

# A Snapshot of the Immigrant Population of Hawai'i<sup>1</sup>

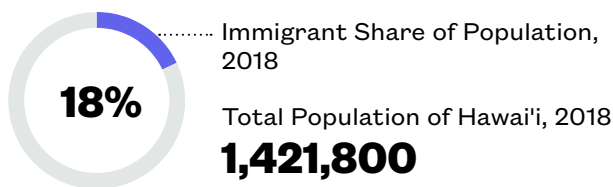


State & Local

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, local leaders in communities across the country have been working tirelessly to ensure that all community members have access to the services and support they need. The immigrant population is both essential to our country's rapid response efforts and especially vulnerable to gaps in our social safety nets. Understanding this population will help better inform leaders across Hawai'i as they aim to implement inclusive emergency response and economic recovery policies.

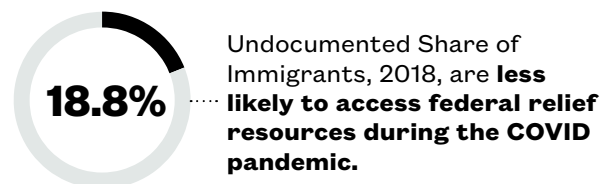
## OVERVIEW

**256,000**  
Immigrant Residents, 2018

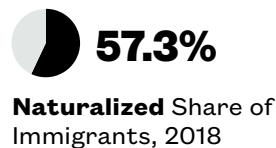


**109,000**  
Non-citizen Immigrants, 2018

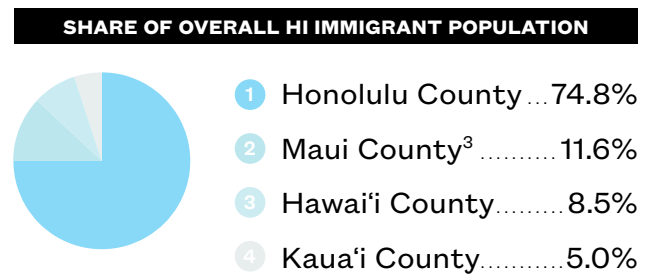
**48,000**  
Undocumented<sup>2</sup> Immigrants, 2018



**146,500**  
Immigrants who were **Naturalized** U.S. Citizens, 2018

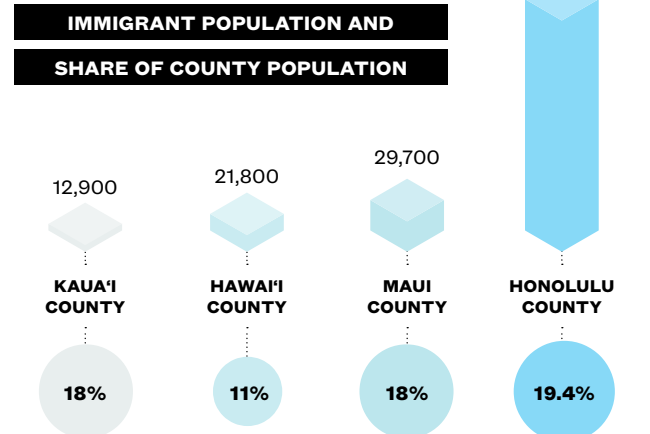


### Distribution of Immigrant Population in Hawai'i by County, 2018

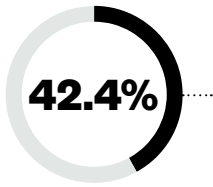


### Top Countries of Birth for Immigrants in Hawai'i, 2018

Country	Number of Immigrants	Share of All Immigrants
PHILIPPINES	117,100	<b>45.8%</b>
JAPAN	21,500	<b>8.4%</b>
CHINA (PRC)	20,000	<b>7.8%</b>
KOREA	17,900	<b>7.0%</b>
MICRONESIA	11,600	<b>4.6%</b>
VIETNAM	10,000	<b>3.9%</b>



## INCOME



Given their household incomes, approximately 42.2% (or 108,300) of immigrants **live at or below 300% of the federal poverty threshold which is close to what is considered "Household Survival" in Hawaii.**<sup>4</sup>

