



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

May 2, 2022

Via Email

Dear Native Hawaiian Community Leader/Member/Representative:

I am writing to invite you to attend the U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) first department-wide Native Hawaiian Community Listening Session on May 24, 3:00pm-5:00pm EDT, 9:00am-11:00am HST.

Treasury has a growing relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community, arising from Treasury's administration of funds that directly support Native Hawaiian relief and recovery from the pandemic and ongoing support for the Native Hawaiian Community's economic development. Consistent with Executive Order 14031, *Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders* and Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, we recognize that the federal government has a particular interest in promoting equitable outcomes for the Native Hawaiian Community. We also seek to ensure our work is informed by recognition of the federal government's particular relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community and furthers reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian Community through decision-making that is informed by the community's expressed needs. Additionally, [Treasury Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) provides that equitable inclusion of underserved communities, which includes Native American communities, is a critical department-wide priority.

Developing Treasury's relationship is both an equity priority and necessary to the department's support of the Native Hawaiian Community's public health and economic recovery. Native Hawaiians have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. According to the State of Hawaii's Department of Health, out of the 1,316 COVID-19 related deaths in Hawaii, 244, or 19%, of them were Native Hawaiian¹ and during the Delta surge last Fall, Native Hawaiians made up 40% of the total deaths in the state². Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Treasury has been entrusted with administering critical direct recovery assistance to the Native Hawaiian Community.

Presently, Treasury administers \$4,061,654 in direct Native Hawaiian set asides through the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1), Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), and Capital Projects Fund (CPF). Additionally, Native Hawaiian organizations are eligible to receive additional funds as sub-recipients to the state and/or counties. For example, Native Hawaiian

¹ State of Hawaii, Department of Health – Disease Outbreak Control Division, https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/tableau_dashboard/race-ethnicity-data/

² Hawaii News Now, <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/10/07/surge-covid-deaths-took-heavy-toll-native-hawaiian-community/>

organizations have received \$36 million in additional ERA1 funds from state and county recipients of ERA1 awards. Additionally, our \$10 billion State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) provides \$1.5 billion to support business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI-owned businesses) and \$1 billion in incentive funds for jurisdictions that demonstrate robust support for such businesses. Native Hawaiian Organizations that qualify as/meet the definition of SEDI-owned businesses may access these funds in addition to SSBCI main capital allocation funds.

Further, our \$9 billion Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) provides Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) with funds to support the provision of loans, grants, and forbearance for small and minority businesses and consumers in low- and moderate-income communities or other targeted populations, which includes Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian Homelands. In addition to ECIP, Treasury's CDFI Rapid Response Program allocated \$54.6 million to Native CDFIs which represents 3 times the annual set aside for Native CDFIs. Of this allocation, 5 Native Hawaiian Native CDFIs received \$6,090,915, or 11%, of the allocation.

Relatedly, Treasury understands that data is essential to measuring Native Hawaiian economic recovery. Treasury has ensured demographic data collected through [SSBCI](#) is disaggregated for the Native Hawaiian Community. This is consistent with the Department of Health and Human Services' data collection practices where "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" is disaggregated as Native Hawaiian; Chamorro; Samoan; and Other Pacific Islander.

Outside of our recovery work, Treasury also supports Native Hawaiian economic development through the Native American CDFI Assistance Program (NACA Program), which provides financial and technical assistance awards to Native CDFIs to support Native American, including Native Hawaiian, access to capital and financial services.

As illustrated above, Treasury plays a key role in supporting the recovery and economic development of the Native Hawaiian Community. In recognition of this, **on May 24, 2022, at 3:00pm-5:00pm EDT, 9:00am-11:00am HST we will be hosting Treasury's first department wide Native Hawaiian Community listening session.** Specifically, we hope to hear your feedback on the following:

1. How has the pandemic impacted the Native Hawaiian Community and how have Treasury's funds impacted your recovery?
2. Within Treasury's existing economic development programs, what are the Native Hawaiian Community's priorities?
3. How should Treasury understand the federal relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community?
4. How should Treasury integrate the Native Hawaiian Community into its department-wide work, and are there specific areas that are of particular interest?

We respectfully request that each Native Hawaiian entity register one primary representative to provide comments. All others are welcome to register as listen-only participants. Please note that each listening session can host 500 participants. Written comments should be sent to

tribal.consult@treasury.gov. We will send an agenda to registrants by May 19, 2022.

[Register here](#) for the Native Hawaiian Community Listening Session to be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. EDT, 9:00 a.m. HST.**

Please note that listening sessions are off the record and not for press purposes.

In conclusion, we thank you in advance for consideration of this invitation and look forward to hearing your feedback and growing our relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community.

Sincerely,

Fatima Abbas
Treasury Point of Contact for Tribal Consultation
U.S. Department of the Treasury