Although we gather virtually, it's important that I acknowledge that my family and I settled in Long Beach originally called Puvunga and is home to the Acjachemen and Tongva nations the original stewards of this territory. I am committed to uplifting the name of these lands and community members from these Nations who reside alongside us.

## Mahalo, Si Yu'us ma'ase', fa'afetai to those who came before me.

**Victor Kaiwi Pang** Sharon Ku'uipo Paulo **Clinton Helenihi Mary Salas Pat Luce Haunani** Apoliona Dr. Kenneth E. Galeai Dr. Faye Untalan Salafai Suafa'i **June Pouesi Kawen Young Lono Kollars Audrey Alo** 

Rita Scanlan **Mona Foster** High Chief Leuluso'o Fualauto'alasi Leatutufu William Afeaki William Emmsley Jr. Dr. Jobie Yamaguchi Dr. Shawn Malia Kanaiaupuni **Mona Porotesano Stanton Enomoto Guy Ontai** Dr. Sela Panapasa

Simeamativa Aga Darlene Kehaulani Butts Val Jacobo Rev. Misi Tagaloa Rev. Malaki Heidi & Joey Quenga Alisi Tulua Sefa Aina Tana Lepule Rita Scanlan **Catherine Ofa Mann** Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i Leafa Taumoepeau



## Tavae Samuelu

tuh-veye sahm-weh-loo

she/her/hers

**Executive Director** 

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

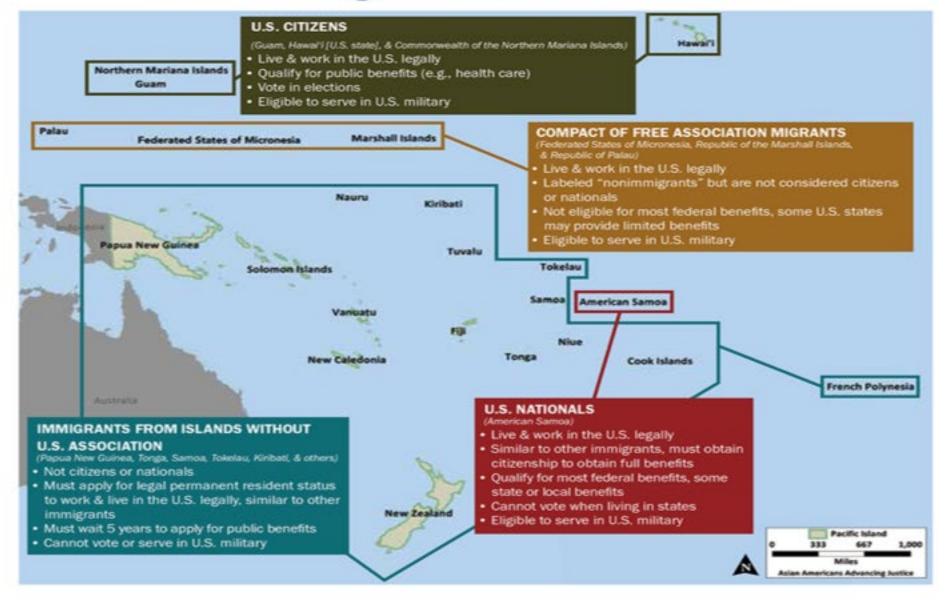


When people ask me where I'm from, they don't believe me when I say water.

Terisa Siagatonu



# **Defining Pacific Islander**





EPIC was established in 2009 by a group of young Pacific Islander (PI) leaders who recognized the urgency to address the growing needs of PI families. With experiences ranging from grassroots organizing to higher education administration, these young leaders prioritized building a strong and unified advocacy voice for PIs; collecting disaggregated data that illustrated the needs of PI families; and establishing a pipeline of strong leaders who can be advocates and influencers in, and on behalf of, the community.