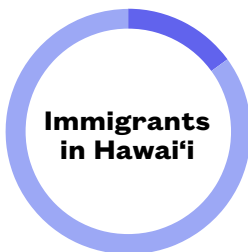
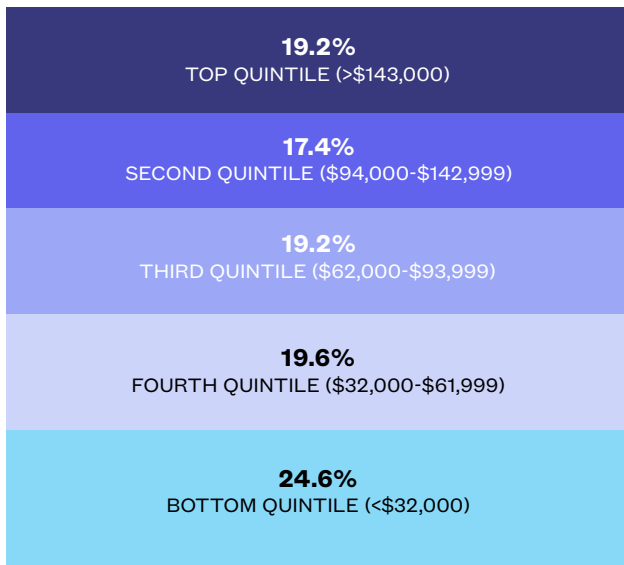
### IMMIGRANTS



Income Relative to Federal Poverty Threshold

■ <=125% FPL ■ 126-300% FPL ■ >300% FPL

### Distribution of Immigrant Households by Income Quintile, 2018



### Among Immigrants in Hawai'i in 2018...

- 15.3% received food stamps (39,100)
- 84.7% did not receive food stamps (216,400)

## WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Despite making up less than one in five Hawai'i residents, **immigrants play an outsized role in several critical industries in the state.** Nearly **2 in 5** workers in agriculture and **1 in 3** workers in the tourism, recreation, and hospitality industry in Hawai'i are immigrants.

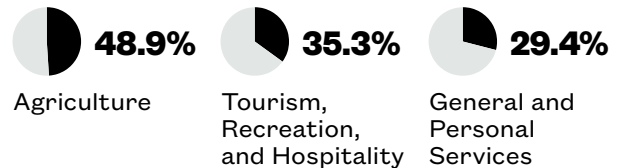
Industry	Share of Workforce who are Immigrants
AGRICULTURE	39.3%
TOURISM, RECREATION, AND HOSPITALITY	33.0%
MANUFACTURING	26.3%
GENERAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES	25.8%
RETAIL TRADE	25.0%

### Top Three Industries by Share of Workforce, Immigrant by County, 2018

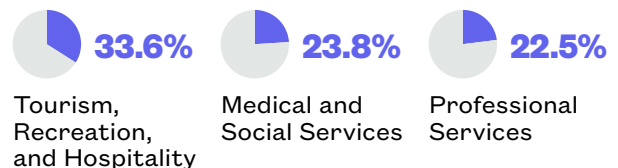
#### HAWAI'I COUNTY



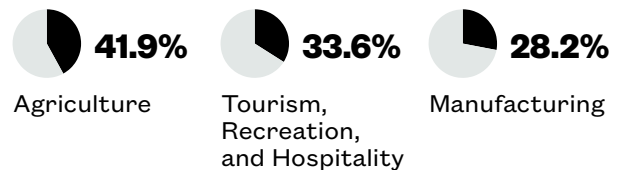
#### HONOLULU COUNTY



#### KAUAI COUNTY

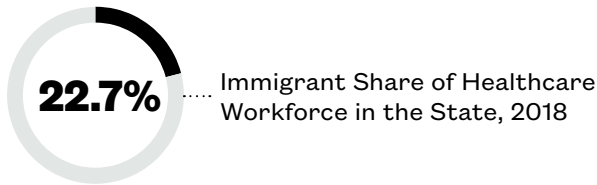


#### MAUI COUNTY

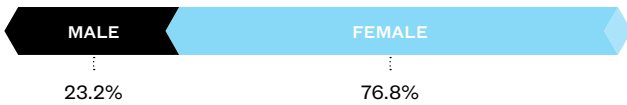


## IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN HEALTHCARE

Immigrants make up a significant share of the healthcare industry. They are workers such as physicians, nurses, clinical technicians, and home health aides, and are comprised of naturalized citizens, long-term permanent residents, and undocumented immigrants.



