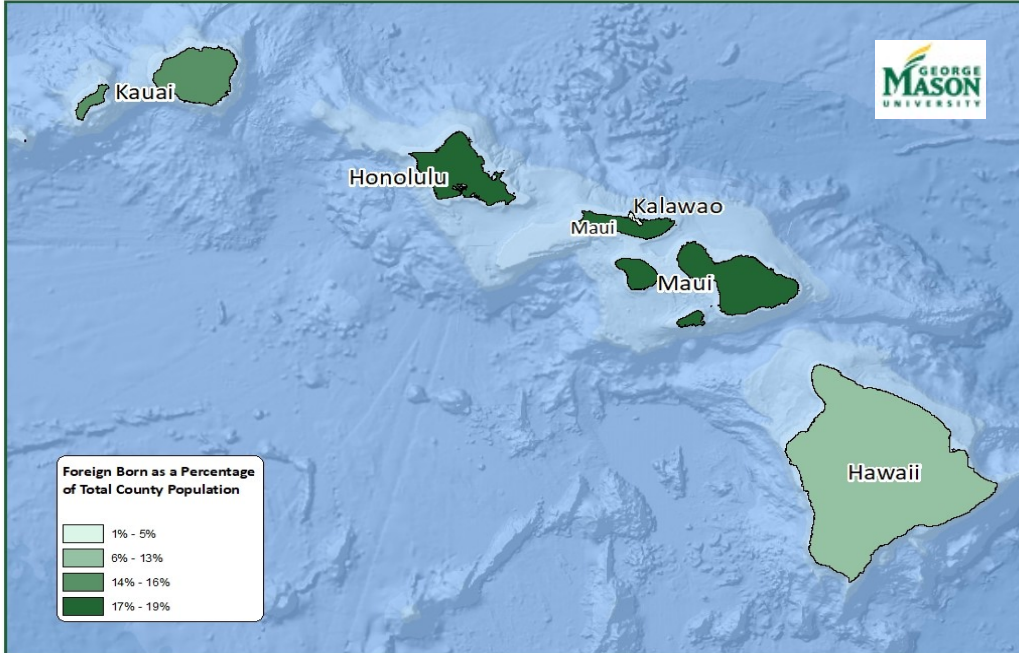


## Immigrants in Hawaii

**Figure 1. Immigrants in Hawaii**



### 2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

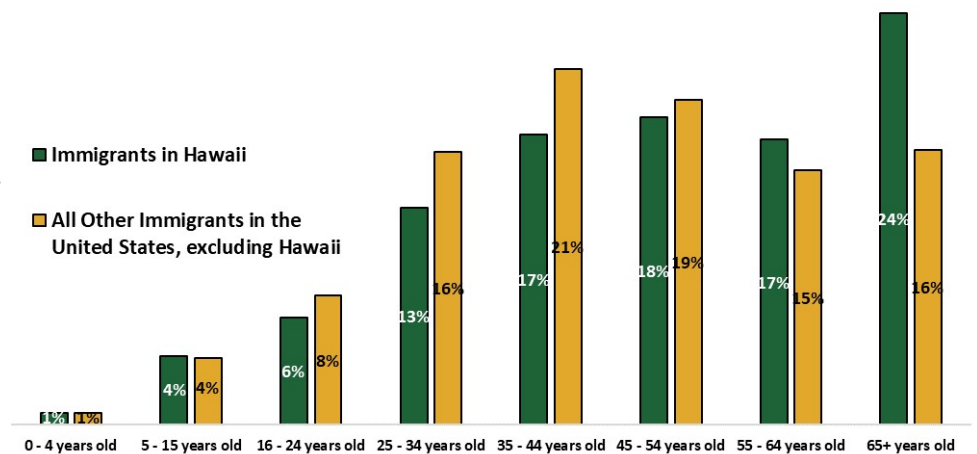
- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants<sup>1</sup> living in the U.S. (14% of the population)
- **261,470:** Approximate number of immigrants in Hawaii (18% of the state's population)
- **2%:** Estimated decrease in the number of immigrants in Hawaii in the past 10 years
- **6th:** Rank of Hawaii among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's total population

### Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the state of Hawaii as a percent of total county population. The county with the largest share of immigrants is Honolulu (19%) followed closely by the multi-island county of Maui (18%). Kauai (16%) and Hawaii (13%) rank 3rd and 4th, respectively. Kalawao, a county carved out in Maui's northern most island, is the county with the least share of immigrants (1%).