**National & Statewide** Coordination **Direct Outreach and Education Materials Production** Media Work **State Advocacy** 





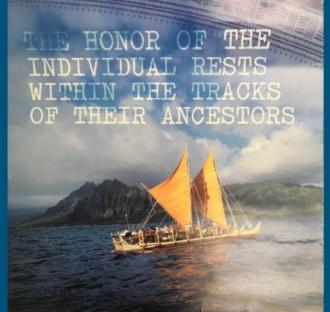


After much advocacy by leaders like Kawen Young, NHPI community members in Southern CA were able to create their own campaign with a messaging framework that centered storytelling and honoring the work of ancestors. Photos were taken by Lono Kollars.



In addition to a poster campaign, they created PSAs in: Chamorro, Samoan, Tongan, and Marshallese. The videos were intergenerational with prominent community leaders like pastors and filmed at churches, schools, hospitals, and playgrounds to demonstrate the impacts of Census participation.

In 2010, marketing for the NHPI community featured stereotypical images of hula dancers and generic oceanscapes. Pacific Islander leaders expressed concerns that the campaign didn't truly reflect the community it sought to reach.



"The honor of the individual rests within the tracks of their ancestors."





Convening participants told us they would need outreach and education materials that are culturally-specific, in-language, and feature their trusted messengers who are hyper local and connected to a broader global community.



These images feature
Melanesian, Micronesian, and
Polynesian tattoo motifs as
well as the traditional
voyaging canoes of each
region of Oceania. Each
design tells a story and part
of overall messaging that
Census data is integral to our
collective narrative.

EPIC spent much of 2019
preparing for the decennial
Census. We held convenings
across the country to hear from
over 150 Pacific Islander
community members about
what they need to ensure a full
and complete count.



EPIC partnered with Asian
Americans Advancing Justice
(AAJC) to develop factsheets
and PSAs in: Chamorro,
Chuukese, Marshallese, Native
Hawaiian, Palauan, Samoan,
Tongan, and Vakaviti. You can
find them all at
countsuin2020.org/nhpi.

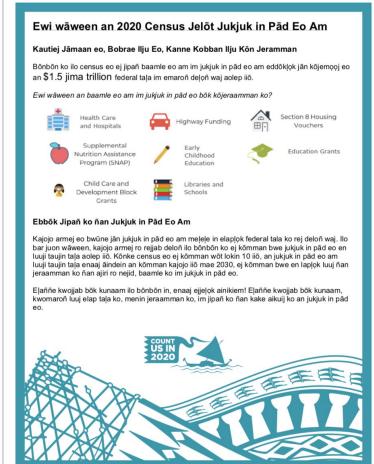




www.countusin2020.org/nhpi

# In-Language Materials









One family described the anguish and guilt of watching a loved one struggle out of bed to the ambulance — "the least Pacific thing that you can do," Samoa said — because the first responders wouldn't come inside. Another family revealed how three breadwinners were hospitalized with the disease, unable to care for their kids...

Already, the rate of infection among Pacific Islanders has alarmed public health experts and community leaders. As of Sunday, the novel coronavirus had infected Pacific Islanders at a rate more than twice that of the state as a whole — and killed them at a rate 2.6 times higher, the highest rates of any racial or ethnic group.

# "Track us better: Overlooked Pacific Islanders hit hard by coronavirus"

by Jackie Botts

May 5th, 2020

Cal Matters





## **NHPI Census Toolkit**

**Bay Area Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce** 

**College of San Mateo Mana Program** 

**Island Block Radio** 

Fiji Indigenous People's Foundation

For The Qultures

Hui O Hawai'i of Sacramento

**Kutturan Chamoru Foundation** 

**Marshallese Youth of Orange County** 

**Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity (MALO)** 

Mt. SAC ARISE Program

**National Pacific islander Educator Network** 

**NHPI Alliance** 

**NHPI CCC of San Diego** 

**One EPA** 

**Pacific Islander Health Partnership** 

**PICCC of San Mateo County** 

**Pacific Islander Wellness Initiative** 

**Poly By Design** 

Samoan Community Development Center

Samoan Solutions

**Taulama for Tongans** 

To'utupu'o e 'Otu Felenite Association (TOFA)

**UCLA PI Student Association** 

**UC Riverside PI Student Association** 

**UTOPIA San Francisco** 



## Contact

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