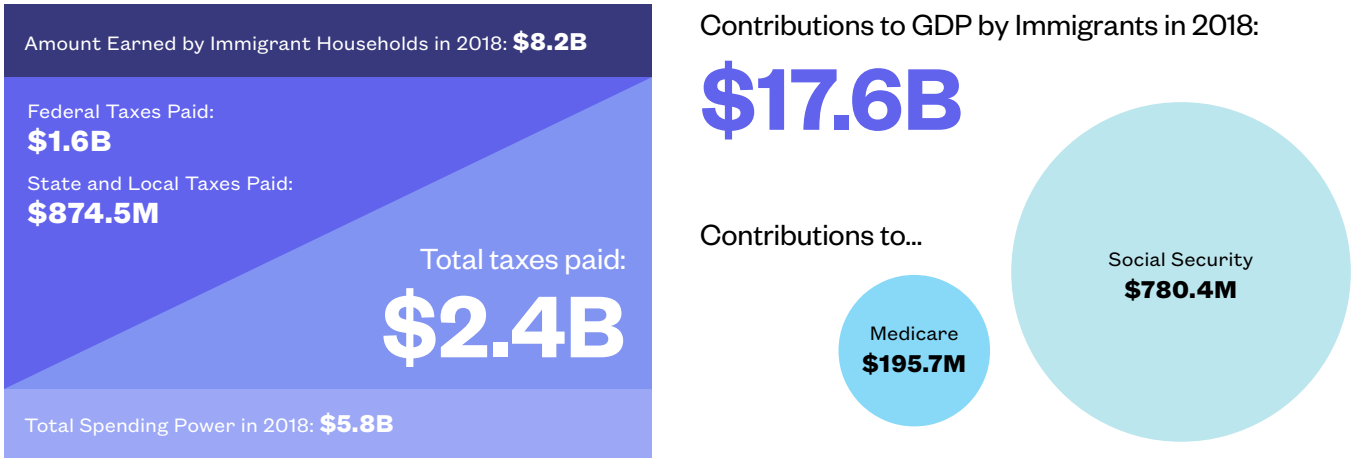
U.S.-Born, Two U.S-Born Parents	**69.1%**
U.S.-Born, At Least One Immigrant Parent	**25.7%**
U.S.-Born, At Least One Non-Citizen Parent	**12.7%**
Foreign-Born	**5.2%**

Economic Contributions of Immigrants

Given the size of Hawaii's immigrant population, it comes as no surprise that immigrants hold considerable economic power. In 2018 alone, immigrants contributed almost $17.6 billion to Hawaii's gross domestic product, more than double the value of the entire hotel and accommodation industry in Hawai'i that same year.[7] All together immigrant households earned more than $8.2 billion in a single year and these earnings allowed immigrant households to pay almost $1.6 billion in federal income taxes and $874.5 million in state and local taxes. This left immigrant households with more than $5.8 billion in spending power for housing, food, transportation, and other consumer activities, further adding to the economic activity of the state. This represented 18.6 percent of all private spending power in the state. Given their numbers, immigrants in Hawai'i had slightly more economic weight than their share of the state's overall population.

*In 2018 immigrants contributed almost **$17.6 billion** to Hawaii's GDP.*

FIGURE 7: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I, IN $USD



Source: NAE analysis of the 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Sample, downloaded from IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org; ITEP, "Who Pays?"; Congressional Budget Office; U.S. Social Security Administration.

Beyond their taxes paid, immigrant workers also contributed to social programs to the benefit of all Hawai'i residents. Through their payroll taxes or equivalent contributions, immigrant workers added more than $780 million to the U.S. Social Security fund and almost $196 million to the Medicare trust fund, helping keep these programs funded. These total contributions from immigrants represented an estimated 18.4 percent and 18.8 percent of all contributions to Social Security and Medicare, respectively, in the state. The immigrant shares of these contributions slightly exceeded immigrants' share of Hawaii's overall population.

Despite making up 18 percent of Hawaii's population, immigrants account for nearly 31 percent of all those without any form of health insurance coverage, making them nearly twice as likely to not have any form of health insurance coverage as their U.S.-born counterparts. In 2018, 20.4 percent of immigrants in Hawai'i reported having only public health insurance coverage, and 7% reported being uninsured altogether.

*Immigrants in Hawai'i are **nearly twice as likely** to not have any form of health insurance coverage as their U.S.-born counterparts.*

FIGURE 8: SHARE OF POPULATION WITH MEDICARE OR MEDICAID COVERAGE, 2018

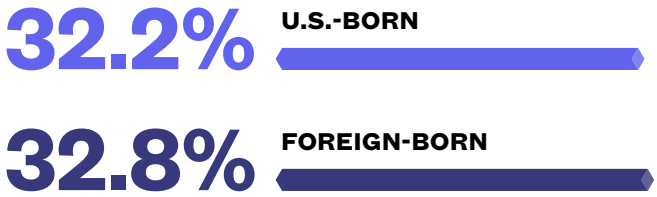
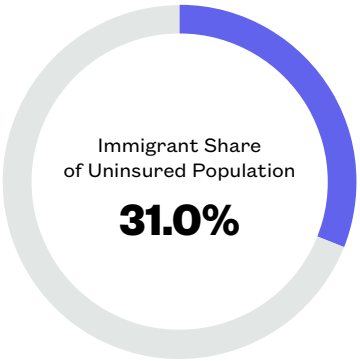


FIGURE 9: SHARE OF IMMIGRANT POPULATION WITH VARIOUS LEVELS OF HEALTHCARE COVERAGE, 2018

Level	Share of Population
Only private healthcare coverage	**59.5%**
Only public healthcare coverage	**20.4%**
Both private and public healthcare coverage	**13.2%**
Uninsured	**7.0%**



SPOTLIGHT ON

SHANTY ASHER

Board Member, Hawai'i State Board of Education and The Legal Clinic

Shanty Asher grew up in the Federated States of Micronesia, a long stretch of islands in the western Pacific Ocean divided among four states. Her father was from the state of Pohnpei, her mother from the state of Kosrae.

It is significant, says Asher, because the family moved between the islands, requiring that she adapt to new languages and cultures at a young age. "I grew up always needing to get caught up with something," she says, "always needing to survive and overcome."

The oldest of seven children, Asher graduated from the only public high school on the island of Kosrae, population 7,700, and moved to Hawai'i to study at Chaminade University of Honolulu, where she earned a bachelor's degree in pre-law studies and a master's degree in criminal justice.

"At first, it was truly challenging for me as a Kosraean to be among very competitive, well-spoken English speakers," she says. But she also felt like an ambassador, a representative for her people. "In that sense, I was Kosraean, so I have to succeed," she says. "And I am going to see if I can be an asset."

Asher was busy raising a family at the time—she now has three daughters—and she and her husband became disturbed by increasing discrimination they witnessed against Micronesians in Hawai'i. "I did not want my kids to grow up not being proud of who they are," she says. So they decided to move back to Micronesia, where Asher served as deputy assistant secretary for Pacific Affairs.

"It was a tough experience, and a learning experience for me, because there are not a lot of women serving in those roles," she says. It also motivated her to go to law school. Asher graduated from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, in San Diego, in 2018, and returned with her family to Hawai'i to work with the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

"Being offered to come back and be a voice for our people here was a blessing," she says.

Citizens of the Federated State of Micronesia can live and work in the United States without a visa thanks to the 1986 Compact of Free Association (COFA), which allowed the United States strategic military control of a 2-million-square-mile region. It has few economic resources, and a growing number of residents have moved to Hawai'i in search of opportunity. Like new immigrants throughout history, they are often reliant on education, health, and social services to gain a foothold, and have been discriminated against as a result.

However, Asher says she has seen perceptions changing, particularly since the coronavirus pandemic highlighted the key role Micronesians play as community navigators and as essential workers—at convenience stores, restaurants, and more. "COVID kind of broke down some barriers," she says. "It allowed people to see our potential."

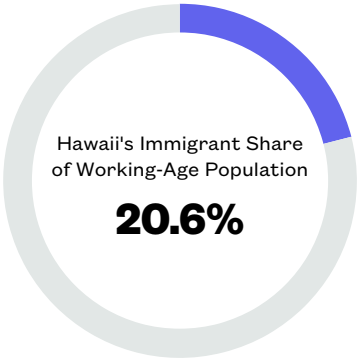
"After being given opportunities where Micronesians are valued in the community, I am very optimistic that we are moving toward a new, brighter and more inclusive future."

Immigrant Contributions to Hawaii's Labor Market

As more Baby Boomers age into retirement, Hawaii's immigrant population is helping to keep the state's labor force dynamic and flexible. This is of critical importance to the long-term health of the state's economy as industries and businesses require a workforce that can offer a wide range of skills and experiences in order to meet demands and continue to grow. This is true across the labor market, from labor-intensive roles in hospitality and agriculture to highly technical jobs in technology and healthcare that require years of extensive training and study.

However, in Hawai'i, barely six out of ten people born in the United States are between 16 and 64 years old, the range considered to be working age by the U.S. Department of Labor. Compared to the U.S.-born, Hawaii's immigrants are overwhelmingly of working age—almost three-fourths, or 72.5 percent—of the foreign-born are between 16 and 64. This demographic difference means that the city's foreign-born residents make up a larger share of the working-age population. In 2018, more than 1 in 5 working-age people in Hawai'i were immigrants.