**Figure 2. Age Among Immigrants**

The age distribution of child immigrants (0 to 15 years old) in Hawaii is similar to that of child immigrants in the United States (Figure 2). However, youth and adult immigrants (16 to 54 years old) are less likely to live in Hawaii (54%) compared to the rest of the United States (64%). Additionally, there are considerably more older adult immigrants (55+ years old) living in Hawaii (41%) compared to the rest of the country (31%). Almost a quarter of the immigrant population in Hawaii is age 65 and older (25%).

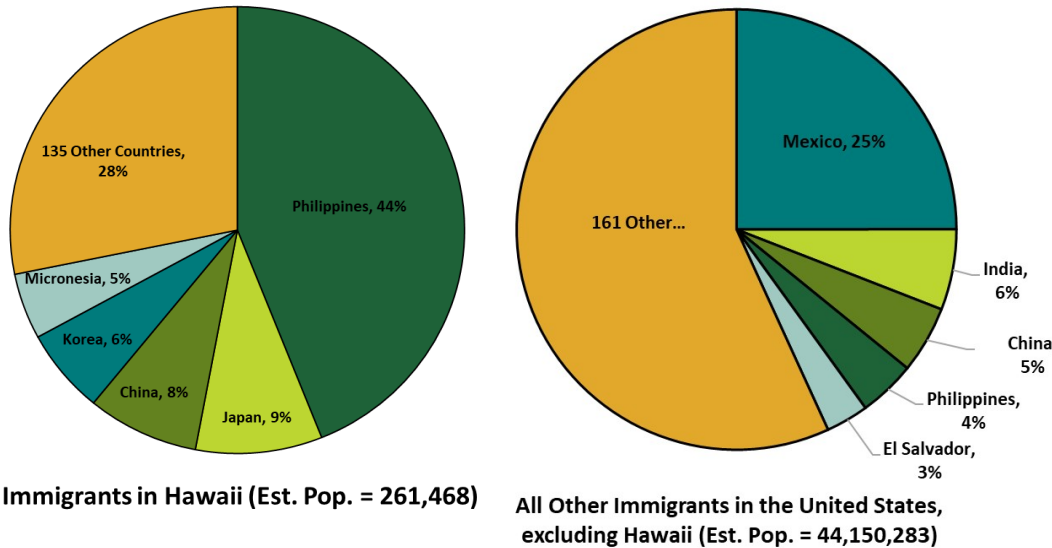


All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

## Immigrants in Hawaii

**Figure 3. Countries of Birth Among Immigrants**



The top five countries of birth for foreign-born individuals living in Hawaii are quite different than those in the rest of the U.S. While the Philippines is a top five country of origin for both groups, it is the overwhelming number one country of origin for immigrants in Hawaii (44%), compared to the 4th highest country of origin in the remainder of the United States (4%). Japan, China, Korea, and Micronesia round out the remaining top five countries of origin for immigrants in Hawaii. Of these, however, only China also appears in the top 5 countries of origin for the rest of the U.S.

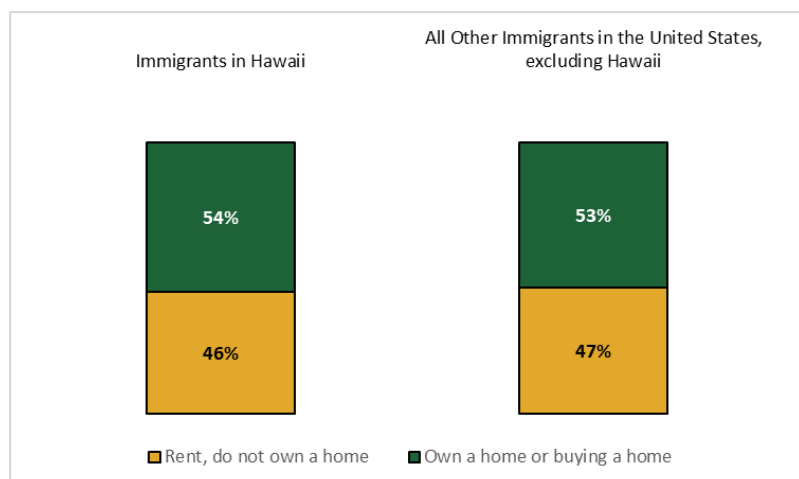
**Figure 4. Languages Spoken at Home Among Immigrants**  
Age 5+