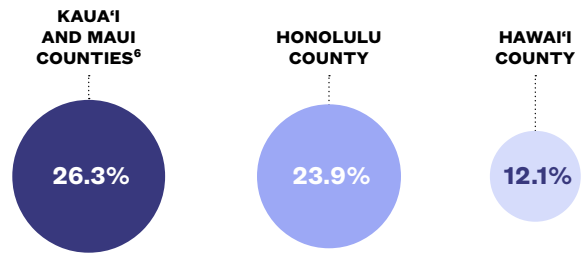
Immigrant healthcare workers are overwhelmingly women.



### Top Three Countries of Birth of Immigrant Healthcare Workers

PHILIPPINES	62.7%
KOREA <sup>5</sup>	6.8%
JAPAN	4.2%

### Share of Healthcare Workforce, Immigrant, by County, 2018



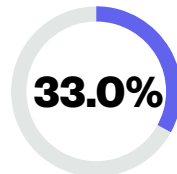
## UNDOCUMENTED WORKFORCE BY INDUSTRY

**33,000**

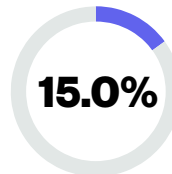
Undocumented Immigrant Workers in the Hawai'i Labor Force, 2018

■ Share of workers who are undocumented immigrants

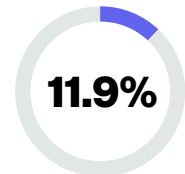
**1**  
Leisure and Hospitality



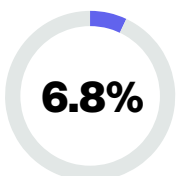
**2**  
Retail Trade



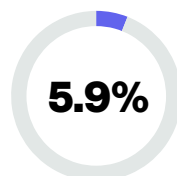
**3**  
Professional Services



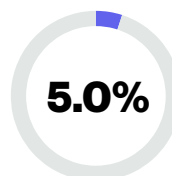
**4**  
Construction



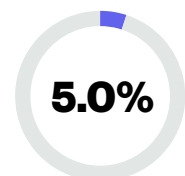
**5**  
Healthcare and Social Services



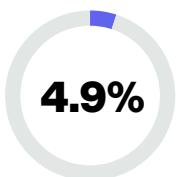
**6**  
Agriculture



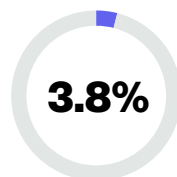
**7**  
Personal Services



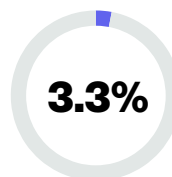
**8**  
Financial Services



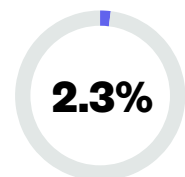
**9**  
Manufacturing



**10**  
Transportation



**11**  
Educational Services

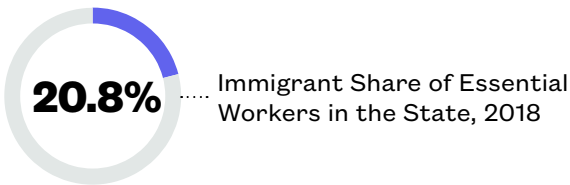


## IMMIGRANTS AS ESSENTIAL WORKERS

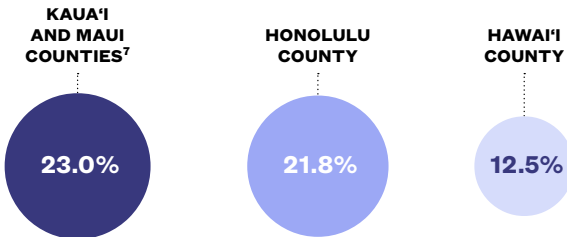
**Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning.** Essential workers include those in food production, food service, utilities, repair services, and essential kinds of retail businesses.