FIGURE 10: SHARE OF POPULATION, WORKING-AGE AND EMPLOYED, BY NATIVITY, 2018

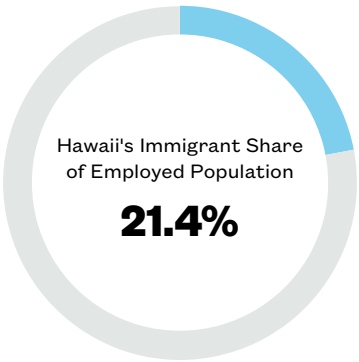


Immigrant Share of Hawai'i Population: **18.0%**

61.4%
OF U.S-BORN HAWAI'I RESIDENTS ARE OF WORKING AGE

72.5%
OF FOREIGN-BORN HAWAI'I RESIDENTS ARE OF WORKING AGE

How much likelier immigrants are to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts: **18.1%**



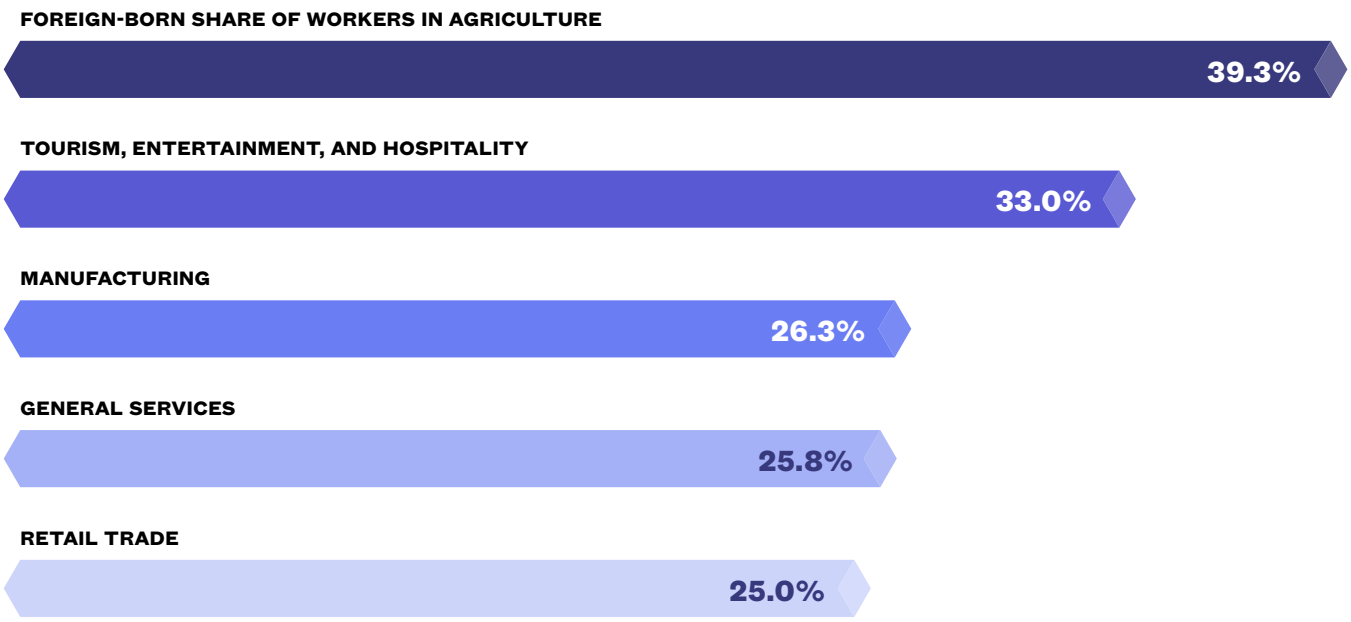
78.7%
OF U.S.-BORN WORKING-AGE RESIDENTS IN HAWAI'I ARE EMPLOYED

82.7%
OF FOREIGN-BORN WORKING-AGE RESIDENTS IN HAWAI'I ARE EMPLOYED

How much likelier working-age immigrants are to be employed than their U.S.-born counterparts: **5.0%**

Working-age immigrants in Hawai'i were also seen to have higher rates of employment than their U.S.-born counterparts. In 2018, 82.7 percent of working-age immigrants were employed, compared to just 78.7 percent of the working-age U.S.-born population. Immigrants made up 21.4 percent of all employed workers in Hawai'i, a larger portion than their share of the population. (See Figure 10 on previous page.)

FIGURE 11: TOP INDUSTRIES IN HAWAI'I BY FOREIGN-BORN SHARE OF WORKFORCE, 2018

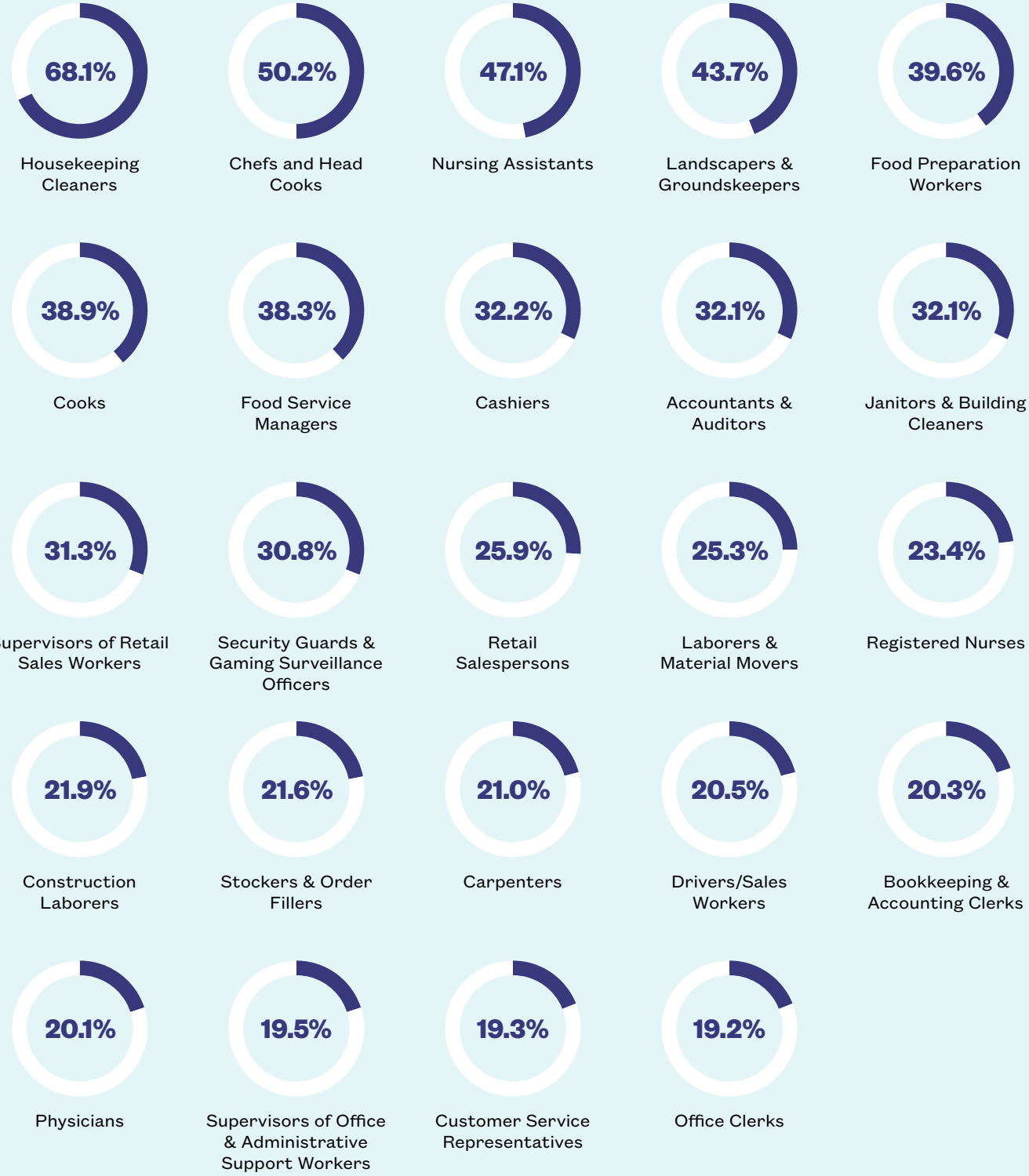


Through their contributions to the labor force, immigrants are critical to some of Hawaii's most prominent industries. For example, in agriculture, immigrants make up almost four out of every 10 workers. Meanwhile, in the tourism, entertainment and hospitality sector, which includes hotels, restaurants, bars, and tourist attractions, immigrants made up one-third of all workers. In manufacturing, immigrant workers made up a quarter of the entire sector's workforce.

A closer look at the specific occupations in which immigrant workers are most well-represented shows how important immigrant workers are, especially to occupations that are concentrated in Hawaii's tourism, entertainment and hospitality sector. More than 68 percent of housekeeping workers in the state are foreign-born, as well as more than half of all chefs and head cooks in the state. Immigrants are also disproportionately found in certain higher skilled roles, especially in healthcare. More than 47 percent of all nursing assistants in Hawai'i are foreign-born, as are 23.4 percent of all registered nurses. Lastly, more than one in five physicians in Hawai'i are born abroad.

Immigrants make up ***over 68%*** *of Hawaii's housekeepers and* ***over 50%*** *of the state's chefs and head cooks.*

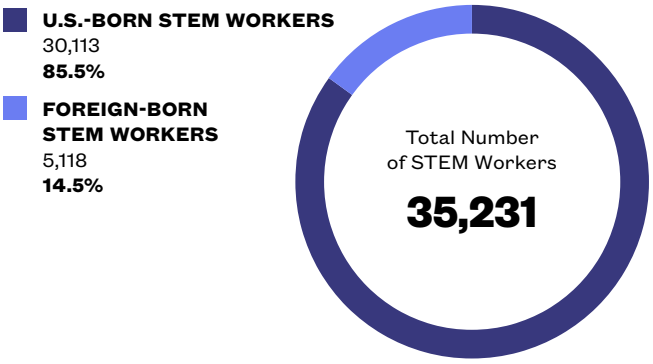
FIGURE 12: MAJOR OCCUPATIONS WITH HIGHER SHARES OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS, 2018



Jobs that require knowledge or experience in science, technology, engineering, and math—also known as STEM jobs—are also increasingly critical to Hawaii's economy. These are jobs that normally require more training or education, and as such, are harder to fill. These are also the jobs that drive innovation and development within businesses and industries, and why workers who can perform STEM jobs are in such high demand. In Hawai'i, there are more than 5,000 immigrant STEM workers who make up 14.5 percent of the state's entire STEM workforce.

