

# U. S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ASSESSMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING NEEDS

## Frequently Asked Questions

**This Assessment of Native Hawaiian Housing Needs is one part of a larger nation-wide study, *The Assessment of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs*. This study overall was first conducted in 1996, and the current study plans to update the assessment by presenting a complete overview of the housing needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The study is conducted by a HUD Study Team, contracted by HUD and made up of the Urban Institute, Econometrica, and NORC at the University of Chicago.**

### **Why is HUD doing this study?**

The U.S. Congress directed HUD to undertake this study because it recognized that better data is needed in order for the U.S. Congress and HUD to better address the housing needs of native families across the country.

### **What is the expected outcome of this study?**

The study seeks to assess the current housing conditions in Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. If the study is successful, it will help shape policies and programs in ways that enable tribes, Alaska Native villages, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to more effectively use existing resources to improve housing conditions. It also will provide important information that will allow HUD to serve these communities more effectively.

### **What does the Native Hawaiian assessment entail?**

There are three primary components of the Native Hawaiian Assessment:

1. An analysis of data on Native Hawaiians from the 2000 and 2010 decennial Census, and other existing available sources of demographic data;
2. Discussions with Native Hawaiian housing providers and stakeholders, including leaders of Hawaiian homestead associations, non-profits that provide housing services, housing advocacy groups, social service organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, as well as officials and staff from DHHL and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
3. In-person or telephone interviews with a sample of 500 Native Hawaiians residing in the state of Hawaii. (5,000 DHHL applicants will be invited to participate, with the goal of 500 applicants agreeing to participate)

### **What is the timing of the study?**

Prospective participants will receive a letter from DHHL about the survey in July 2014. The interviews will take place from July through September 2014. Discussions with housing organizations and service providers will also take place from July through September 2014. The final report is expected to be completed in 2015.

### **Who participates in this study?**

The 500 interview participants will be randomly selected from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) residential application list, and each will receive an invitation letter and information about the study. Participation is optional. If an applicant chooses to participate, he/she will sign and return a consent form.

### **Why is participation in the survey limited to DHHL applicants?**

The study is designed to focus on the housing needs of Native Hawaiians who reside in Hawaii who are eligible to receive housing assistance from HUD that targets Native Hawaiians. DHHL applicants represent a group of Native Hawaiians that could be served with funds in the HUD Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (part of NAHASDA, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act) administered by DHHL, but who are not currently direct recipients of federal housing assistance targeted to Native Hawaiians.

### **What if I am selected and choose to participate?**

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

***If you agree to participate, the survey will take about 45 minutes and you will receive \$25 as a token of appreciation for your time.***

### **What kinds of questions will be asked?**

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

### **What is DHHL's role in this study?**

DHHL agreed to assist the HUD Study Team contact 5,000 DHHL applicants to invite them to participate. DHHL also worked closely with the HUD Study Team to design the study survey so it recognizes the unique context and particular housing needs of Native Hawaiians who live in Hawaii. While DHHL played an important part in the planning of the study, no one at DHHL will know whether you participated in the study or not.

### **Who is paying for this study?**

The U.S. Congress made funds available for this study. In 2011, Senator Daniel Inouye appropriated funding to make sure that in-person interviews could be done in Hawaii. No state funds or DHHL trust funds are used to conduct this study.

### **How will HUD distribute the final reports?**

The final report will be sent to all of HUD's tribal partners and to DHHL, as well as to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Appropriations Committees and the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. It will also be made publicly available via the PD&R website, HUDUser.org.