# 134,100

Total Immigrant Essential Workers in Hawai'i, 2018



### Share of Essential Workforce, Immigrant, by County, 2018



■ **46.3%** identified as Male

■ **53.7%** identified as Female

### Immigrant Essential Workers by Country of Birth, 2018

Country	Share of All Immigrants
PHILIPPINES	<b>51.3%</b>
CHINA <sup>8</sup>	<b>7.5%</b>
KOREA	<b>6.0%</b>
JAPAN	<b>5.5%</b>
MICRONESIA (REGION)	<b>4.1%</b>
OTHER COUNTRIES	<b>25.7%</b>

## IMMIGRANTS AS ENTREPRENEURS IN NON-ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES

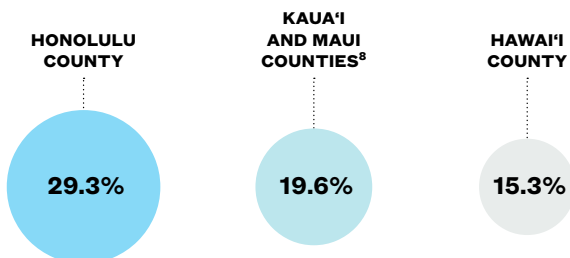
# 8,900

Immigrant business owners in non-essential industries, 2018



Share of non-essential business owners, 2018

### Share of Non-Essential Business Owners, Immigrant, by County, 2018



### Immigrant Share of Non-Essential Business Owners, 2018

#### NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL



#### NON-ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES<sup>9</sup>



#### GENERAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES



#### LEISURE, HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT<sup>10</sup>



#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



## LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN HAWAI'I

Understanding those with limited English proficiency, meaning they could speak English "less than well," is particularly critical for quick and accurate dissemination of health and safety information during the crisis.

# 62,600

Hawai'i residents who had limited English proficiency (LEP), 2018

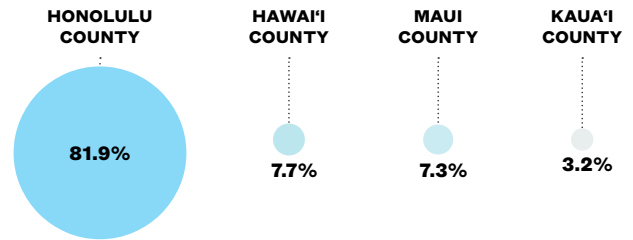


Share of total population in the state, 2018

## 13,800

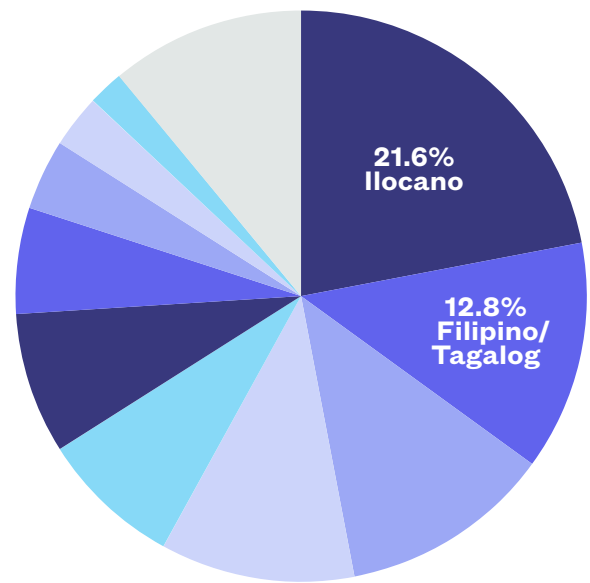
LEP Undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i, 2018