As the numbers show, immigrants bring with them varying levels of work and educational experience. While much attention is paid to workers on the higher end of the educational spectrum, millions of jobs across the country require skills that are not taught in a classroom. Many businesses rely on these workers to keep the lights on, the machines running, and customers satisfied. And here too, immigrants play a crucial role, helping fill gaps at the lower end of the education spectrum as freight and material movers, drivers, and maintenance workers. By offering a ready supply of able workers, immigrants in Hawai'i allow local manufacturing businesses to remain competitive and make it easier for industries to remain in the area. By 2018, a total of 11,753 manufacturing jobs were created or preserved in the state due to immigrants.[8]

FIGURE 13: STEM WORKERS IN HAWAI'I, 2018



Looking at the four largest countries of origin for immigrants, the data shows that the most popular industry for immigrant workers for all four was the tourism, entertainment and hospitality sector. Workers from all four countries were also concentrated in

FIGURE 14: TOP THREE INDUSTRIES FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN , 2018

China

Industry	Share of Immigrant Workers from China
Tourism, Entertainment, and Hospitality	33.4%
Retail Trade	12.6%
Construction	7.8%

Japan

Industry	Share of Immigrant Workers from Japan
Tourism, Entertainment, and Hospitality	21.0%
Professional and Technical Services	20.2%
Retail Trade	12.4%

Korea

Industry	Share of Immigrant Workers from Korea
Tourism, Entertainment, and Hospitality	18.8%
Retail Trade	15.5%
Healthcare and Social Services	11.8%

Philippines

Industry	Share of Immigrant Workers from the Philippines
Tourism, Entertainment, and Hospitality	27.6%
Healthcare and Social Services	15.1%
Retail Trade	13.0%

retail trade businesses as well, which figured in the top three industries for all four countries of origin. From there, there are some nuances to be seen in the data. Construction was the third most popular industry for Chinese-born workers, while professional and technical service jobs were second most popular for Japanese-born workers. Korean and Filipino-born workers meanwhile were more concentrated in healthcare and social services, with that particular sector ranking second for Filipino immigrant workers and third for Korean immigrant workers.

Given the high numbers of immigrant workers that are in Hawaii's significant tourism, entertainment and hospitality industry, it is not surprising that the industry employs large numbers of workers at every income level. However, while the tourism, entertainment and hospitality industry is the most common industry for almost all workers, for immigrant workers in the top income quintile, tourism, entertainment and hospitality is only the third most common industry. Instead, among top earners, the two most common industries are healthcare and professional services, respectively. Healthcare also appears as a common industry among all workers in the three highest income quintiles, suggesting that better paying jobs and opportunities for immigrants are more likely to be found in this industry compared to others.

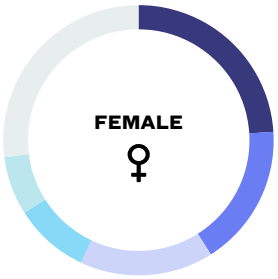
*Among top earners, the two most common industries are **healthcare and professional services**.*

FIGURE 15: TOP INDUSTRIES BY INCOME QUINTILE, IMMIGRANT WORKERS

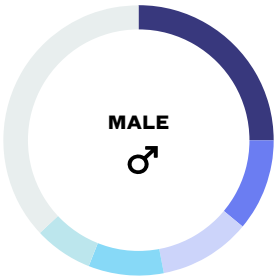
	Industry #1	Industry #2	Industry #1
TOP 20% INCOME QUINTILE	**Healthcare & Social Services** Share of Workers **16.8%**	**Professional & Technical Services** Share of Workers **15.2%**	**Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality** Share of Workers **11.7%**
SECOND 20% INCOME QUINTILE	Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality **17.8%**	Professional & Technical Services **15.2%**	Healthcare & Social Services **12.8%**
MIDDLE 20% INCOME QUINTILE	Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality **23.2%**	Healthcare & Social Services **13.3%**	Retail Trade **10.5%**
FOURTH 20% INCOME QUINTILE	Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality **30.8%**	Retail Trade **10.9%**	Professional & Technical Services **9.0%**
LOWEST 20% INCOME QUINTILE	Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality **21.6%**	Professional & Technical Services **12.1%**	Retail Trade **11.9%**

Among immigrant men and women, there does appear to be a difference in the distribution of workers across industries in Hawai'i. While the tourism, entertainment and hospitality industry is again the most common industry for both immigrant women and men, the range of industries diverges. Whereas immigrant women tend to work more in healthcare, social services, and educational services, immigrant men are more concentrated in construction and transportation industries.

FIGURE 16: TOP 5 INDUSTRIES FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY GENDER*



Industry	Share of Female Immigrant Workers
Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality	**24.0%**
Healthcare & Social Services	**16.7%**
Retail Trade	**15.5%**
Professional & Technical Services	**9.1%**
Educational Services	**6.7%**



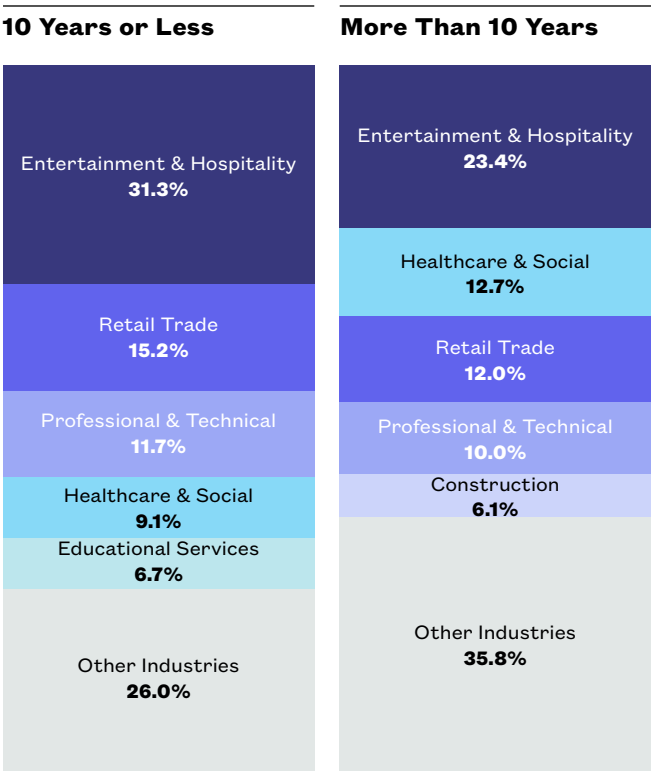
Industry	Share of Male Immigrant Workers
Tourism, Entertainment & Hospitality	**25.1%**
Professional & Technical Services	**11.3%**
Construction	**10.7%**
Retail Trade	**8.7%**
Transportation	**6.6%**

* No data available for non-binary or other genders.

There are also differences in the distribution of immigrant workers depending on how long they have been in the United States. Among immigrant workers with 10 years or less in the United States, there is a higher concentration of workers in the tourism, entertainment and hospitality sector. More than 3 out of 10 immigrant workers who have lived in the United States for ten years or less are in the tourism, entertainment and hospitality industry. For immigrant workers with more than ten years of residency in the United States, this share decreases to 23.4 percent. We also find that more recently arrived immigrant workers are slightly more likely to work in retail while those with longer residency are more likely to be in healthcare and social services.

*Longer residents are more likely to be in **healthcare and social services**.*

FIGURE 17: TOP INDUSTRIES FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY LENGTH OF U.S. RESIDENCY



SPOTLIGHT ON

AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI

Civil Rights Activist

On Aug. 18, 2020, Amy Agbayani got to address millions of Americans on television. Selected to represent Hawai'i for the Democratic National Convention's roll call, Agbayani used her 32 seconds to speak to her fellow immigrants.

"To the essential workers on the front line, to the service members who wear our flag, to the parents with big dreams for their children: no matter where we came from, immigrants belong in our country's long fight for justice," she said. "We belong in the America we are building together."

That Agbayani chose to honor Hawai'i by honoring its immigrants is fitting. The 78-year-old has spent a long, successful career helping new Americans and other under-represented groups achieve equal access to education, jobs, and basic civil rights.

"Immigrants are here to try and not be a burden," she says. "They're here to try for something for their families. Yet I see immigrants face many barriers."

Agbayani, the daughter of a Filipino diplomat and schoolteacher, grew up in the Philippines, Australia, and Thailand before coming to the United States in 1964 as an East-West Center scholar of political science. She earned a Ph.D from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where she wrote her dissertation on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

Immediately she saw that, while immigrants played a critical role in the state's economy, immigrant children were not succeeding in school, often due to a lack of English proficiency.

Agbayani got straight to work, co-founding in 1972 Operation Manong, a program whereby UH-Manoa students tutor immigrant children in public schools. "Manong" means older brother in the Ilocano language.

Operation Manong would later morph into the university's Office of Multicultural Student Services, which Agbayani ran until her retirement in 2016 and which obtained millions of dollars in scholarships and services for students from all walks of life. At the same time, she contributed scholarly research, worked on political campaigns, and was appointed the first chair of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Working with nonprofits today, Agbayani continues to advocate for multilingualism—recognizing and honoring the heritage languages of immigrants—and for awarding young people the Seal of Biliteracy, a certificate for students with multiple-language proficiency.

"In addition to language being a civil rights issue, I'm also saying it's a contribution and it enriches everybody, particularly the workforce," Agbayani says. "And particularly in a global economy and in tourism."

During the coronavirus pandemic, Agbayani has helped The Legal Clinic, where she sits on the board, expand its work to include relief aid—helping Hawai'i residents secure unemployment benefits or funds for rent, food, COVID testing, and other aid.

"The pandemic is a good example of why you cannot just take care of yourself," she says. "A community infected doesn't stay in that community. These are your neighbors, they are working in your hospitals, they are driving your buses."

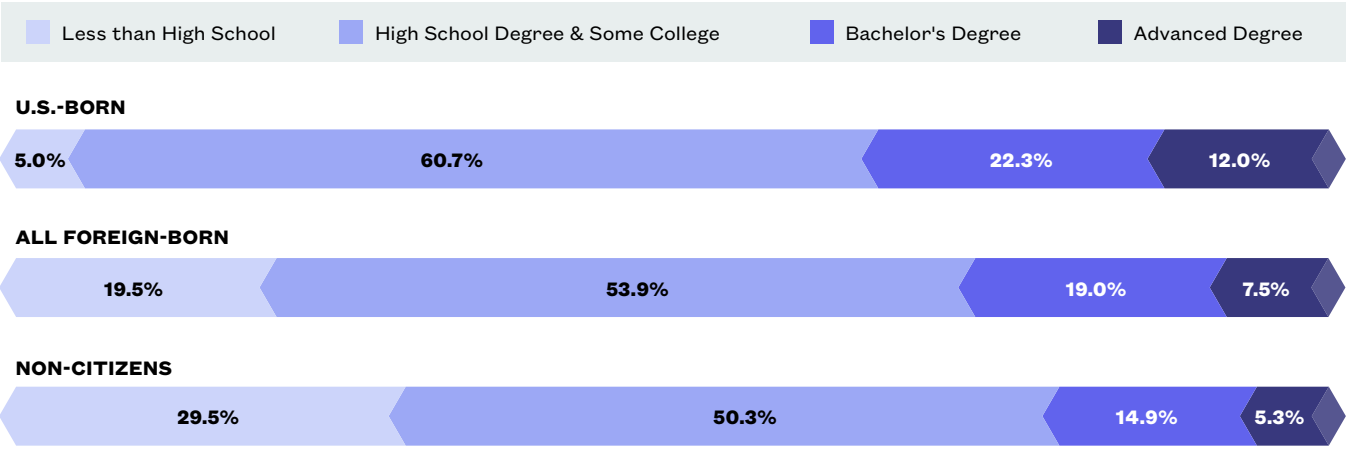
"I think one good thing we've learned from the pandemic is, Who are essential workers? And I'd say, Everyone, everyone."

Educational Attainment and International Students

Nationally, immigrants are more likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than the U.S.-born. However, the Hawai'i immigrant population differs from the national pattern. Immigrants in Hawai'i are less likely to have either a bachelor's degree or graduate level training than U.S.-born residents. While 34.3 percent of U.S.-born residents 25 years or older have at least a bachelor's degree, only 26.5 percent of their foreign-born counterparts do. This difference in educational attainment is even more pronounced for non-citizens, of whom only 20.2 percent hold at least a bachelor's degree. The educational profile of immigrants and non-citizens in particular may explain why immigrant workers are critical to labor-intensive occupations in agriculture, hospitality, and manufacturing, areas where attracting an adequate number of U.S.-born workers is often difficult.

Digging deeper into the educational attainment data, we find that immigrant women are more likely by a small margin to have a college education than immigrant men. While 26.8 percent of immigrant women hold at least a bachelor's degree, only 26.2 percent of immigrant men do. Meanwhile, however, when comparing immigrant women to U.S.-born women, the gap in experience increases given markedly higher rates of educational attainment among U.S.-born women. The gap between immigrant men and U.S.-born men in terms of educational attainment is 5.8 percentage points (32.0 percent for U.S.-born men versus 26.2 percent for immigrant men), while among women the gap increases to 9.9 percentage points (36.7 percent for U.S.-born women versus 26.8 percent for immigrant women).

FIGURE 18: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HAWAI'I RESIDENTS, 25 AND OLDER, 2018



*Younger immigrants are **significantly more likely** than older immigrants to have a college degree.*

More nuance emerges when considering education attainment by age group. Similar to national trends, in Hawai'i, younger immigrants and U.S.-born residents are more likely to have a college degree than older immigrants and U.S.-born residents, with the difference in educational attainment being wider among the two immigrant age groups than it is for the two U.S.-born age groups. Whereas U.S.-born residents ages 25 to 54 are more likely to have a college degree than U.S.-born residents aged 55 and older (35.1 percent versus 33.3 percent, a 1.8 point difference), younger immigrants are significantly more likely than older immigrants to have a college degree (29.1 percent for immigrants under 55 versus 23.3 percent for immigrants 55 and older, a 5.8 point difference).

FIGURE 19: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY GENDER AND NATIVITY, 25 AND OLDER, 2018

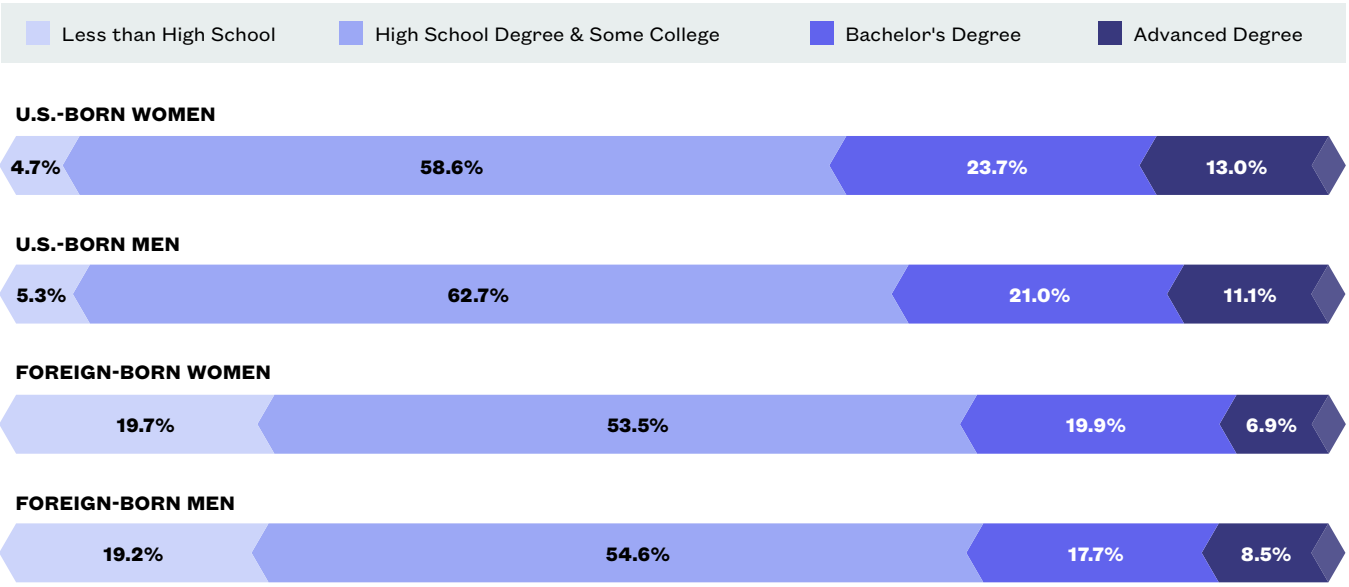


FIGURE 20: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE AND NATIVITY, 25 AND OLDER, 2018

25-54 Years Old

	U.S.-Born	Immigrant
Less than High School	**3.5%**	**12.6%**
High School Degree & Some College	**61.4%**	**58.3%**
Bachelor's Degree	**23.8%**	**20.8%**
Advanced Degree	**11.3%**	**8.3%**

55 and Older

	U.S.-Born	Immigrant
Less than High School	**6.9%**	**28.3%**
High School Degree & Some College	**59.9%**	**48.4%**
Bachelor's Degree	**20.3%**	**16.8%**
Advanced Degree	**13.0%**	**6.5%**

Looking at educational attainment among immigrants by country of origin, the data shows significant differences in the share of college-educated people. While Japanese immigrants are the most likely to have a college-education, with 33.4 percent of Japanese immigrants holding at least a bachelor's degree, Korean immigrants are the most likely to hold an advanced degree. More than one in ten Korean immigrants age 25 or older holds a master's, professional, or doctorate degree. Meanwhile, the educational attainment levels of immigrants from Micronesia appears to be significantly lower than other immigrant groups, with only 3.6 percent holding at least a bachelor's degree.

For young immigrants and the children of immigrants, the data reveals that they enroll in K-12 public schools at higher rates than U.S.-born children overall. Whereas 77.7 percent of U.S.-born children attended public school, 82.2 percent of the U.S.-born children of immigrants attended public school. Meanwhile, 89.1 percent of immigrant children attended public school as opposed to private schools. As a share of all K-12 students, immigrant children made up 6.3 percent of all public-school students.

While Japanese immigrants are the most likely to have ***a college education****, Korean immigrants are the most likely to hold* ***an advanced degree****.*

FIGURE 21: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AMONG IMMIGRANTS, 25 AND OLDER, 2018

Immigrants, 25 and Older

	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Filipino	Micronesian
Less than High School	**37.3%**	**9.6%**	**17.6%**	**19.5%**	**32.4%**
High School Degree & Some College	**36.7%**	**57.0%**	**51.8%**	**58.0%**	**63.9%**
Bachelor's Degree	**16.3%**	**25.7%**	**20.2%**	**19.5%**	**3.6**[9]
Advanced Degree	**9.6%**	**7.6%**	**10.4%**	**2.9%**	

[11] *Due to sample size issues, we are unable to report separate shares for bachelor's and ad-vanced degrees among Micronesian immigrants.*

Outside of K-12 education, immigrants who come to the United States to study at American colleges and universities also play an important role in the economy. International students—who pay two-thirds of their college costs with money from outside the United States—contributed $39 billion to the U.S. economy in the 2017-2018 academic year and supported more than 455,000 American jobs.[10] International students are also vital to university teaching, research, innovation, and business, particularly in science, technology engineering, and math (STEM) fields. In 2015, more than 42 percent of STEM graduate students at U.S. universities were international students. In computer science and electrical engineering—the building blocks of the 21st century knowledge economy—more than 79 percent of U.S. graduate students were from abroad.[11]

International students also make their mark in Hawai'i. In 2019, there were more than 4,000 international students studying at colleges and universities in the state. These students contribute more than $121 million each year in tuition and spending to the local economy. Through this additional economic stimulus, international students in Hawai'i support 1,011 jobs in the state.

International students ***contribute more than $121 million each year*** *in tuition and spending to the local economy.*

FIGURE 22: TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED FOR K-12 STUDENTS, 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR

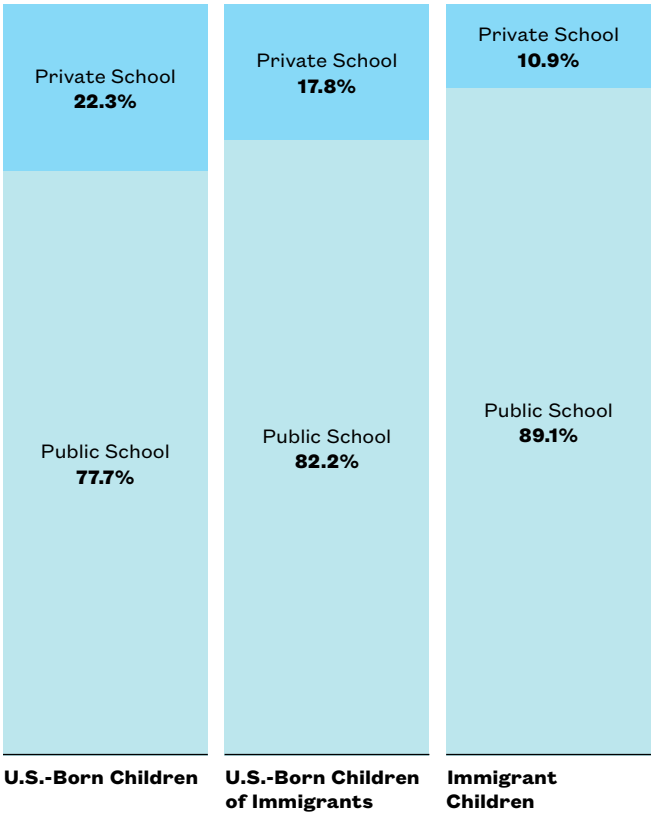


FIGURE 23: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN HAWAI'I, 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

4,078

Number of International Students, 2017-18

$121.1M

Spending by International Students, 2017-18

1,011

Jobs Supported by International Students, 2017-18

SPOTLIGHT ON

ISMAIL ELSHIKH

Imam, Muslim Association of Hawaii

Ismail Elshikh began his Islamic studies in kindergarten, attending one of the thousands of Al-Azhar schools in Egypt. By college—he graduated from Al-Azhar University, in Cairo—he was winning national competitions based on the recitation of the Quran, and in 1998 and 1999 the Islamic Affairs Ministry chose him to lead the Ramadan prayers in Washington, D.C. It was his first trip to the United States.