### Distribution of Foreign-Born Limited English Proficiency Residents in Hawai'i, 2018



### Languages Spoken by LEP Residents in Hawai'i, 2018

ILOCANO	21.6%
FILIPINO / TAGALOG	12.8%
KOREAN	11.7%
JAPANESE	11.3%
CHINESE (MANDARIN) <sup>11</sup>	8.0%
CHINESE (CANTONESE)	8.0%
VIETNAMESE	6.2%
TRUKESE (CHUUKESE)	3.9%
SPANISH	3.2%
MARSHALLESE	.21%
OTHER LANGUAGES	11.2%



- Speakers of Philippine languages, whether Ilocano or Tagalog, make up **just over 1 out of 3 immigrant LEP residents in Hawai'i**. Korean and Japanese speakers also make up significant shares of LEP residents.

- When combined, speakers of Chinese dialects—whether Mandarin, Cantonese, or another dialect—make up **the second largest language group among LEP residents**.

## NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

To examine potential language access needs, the data shows that Hawai'i residents, even those who speak English well or fluently, speak a vast variety of languages other than English at home. This is largely reflective of the general immigration patterns seen state-wide.



### Among Non-English Speakers in Hawai'i in 2018...

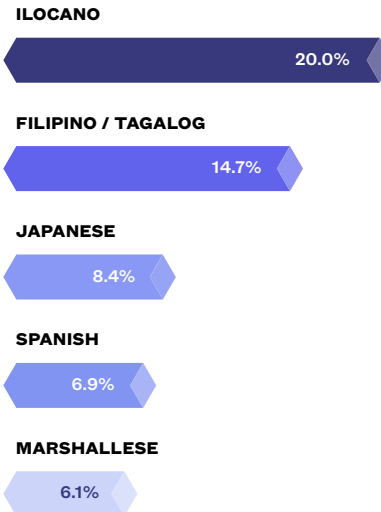
- **87.9%** were 18 years old or over (302,400)
- **12.1%** were under 18 years old (41,500)

### Top Languages Spoken at Home by Non-English Speakers

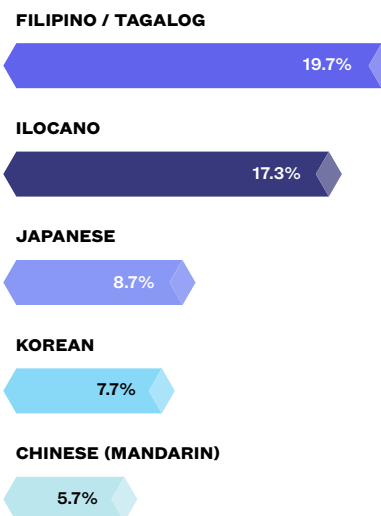
Number of Speakers	Language	Share of Non-English Speakers
51,100	ILOCANO	<b>20.1%</b>
49,300	FILIPINO / TAGALOG	<b>19.4%</b>
19,200	JAPANESE	<b>7.5%</b>
16,500	CHINESE (MANDARIN)	<b>6.5%</b>
15,900	KOREAN	<b>6.2%</b>
8,900	SPANISH	<b>3.5%</b>
8,600	CANTONESE	<b>3.4%</b>
7,600	VIETNAMESE	<b>3.0%</b>
6,500	TRUKESE (CHUUKESE)	<b>2.5%</b>
4,900	MARSHALLESE	<b>1.9%</b>