Elshikh returned in 2000, this time to accept a job at an Islamic center in Michigan. And, two years later, he was asked to serve as the imam of the Muslim Association of Hawai'i, which runs the island's only mosque and serves the state's approximately 5,000 Muslims. He has remained ever since, and has become a central figure in the lives of many immigrants and U.S.-born alike—a role that has become particularly pronounced during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Most of the members of the community are immigrants, like 90 percent," he says. "And some are not citizens."

Like so many people in Hawai'i, many were without work during the pandemic shutdowns and struggled to pay bills. Furthermore, non-citizens were ineligible for federal stimulus money, and many immigrants were unfamiliar with how to access state and private aid.

The Imam served as a bridge, directing people to rent, food, and other assistance. But his work was far from done.

"When you have financial pressure and people staying together in one place for a long time with this fear, it creates problems and misunderstandings," he says. "So I had many family conflicts that I had to help solve as a result of the pandemic."

The Imam made himself available to his community around the clock, and spent many hours counseling people on the telephone, on video calls, and, when necessary, in person, careful to maintain social distancing and masking protocols. "To be honest, it's almost 24/7," he says. "I take this not like a job. It's like a mission in my life."

His family members—he and his wife have five children—have been supportive. "My kids understand the responsibilities that I am in," he says. "I tell them that you get rewarded by helping me to fulfill my duties, from God. In our religion, if you help someone you get rewarded; if you help someone to help someone, you get rewarded, too."

With the mosque closed for seven months, Elshikh provided daily services over the internet, posted videos online, and helped everyone celebrate the Islamic holidays remotely. He narrated a livestream of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that this year was limited to 1,000 people. And with Hakim Ouansafi, chairman of the Muslim Association of Hawai'i, organized a drive-through gift distributions for children at the mosque Eid al-Fitr.

"Part of our religion is to be positive, helpful, beneficial to others," says Elshikh. "It's not like something that is optional. It is in the structure of the religion. It's mandatory: If you can help others you do."

Entrepreneurship

The entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants is well-known and well-documented. Stories of immigrants and refugees seeking out better lives in the United States, starting their own businesses and creating better, more prosperous lives for them and their families abound. A report by New American Economy found that immigrants were twice as likely to start a new business than the U.S.-born.[12] Nationally, some of these immigrant-founded companies have become the largest names in business: in total, 44 percent of all Fortune 500 companies in the United States were founded by an immigrant or the child of immigrants.[13]

In Hawai'i, immigrant business owners are making their mark on a local level. In 2018, there were more than 18,000 immigrant entrepreneurs spread across the Hawaiian Islands, making up more than a quarter of all business owners in the state. In total, these immigrant business owners made almost $455 million in personal business income, or about 22 percent of all business income in the state.

From small mom-and-pop shops, to restaurants, hotels, and professional service businesses, immigrants are helping drive job creation across the islands. Similar to immigrants overall at a national level, immigrants in Hawai'i also exhibit a higher propensity for starting and owning their own business. While only 9.5 percent of U.S.-born workers owned or ran their own business, more than 11.8 percent of immigrant workers did. This means that immigrants were 24.4 percent more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts in Hawai'i.

The more than 18,000 immigrant business owners in Hawai'i can be found in a variety of industries. While nearly 16 percent of immigrant business owners are in professional and technical services,[14] another 14.7 percent of immigrant businessowners are in entertainment and hospitality.

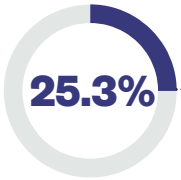
FIGURE 24: ENTREPRENEURS IN HAWAI'I, 2018

53,600

Number of U.S.-Born Entrepreneurs

18,100

Number of Foreign-Born Entrepreneurs



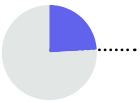
SHARE OF TOTAL ENTREPRENEURS, FOREIGN-BORN

9.5%

OF U.S.-BORN HAWAI'I RESIDENTS ARE ENTREPRENEURS

11.8%

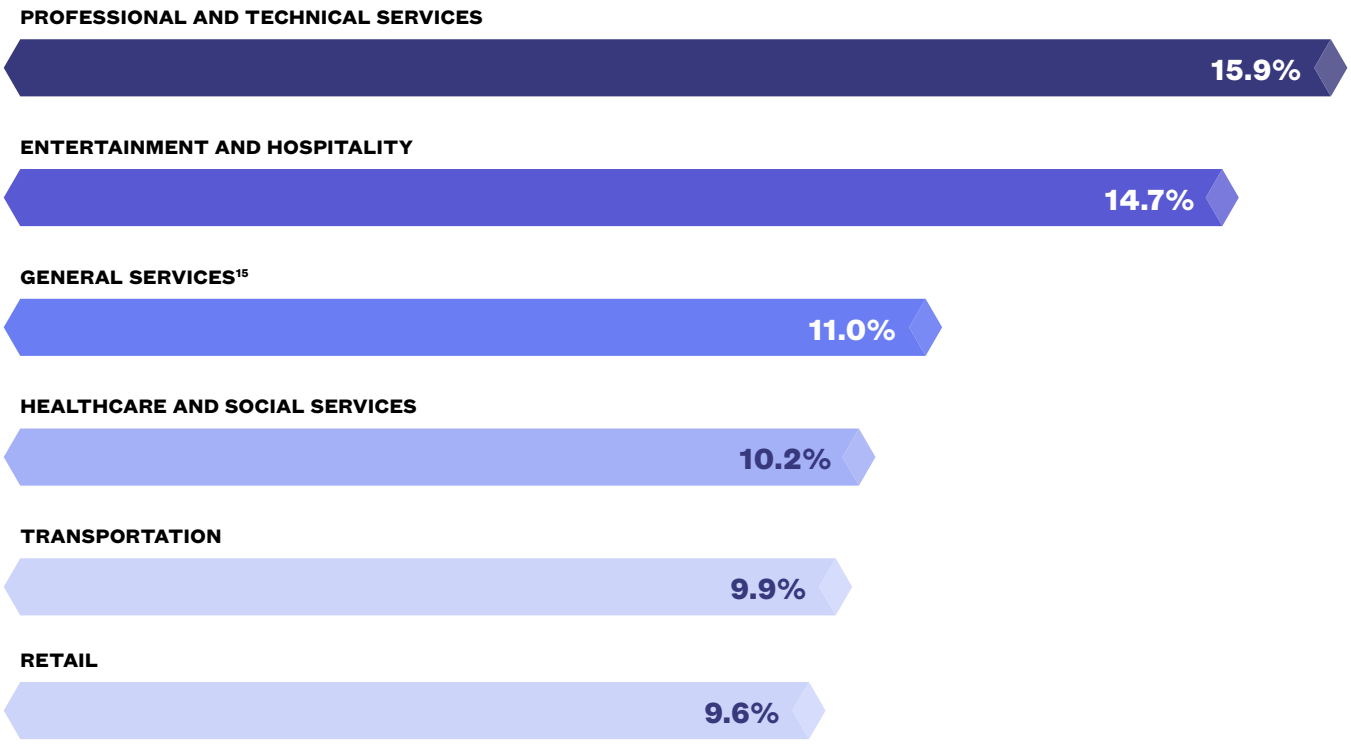
OF FOREIGN-BORN HAWAI'I RESIDENTS ARE ENTREPRENEURS



How much likelier immigrants are to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts: **24.4%**

*Immigrant business owners earn about **22% of all business income** in the state.*

FIGURE 25: TOP INDUSTRIES BY IMMIGRANT SHARE OF BUSINESS OWNERS, 2018



*The more than **18,000 immigrant business owners** in Hawai'i can be found in a variety of industries.*

Housing and Real Estate

The more than 44 million immigrants in the United States hold powerful purchasing power—as reflected by their demand for local goods and services that bolsters the economy.

In Hawai'i, households headed by immigrants hold considerable property value. In 2018 alone, foreign-born households collectively held almost $31.8 billion in residential real estate value. Moreover, foreign-born households also paid $619 million in residential rent payments for the year in 2018, a major contributor to the local real estate and property market.

Nearly half—or 49.8 percent—of all immigrant households in Hawai'i live in single-family homes while an additional 43.5 percent live in apartments. Regardless of the type of dwelling they live in, half of all immigrant households own the home that they live in, while 43.5 percent are renting.[16] This is a much higher proportion of immigrant households that are renting when compared to the 37.6 percent of U.S.-born households that are renting. However, immigrant homeownership rate is similar to the homeownership rate of U.S.-born households in Hawai'i, which measured 53.1 percent in 2018.

FIGURE 26: CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS TO REAL ESTATE IN HAWAI'I, 2018

$31.8B

Property Value Held by Immigrant Households

$619.0M

Annual Rent Paid by Immigrant Households

FIGURE 27: TYPES OF HOUSING FOR IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS IN HAWAI'I, 2018

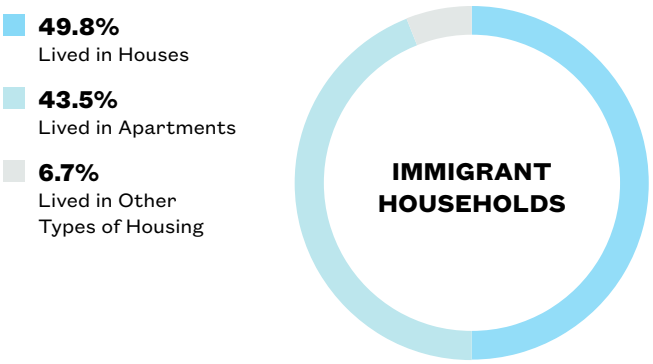


FIGURE 28: HOME OWNERSHIP AND RENTING RATES IN HAWAI'I, 2018

Home Ownership Rates

SHARE OF U.S.-BORN HOUSEHOLDS 53.1%

SHARE OF IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS 50.0%

Renting Rates

SHARE OF U.S.-BORN HOUSEHOLDS 37.6%

SHARE OF IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS 43.5%

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA-ELIGIBLE

The United States is home to an estimated 10.9 million undocumented immigrants, the vast majority of whom have lived in the United States for more than five years. While the national debate on what to do about undocumented immigration goes on without a clear resolution, millions of undocumented immigrants continue to work and to contribute to the economy at a national and local level. Collectively, these immigrants have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. Undocumented immigrants earned almost $250 billion in just one year, while paying almost $32 billion in taxes, and often support public welfare systems that they are legally unable to benefit from.

While Hawaii's undocumented population accounts for a smaller share of the immigrant population than it does nationwide, undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i are an important part of the state's economy and its workforce.[17]

In 2018, there were an estimated 41,000 undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i, including more than 4,000 younger undocumented immigrants who are likely eligible for the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program. Overall, undocumented immigrants make up about 16.1 percent of the total immigrant population in Hawai'i.

Undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i, like elsewhere in the United States, are overwhelmingly active and productive workers in the labor market. In 2018 alone, undocumented households in Hawai'i earned almost $804 million. Even though they may lack the official papers to work in the country, many find ways to be productive contributors to earn a living, support their families, and contribute to the local economy.

Many undocumented immigrants also pay taxes, despite not having legal status. A variety of studies have estimated that anywhere from 50 to 80 percent of households led by undocumented immigrants file

FIGURE 29: UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I, 2018[18]

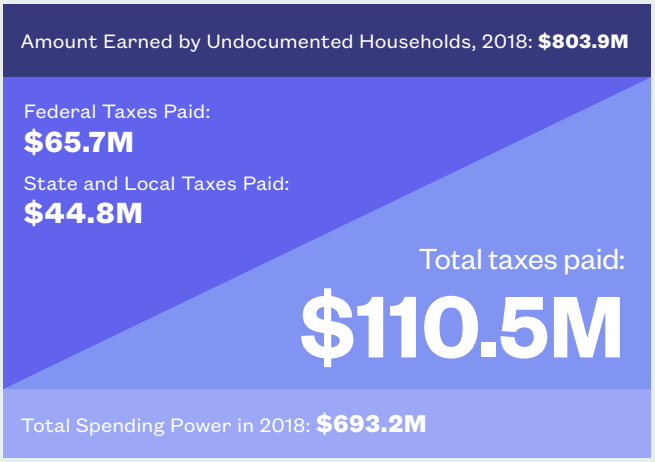
Number of Undocumented Immigrants in 2018:

41,246

Share of Foreign-Born Population, Undocumented:

16.1%

FIGURE 30: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I, IN $USD



*Undocumented immigrants make up about **18.9%** of the total immigrant population in Hawai'i.*

federal income taxes annually.[19] Federal government officials have also estimated that 75 percent of undocumented workers have taxes withheld from their paychecks.[20] In this paper, we make the assumption that 50 percent of the country's undocumented households paid income taxes in 2018, the lower boundary of these estimates. As such, given their earning power in 2018, we estimate that undocumented households in Hawai'i paid almost $66 million in federal income taxes and almost $45 million in state and local taxes. This ultimately left undocumented households with more than $693 million in spending power, much of which is spent locally on housing, consumer goods, services, and things like restaurants and entertainment for themselves and their families. This critically represents money that is circulated back into the local Hawai'i economy.

DACA-eligible immigrants, although technically undocumented, are able to work legally once they obtain DACA status.[21] While this status must be periodically renewed, DACA recipients are able to work and file taxes like other documented immigrants while their DACA status is current. Altogether, DACA-eligible immigrants earned almost $26.4 million dollars and paid almost $3.7 million in federal income taxes and an additional $3.1 million in state and local taxes.

FIGURE 31: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF DACA-ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I, IN $USD

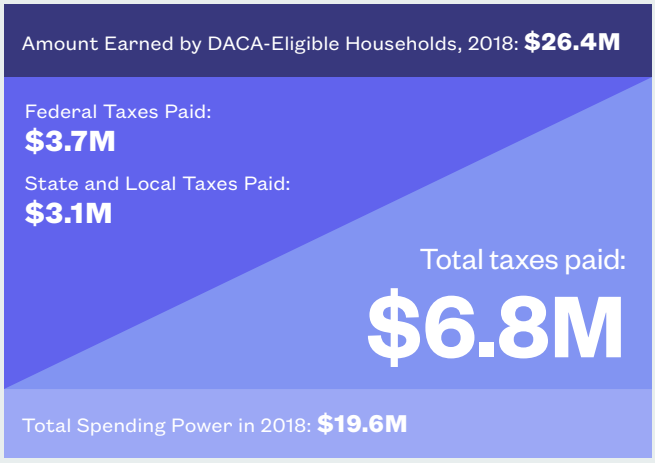


FIGURE 32: UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN HAWAI'I BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 2018

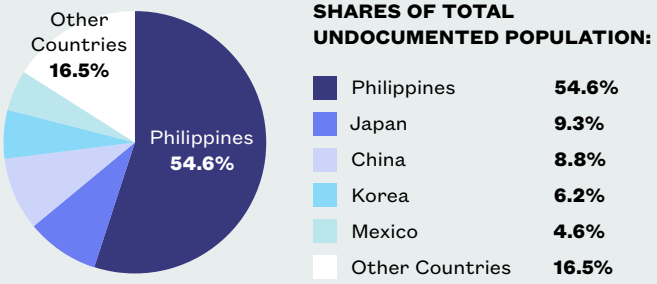
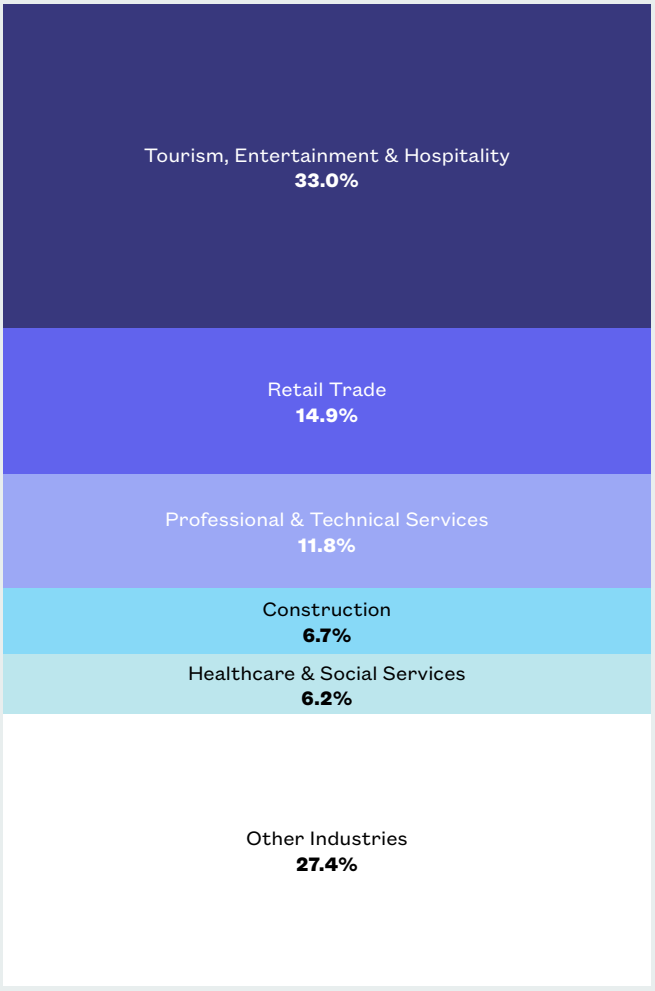


FIGURE 33: TOP INDUSTRIES IN HAWAI'I BY SHARE OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKFORCE, 2018



SPOTLIGHT ON

REFUGEES IN HAWAI'I

While refugees represent a small share of the U.S. population—less than one percent in the country overall—refugees have stood out from the broader population and even other immigrants for their resilience, their entrepreneurial spirit, and their dedication to their new homeland. In the United States, refugees earned almost $92 billion in one year alone and contributed more than $25 billion in taxes. Past NAE research has also shown that refugees nationwide were more likely to own their own businesses, hold U.S. citizenship, and own their own homes than other immigrants.[22]

In Hawai'i, there were approximately 8,000 refugees in the state in 2018. Together, these refugees made up 3.1 percent of the state's total immigrant population. Refugees, like other immigrants, are significant economic contributors to Hawai'i's economy. In 2018 alone, refugee households earned almost $313 million in annual income. This allowed them to pay more than $58.5 million in federal income taxes and almost $34 million to Hawai'i state and local taxes, that go back into funding services and infrastructure for all Hawai'i residents. After taxes, this still left refugee households with more than $220 million in spending power each year, a significant amount for such a relatively small population.

*Refugee households earned almost **$313 million** in annual income. This allowed them to pay more than **$58.5 million** in federal income taxes and almost **$34 million** to Hawai'i state and local taxes.*