### Top Non-English Languages Spoken at Home by Non-English Speakers

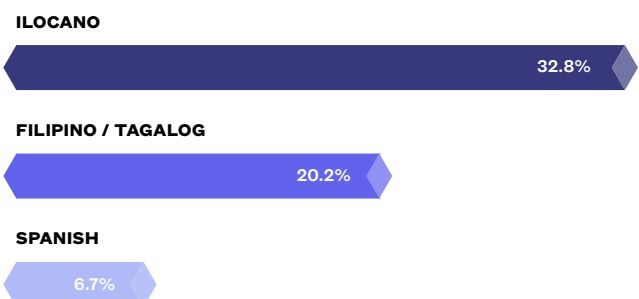
#### HAWAI'I COUNTY



#### HONOLULU COUNTY



#### KAUA'I AND MAUI COUNTIES<sup>12</sup>



## HEALTH INSURANCE AMONG THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

**17,800**

Total Foreign-Born in HI Without Health Insurance, 2018



Share Foreign-Born Without Health Insurance, 2018

**39,600**

Total U.S.-Born in HI Without Health Insurance, 2018



Share U.S.-Born Without Health Insurance, 2018

### Rate of Non-Coverage, Immigrants and U.S.-Born, by County

County	Non-Coverage Rate, Immigrants	Non-Coverage Rate, U.S.-born
HAWAI'I COUNTY	<b>11.0%</b>	4.1%
HONOLULU	<b>6.1%</b>	2.9%
KAUA'I AND MAUI <sup>13</sup>	<b>8.9%</b>	4.7%

### Share of Immigrants Reporting Having Public Health Insurance

County	Share with Public Health Insurance, Immigrants	Share with Public Health Insurance, U.S.-born
HAWAI'I COUNTY	34.7%	<b>46.4%</b>
HONOLULU	<b>34.8%</b>	29.7%
KAUA'I AND MAUI <sup>14</sup>	27.5%	<b>36.7%</b>

## HOME-OWNERSHIP AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AMONG IMMIGRANTS

In 2018, **more than half** of all immigrants lived in their own homes, rather than renting. In total, there were almost **47,500 immigrant homeowners**.

### STATEWIDE<sup>15</sup>

#### IMMIGRANTS



#### U.S.-BORN



### HAWAI'I COUNTY

#### IMMIGRANTS



#### U.S.-BORN



### HONOLULU COUNTY

#### IMMIGRANTS



#### U.S.-BORN



### KAUA'I AND MAUI COUNTIES<sup>16</sup>

#### IMMIGRANTS



#### U.S.-BORN



## Hawai'i Households by Number of Generations Present, Immigrants and U.S.-Born Population

■ Share, Foreign-Born      ■ Share, U.S.-Born

### 1

#### Living Alone/With Non-Relative Roommate

6,200 Foreign-Born

37,900 U.S.-Born



2.4%



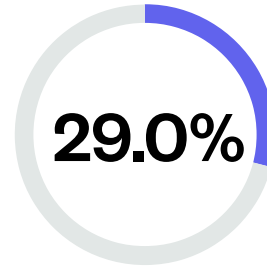
3.2%

### 2

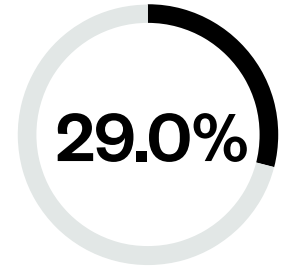
#### 1 Generation (Partner, Spouse, Sibling)

72,900 Foreign-Born

338,300 U.S.-Born



29.0%



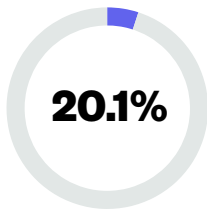
29.0%

### 3

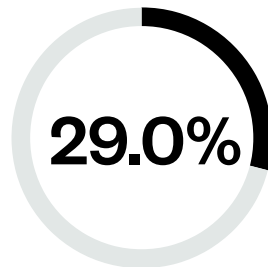
#### 2 Generations, Adult + Child

51,400 Foreign-Born

337,500 U.S.-Born



20.1%



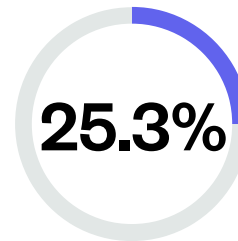
29.0%

### 4

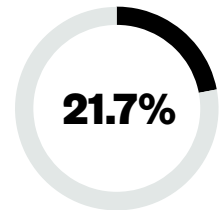
#### 2 Generations, Adult Children + Adult Parents<sup>17</sup>