FIGURE 34: REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I, 2018

7,929

Number of Likely Refugees[23] in 2018

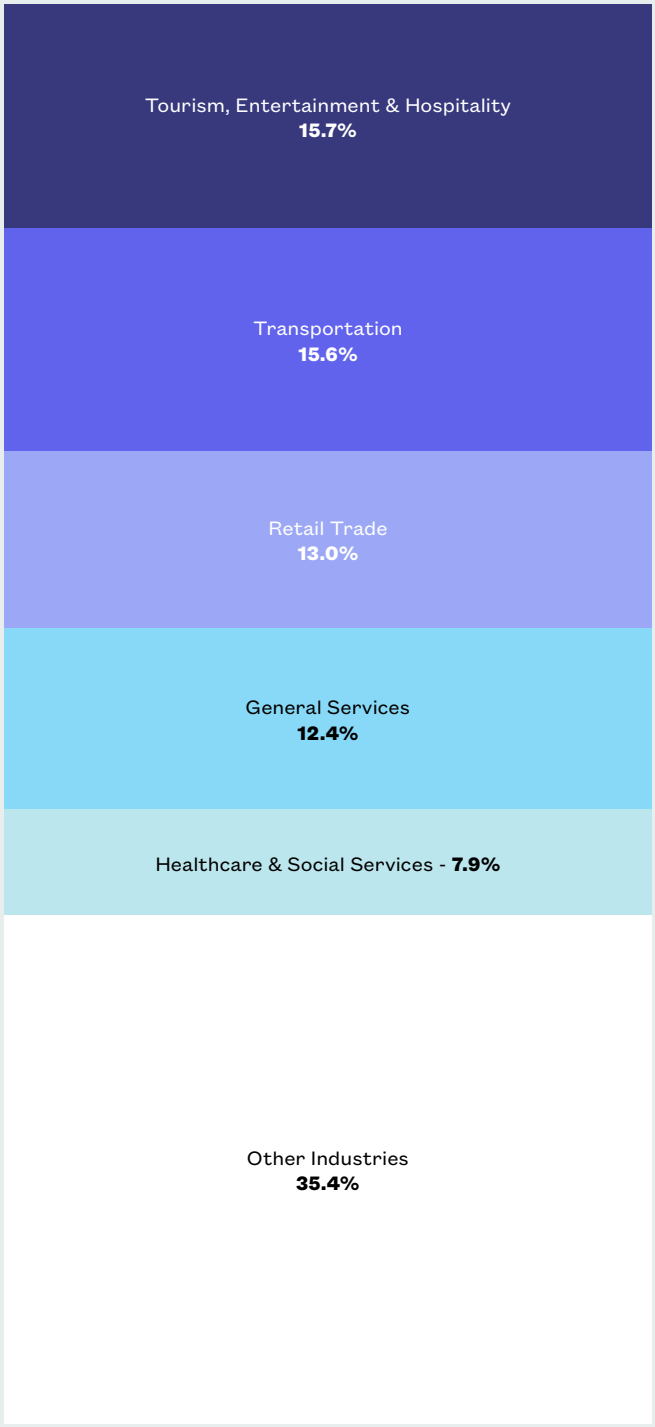
3.1%

Share of Foreign-Born Population, Refugee

FIGURE 35: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF REFUGEES, 25 AND OLDER

Level	Refugees
Less than High School	**32.8%**
High School and Some College	**43.5%**
Bachelor's Degree	**14.8%**
Advanced Degrees	**9.0%**

FIGURE 36: TOP INDUSTRIES IN HAWAI'I BY SHARE OF REFUGEE WORKFORCE, 2018

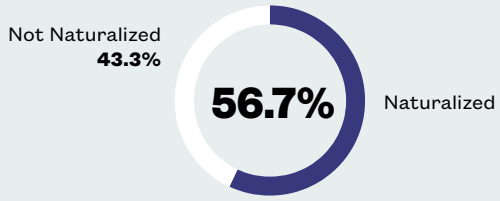


Compared to immigrants overall in Hawai'i, refugees have a slightly more modest educational attainment profile. Whereas 26.5 percent of immigrants 25 and older have a college degree, only 23.8 percent of refugees do. Similar to the overall immigrant workers in Hawai'i, refugee workers in Hawai'i are also concentrated in many of the same industries, particularly the entertainment and hospitality sector. However, there is one industry in which refugee workers are concentrated compared to all immigrants: in the transportation sector, which includes taxis, limousines, and other forms of private transport as well as material shipping, freight, and other forms of delivery.

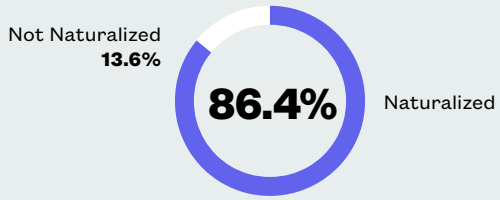
Refugees in Hawai'i have a much higher naturalization rate than other foreign-born residents. Whereas just over half, or 56.7 percent, of immigrants in Hawai'i have obtained U.S. citizenship, more than 86 percent, or about 6,800, of all refugees in Hawai'i have naturalized since arriving in the U.S.

FIGURE 37: RATES OF NATURALIZATION AMONG REFUGEES, 2018

Foreign-Born in Hawai'i, Naturalized



Refugees in Hawai'i, Naturalized



SPOTLIGHT ON

IMMIGRATION POLICIES: BENCHMARKING HONOLULU AGAINST OTHER U.S. CITIES IN IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

Immigration is vital to the long-term prosperity of cities and the U.S. economy. Cities that do well in integrating immigrants tend to improve the well-being of all their residents. Launched in 2018, New American Economy's (NAE) Cities Index examines for the first time the landscape of immigrant integration across the country by tracking local policies toward immigrants as well as immigrants' economic, social, and political well-being in the 100 largest U.S. cities.

Several of Honolulu's peer cities did markedly better overall in the Index, in particular when it came to policy. As part of the policy side of the Index, NAE documented cities' policies that affect undocumented immigrants. On two of these measures, Honolulu scored lower than several other peer cities. First, Honolulu scored lower than some of its peers when it came to the question of police involvement in immigration raids and deportations. Second, Honolulu did not give a response for the question regarding requiring municipal employees to submit information on undocumented immigrants to federal authorities. Overall, these likely helped account for a lower policy and overall score in the 2020 Cities Index for Honolulu compared to its peers.

City	Rank	Overall Score	Policy Score	Total Population	Foreign-Born Population	Foreign-Born Share of Population	Authorize or forbid police involvement in immigration raids and deportations **1** - Passed city ordinances to forbid **0.5** - Never considered related ordinances **0** - Passed ordinances to authorize	Require municipal employees to submit information on undocumented immigrants to ICE **1** - Never considered passing city ordinances to require **0** - passed ordinance to require
Anchorage, AK	**26**	**3.48**	**3.2**	**296,105**	**31,580**	**10.7%**	**0.5**	**1**
Arlington, TX	**75**	**2.5**	**3**	**397,835**	**81,460**	**20.5%**	**0.5**	**1**
Aurora, CO	**38**	**3.1**	**4.2**	**357,873**	**70,072**	**19.6%**	**1**	**1**
Chula Vista, CA	**1**	**4.43**	**4.6**	**265,693**	**83,535**	**31.4%**	**0.5**	**1**
Honolulu, HI	**95**	**2.03**	**1.8**	**344,390**	**90,443**	**26.3%**	**0.5**	**N/A**
Jersey City, NJ	**2**	**4.15**	**4.8**	**261,059**	**107,323**	**41.1%**	**1**	**1**
Sacramento, CA	**21**	**3.58**	**4.4**	**495,650**	**112,239**	**22.6%**	**0.5**	**1**
St. Paul, MN	**48**	**2.98**	**4.2**	**302,962**	**58,750**	**19.4%**	**1**	**1**
Tampa, FL	**92**	**2.15**	**1.8**	**371,452**	**59,636**	**16.1%**	**0.5**	**N/A**

The NAE Index also took into account state-level policies when it came to certain immigration policies, including prohibitions on the creation of sanctuary cities.

State	Driver Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants	Access to Community Colleges for Undocumented Immigrants			Sanctuary Policies
		Admission Access	In-State Tuition	Financial Aid	
	1 - Yes **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Pro **0.5** - None **0** - Anti
Alabama	**0**	**0**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**
Alaska	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Arizona	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Arkansas	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**
California	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Colorado	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Connecticut	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Delaware	**1**	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**
District of Columbia	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Florida	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Georgia	**0**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Hawaii	**1**	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**
Idaho	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Illinois	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Indiana	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**
Iowa	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Kansas	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0.5**
Kentucky	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Louisiana	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Maine	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Maryland	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0.5**
Massachu-setts	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Michigan	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Minnesota	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0.5**
Mississippi	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**

CONTINUED

State	Driver Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants	Access to Community Colleges for Undocumented Immigrants			Sanctuary Policies
		Admission Access	In-State Tuition	Financial Aid	
	1 - Yes **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Yes **0.5** - Only DACA or selective universities **0** - No	**1** - Pro **0.5** - None **0** - Anti
Missouri	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Montana	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Nebraska	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0.5**
Nevada	**1**	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**
New Hamp-shire	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
New Jersey	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
New Mexico	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
New York	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0.5**
North Carolina	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
North Dakota	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Ohio	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0**	**0.5**
Oklahoma	**0**	**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**
Oregon	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Pennsylvania	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Rhode Island	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
South Carolina	**0**	**0.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**
South Dakota	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Tennessee	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Texas	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Utah	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0.5**
Vermont	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Virginia	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0.5**
Washington	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
West Virginia	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Wisconsin	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**
Wyoming	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0.5**

For a full and comprehensive look at the NAE Cities Index and its city comparison tool, please visit: https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/cities-index/compare

Conclusion

The data clearly shows that immigrants play an important role in Hawaii's economy. By filling critical jobs at both ends of the labor market, from the tourism industry that is so vital to the region's economic engine, to healthcare, where doctors, nurses, clinical technicians, and home health aides are keeping us healthy and safe, immigrants have been and remain crucial to Hawaii's continued vitality.

As taxpayers contributing billions of dollars to federal, state, and local tax coffers, immigrants are helping fund necessary public programs, education services, and infrastructure projects that benefit all residents of the region. Immigrant households also pay back the local business community through their consumer activity or by starting their own businesses—increasing economic activity and increasing the amount of money and capital flowing through the local economy.

Despite all the contributions that immigrants make to Hawaii's economy, many still face significant barriers to securing opportunities and benefits that U.S.-born residents have greater access to. State and local communities can do more to support this vulnerable population—a population that is more likely to work as essential workers, yet less likely to have health insurance and more likely to live in multigenerational households. By enacting inclusive policies that lift up all residents, and allowing everyone the educational and employment opportunities that position them to reach their economic potential, Hawai'i can help immigrants create better lives for themselves and their families while building a stronger, more prosperous region for all.

Terms & Methodology

The estimates in this report, unless otherwise stated, were calculated by the New American Economy (NAE) research team using microdata from the 2018 5-year American Community Survey (ACS), downloaded from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA) portal.

Demographics and Socioeconomic Characteristics

In this report, we define an immigrant as anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is a resident in the United States. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, temporary visa holders, refugees, asylees, COFA migrants, and undocumented immigrants, among others.

Consistent with past NAE research, the term "spending power" is defined as the disposable income leftover after subtracting federal income, state, and local taxes from total annual household income. Using the ACS microdata, we estimate the aggregate household income, tax contributions, and spending power of foreign-born households. A household is defined as a foreign-born household if the household head is foreign-born. We estimate state and local taxes using the tax rates estimates produced by Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) by state income quintiles.[24] For federal income tax rate estimates, we use data released by the Congressional Budget Office and calculate federal tax contributions using federal tax bracket determined with adjusted household income.[25]

Educational attainment figures for the U.S.- and foreign-born ages 25 and up are calculated using microdata from the ACS. Using the age threshold of 25 allows us to examine the segment of the population most likely to have already completed their final level of educational attainment.

Entrepreneurship

In this report, immigrant entrepreneurs are defined as those who report being employed and working at their own business, regardless of whether that business is incorporated or unincorporated. The data on immigrant entrepreneurs came from the same 2018 5-year ACS sample.

Meanwhile, estimates regarding the total sales and the number of employees at minority-owned firms are taken from the 2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (ASE).

Immigration and Housing

Immigrant homeowners are defined as foreign-born householders who reported living in their own home. We estimate the amount of housing wealth held by immigrant households by aggregating the total housing value of homes owned by immigrant–led households. We also estimate the amount of rent paid by immigrant-led households by aggregating the rent paid by such families. We then calculate the share of housing wealth and rent that immigrant households held or paid compared to the total population.

International Students

We obtain the size and share of postsecondary students who are international in each state from the 2018 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall enrollment data. Those figures are then applied to preexisting work previously done by NAFSA, an organization representing professionals employed in the international offices of colleges and universities across the United States. NAFSA has developed an economic value tool and methodology that estimates the total economic benefit and jobs created or supported by international students and their dependents in each state. The economic contributions include the costs of

higher education along with living expenses minus U.S.-based financial support that international students receive.

Because the enrollment data from IPEDS that we use is different from the underlying data used by NAFSA, our figures differ slightly from the NAFSA estimates of the economic contributions made by international students in the 2018-2019 school year.

COFA Migrants

Under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA), citizens of the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time, to live, work, and study in the United States without a visa.

Undocumented Immigrants

Using data from the ACS, we apply the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas to arrive at an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population in the overall United States and individual states.[26] The foreign-born population is adjusted for misreporting in two ways. Foreign-born individuals who reported naturalization are reclassified as non-naturalized if the individual had resided in the United States for less than six years (as of 2018) or, if married to a U.S. citizen, for less than three years. **We use the following criteria to code foreign-born individuals as legal U.S. residents:**

- Arrived in the U.S. before 1980
- Citizens and children less than 18 years old reporting that at least one U.S.-born parent
- Recipients of Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, Medicare, military insurance, or public assistance
- Households with at least one citizen that received SNAP benefits
- People in the Armed Forces and veterans
- Refugees
- Working in occupations requiring a license
- Working in occupations that immigrants are likely to be on H-1B or other visas, including computer scientists, professors, engineers, and life scientists
- Government employees, and people working in the public administration sector
- Any of the above conditions applies to the householder's spouse
- COFA migrants

The remainder of the foreign-born population that do not meet these criteria are reclassified as undocumented. Estimates regarding the economic contribution of undocumented immigrants and the role they play in various industries are made using the same methods used to capture this information for the broader immigrant population in the broader brief.

When estimating the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants, we follow the methodology detailed by ITEP and discount the total amount by half, considering the fact that about 50 percent of undocumented immigrants pay taxes using false Social Security or Individual Tax Identification numbers.

DACA-Eligible Population

The data used to generate estimates come from the ACS. Due to small sample sizes, we pool 1-year ACS data from 2016, 2017, and 2018 and use the average weight of three years to arrive at our final estimates.

As DACA recipients are legally allowed to work in certain occupations that undocumented immigrants cannot work in, we adjust our methodology to reflect such differences between undocumented immigrants and the DACA-eligible population.

Since DACA-eligible population is a subset of the total undocumented population, we apply the guidelines for DACA from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to ACS microdata to restrict our data

further. We determine an undocumented person to be DACA-eligible if the individual:

- Was born after the second quarter of 1981;
- Came to the United States before reaching his or her 16th birthday; and
- Has moved to the United States by 2007.

While USCIS guidelines for DACA application also include restrictions on those who have criminal records, it is not possible to determine such information from the U.S. Census. We believe then, that our final numbers of the DACA-eligible population are the most reliable estimates that one can extrapolate from the U.S Census microdata.

Unlike past NAE papers on income and tax contributions, this brief treats each DACA-eligible individual as a single taxpaying unit. This follows the lead of other groups, such as the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), that have also sought to quantify the economic and tax contributions of this population.[27]

Similar to NAE's other work on the economic contributions of immigrants overall, we estimate state and local taxes using the tax incidence estimates produced by ITEP. For federal tax rate estimates, we use data released by the Congressional Budget Office and calculate the federal tax contributions based on the CBO estimates for household federal tax incidence rates by income quintile.

Refugees

While refugees remain one of the most scrutinized and well-documented type of travelers to the United States, there is surprisingly little quantitative data available on refugees and their socioeconomic characteristics after they are resettled. The main reason for this is that nationally representative surveys that normally provide socioeconomic data to researchers do not include information on respondents' immigration status beyond citizenship status. Therefore, more qualitative researchers have an abundance of information about refugees when they enter, yet little to examine about their socioeconomic performance as they integrate into U.S. society. To address this, we use an imputation method to identify cases in microdata that are likely to be refugees. This is similar to work of Kallick and Mathema[28] as well as Capps et al.[29] on the characteristics of refugee groups in the United States after their resettlement.

Using microdata from the 2018 5-year ACS, we first isolate the U.S.-born population from the foreign-born using citizenship variables, with those reporting to be native-born citizens or citizens born abroad to U.S. citizen parents recoded as "U.S.-born." The remaining respondents, those responding as either naturalized citizens or non-U.S. citizens, are recoded as "foreign-born." We use each foreign-born respondent's country of birth and their year of arrival to identify those who are likely to be refugees. To identify the years that saw significant inflows of refugees from each country, we use data from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as well as the U.S Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migrations WRAPS database and compare yearly totals with the ACS data showing how many people in the United States were born in each country and the year that each immigrated to the United States. Comparing the two, we assign refugee status to those born in a given country of origin who arrived during years when the number of refugee arrivals from that country according to DHS/WRAPS data exceeded 50 percent of the total population born in a given country who immigrated in each year.

What we find aligns broadly with what we know about refugee numbers in general. The vast majority of the refugees we identify came to the United States after 1980, after the Refugee Act, which established the foundation for modern U.S. refugee policy. There are four main exceptions. First, refugees fleeing from Communist countries in Europe—such as Hungarians in 1956, Yugoslavians, and Soviet refugees until 1989. While the United States has welcomed Iranian refugees consistently and constantly since the Iranian Revolution began in 1978, it is only during the first few years after the revolution that refugees made up a substantial

portion of arrivals from the country as whole. As a result, we only classify Iranian immigrants from the earliest years as refugees. Third, Ethiopians who fled after the fall of Halie Selassie in 1974 and the Ogaden War of 1978-1979 were also included as refugees. Lastly, refugees from Indochina (i.e. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos), who began to arrive in 1975, after the fall of Saigon and the signing of the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act are included. Two groups are notably absent from our study: Cubans and Haitians. We chose to not include these groups as Cubans and Haitians have mainly been admitted through country-specific programs that confer upon them different benefits and statuses through different processes.

Inherently, this number and our method does not capture every refugee living in the United States in 2015. Refugee flows from countries that have other more traditional immigration pathways to the United States are not counted here, nor are countries that have sent relatively few refugees or immigrants to the United States overall, since such populations are difficult to pick up in surveys such as the ACS due to small sample sizes. However, while the counts of refugees may not match the administrative data on resettled refugees, we are confident that our method give reliable estimates of the characteristics of refugee populations in the United States and are comparable to similar estimates done by other researchers in the field.

Endnotes

1 Launched in 2018, New American Economy's (NAE) Cities Index examines for the first time the landscape of immigrant integration across the country by tracking local policies toward immigrants as well as immigrants' economic, social, and political well-being in the 100 largest U.S. cities.

2 In this report, we use the terms "immigrant" and "foreign-born" interchangeably. Immigrants can be naturalized U.S. citizens or non-citizens, regardless of legal status. For the purposes of this report, people born abroad to U.S. citizen parents are not considered "immigrants" or "foreign-born" as they automatically receive the right to U.S. citizenship through their citizen parent(s).

3 China refers solely to the People's Republic of China. Taiwan and Hong Kong are listed separately by the U.S. Census Bureau.

4 Lynch, Robert and Oakford, Patrick. 2013. "The Economic Effects of Granting Legal Status and Citizenship to Undocumented Immigrants," Center for American Progress.

5 Pastor, M. and Scoggins, J. 2012. "Citizen Gain: The Economic Benefits of Naturalization for Immigrants and the Economy," Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California

6 The U.S. Census Bureau does not allow for non-binary designations of sex in the American Community Survey.

7 Per the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data, the accommodation sector in Hawai'i was added almost $5.9 billion to the state's economy in 2018. Source: BEA, "Table SAGDP2N: Gross domestic product by state, Hawai'i" Updated October 2, 2020.

8 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." Partnership for a New American Economy.

9 Due to sample size issues, we are unable to report separate shares for bachelor's and advanced degrees among Micronesian immigrants.

10 New American Economy, "Not Coming to America: Falling Behind in the Race to Attract International Students," July 9, 2020. Available at: https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/not-coming-to-america-international-students/

11 U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2016.

12 Robert W. Fairlie, "Open For Business: How Immigrants Are Driving Small Business Creation in the United States," New American Economy, August 2012. Available at: http://research.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ openforbusiness.pdf

13 New American Economy, "New American Fortune 500 in 2020: Top American Companies and Their Immigrant Roots," July 2020. Available at: https://data.newamericaneconomy.org/en/fortune500-2020/

14 This group of businesses includes legal, accounting, management consulting, architecture, design, research, and advertising services.

15 This includes personal services such as beauty salons, dry cleaners and laundromats, pet care and grooming, car washes, repair businesses, private residences, and funerary services.

16 The remaining households were recorded as being in group homes or institutions, including military institutions, homeless shelters, medical and mental institutions, prisons, college and university dorms, religious orders, etc.

17 In 2018, undocumented immigrants made up 24.4 percent of all immigrants in the United States. NAE Analysis of the 2018, 1-year American Community Survey. Available on Map the Impact, www.maptheimpact.org.

18 Due to methodological constraints, the economic contributions of undocumented immigrants includes non-naturalized COFA migrants. Non-naturalized COFA citizens are legal nonimmigrants.

19 Laura E. Hill and Hans P. Johnson, "Unauthorized Immigrants in California: Estimates for Counties," Public Policy Institute of California, 2011, http://www.ppic. org/main/publication.asp?i=986.

20 Eduardo Porter, "Illegal Immigrants Are Bolstering Social Security With Billions," The New York Times, 2005, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/05/business/illegal-immigrants-are-bolstering-social-security-withbillions.html

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ABOUT

New American Economy brings together more than 500 Republican, Democratic and Independent mayors and business leaders who support sensible immigration reforms that will help create jobs for Americans today.

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