64,500 Foreign-Born

241,700 U.S.-Born



25.3%



21.7%

### 5

#### 2 Generations, Non-consecutive Adult Children + Adult Grandparents

2,300 Foreign-Born

16,100 U.S.-Born



0.9%



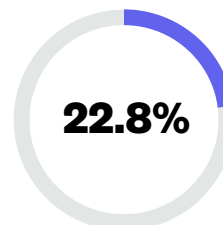
1.4%

### 6

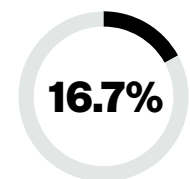
#### 3+ Generations

58,200 Foreign-Born

194,800 U.S.-Born



22.8%



16.7%



## SPOTLIGHT ON COFA MIGRANTS

In 2018, there were an estimated 17,200 migrants from COFA nations (Compacts of Free Association, an international agreement establishing and governing the relationships of free association between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) in Hawai'i. In some counties, they make up a much greater share of the immigrant population.

# 17,200

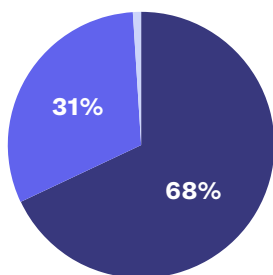
migrants from COFA, 2018



Share of total population in the state, 2018



Share of immigrant population in the state, 2018



- MICRONESIA ..... 68%
- MARSHALL ISLANDS..... 31%
- OTHER COFA STATES..... 1%

### COFA Share of Population by County

COFA Immigrant Population	County	Share of Immigrant Population
2,700	HAWAI'I COUNTY	<b>15.5%</b>
12,400	HONOLULU	<b>6.5%</b>
2,100	KAUA'I AND MAUI <sup>19</sup>	<b>4.8%</b>

### Top Industries for COFA Immigrant Workers

Industry	Share of Workforce who are COFA Immigrants
TOURISM, RECREATION, AND HOSPITALITY	<b>32.8%</b>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	<b>15.0%</b>
RETAIL TRADE	<b>12.9%</b>
OTHER INDUSTRIES	<b>39.3%</b>

- 1 Data for this research brief comes from the 2018 American Community Survey, 5-year sample, downloaded from IPUMS-USA. In this brief, 'immigrant' and 'foreign-born' are used interchangeably. We define immigrant as any one who is a naturalized citizen of the United States or anyone who is a non-U.S. citizen, including COFA migrants (Compacts of Free Association residents in Hawai'i, including Micronesian, Marshallese, Palauan). In other words, only people who were born abroad to non-U.S. citizen parents are considered immigrants. People who were born abroad to at least one U.S. citizen parent are born with the automatic right to U.S. citizenship and are considered native-born Americans.
- 2 Estimates of undocumented immigrants are based on the 2018 American Community Survey, 5-year sample, downloaded from IPUMS-USA, and derived from NAE methodology.
- 3 Maui County also includes Kalawao County
- 4 300% of the federal poverty threshold is considered "household survival" for Hawai'i according to ALICE in Hawai'i: A Financial Hardship Study (2020).
- 5 Due to sample size issues, we are unable to disaggregate separate estimates for Kaua'i and Maui counties.
- 6 The Census includes both North and South Korea under the general name "Korea."
- 7 Due to sample size issues, we are unable to disaggregate separate estimates for Kaua'i and Maui counties.
- 8 China refers to the People's Republic of China. It does not include Taiwan, Hong Kong, or Macau.
- 9 This includes professions such as dentists, chiropractors, physical therapists, and other non-critical, outpatient healthcare fields. Service-providing nonprofit organizations are considered essential.
- 10 Leisure and Hospitality refers to performing arts, recreational facilities, museums, food service, hotels, etc. This does NOT include travel agencies or tour companies, which are considered part of the administrative/support service industry.
- 11 Combined values for "Chinese" and "Mandarin." Despite the variety of Chinese dialects, the publicly available ACS microdata only allows for three options for Chinese speakers, "Chinese," "Mandarin," and "Cantonese."
- 12 Because of sample size issues, disaggregated data for each county could not be provided separately.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 This does not include immigrants who were living in group quarters or in institutions.
- 16 Because of sample size issues, disaggregated data for each county could not be provided separately.
- 17 Because of sample size issues, disaggregated data for each county could not be provided separately.