Immigrants in Hawaii		All Other Immigrants in the United States, excluding Hawaii	
Filipino, Tagalog	39%	Spanish	42%
English	17%	English	17%
Chinese	10%	Chinese	6%
Japanese	8%	Hindi and related	5%
Micronesian, Polynesian	7%	Filipino, Tagalog	4%
41 Other Languages	19%	58 Other Languages	26%
Estimated Immigrant Population	259,568	Estimated Immigrant Population	44,106,790

Consistent with the data on the immigrants' countries of origin (Figure 3), the primary language of immigrants living in Hawaii is Filipino or Tagalog. However, although Korea is ranked as the 4th highest country of origin for that state, Korean is not among the top five languages spoken at home for immigrants in Hawaii. English ranks as the second most common language spoken at home among Hawaiian immigrants. Chinese, Japanese, and Micronesian/Polynesian round out the remaining top five languages among immigrants in Hawaii, which are among the top five countries of origin.

**Figure 5. Home Ownership Among Immigrants**

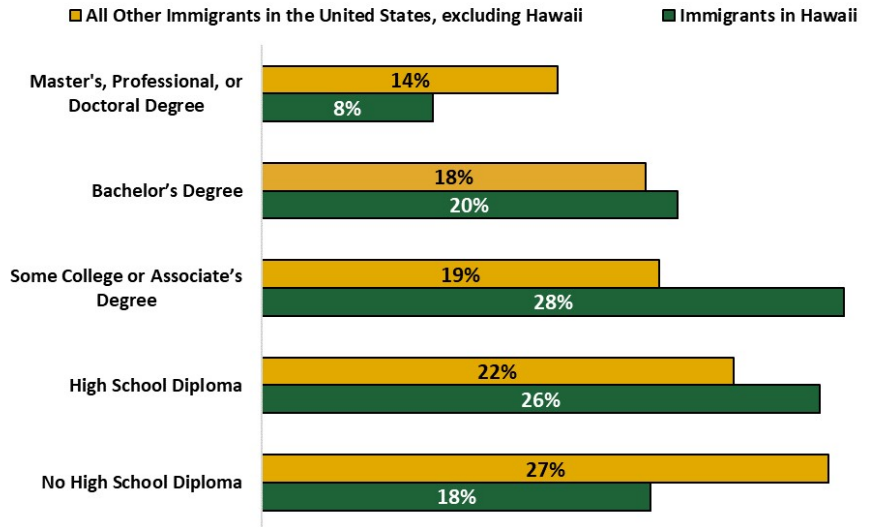
Immigrants living in Hawaii are slightly more likely to own their homes or be in the process of buying a home (54%) compared to the rest of the immigrants living in the United States (53%). Overall, more than half (53%) of immigrants living in the United States own their homes or are in the process of buying a home.



## Immigrants in Hawaii

**Figure 6. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants**  
Age 25+

Figure 6 shows that immigrants living in Hawaii are less likely to have completed graduate-level education (8%) compared to all other immigrants in the U.S. (14%). However, overall, immigrants in Hawaii tend to have higher rates of educational attainment at every other degree level (i.e., high school, some college/associate's degree, and Bachelor's degree) than immigrants in other parts of the U.S.



**Figure 7. Employment Status Among Immigrants**  
In the Labor Force, Ages 16-65

	Immigrants in Hawaii	All Other Immigrants in the United States, excluding Hawaii
<b>Employed</b>	96%	95%
<b>Unemployed</b>	4%	5%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	147,517	26,931,578

Following the national trend, the majority of immigrants living in Hawaii are employed full time (96%) with a slightly lower rate of unemployed (4%) immigrant individuals compared to all other immigrants in the United States (5%).

For factsheets that examine populations at the household level, please note that a household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. A native-born U.S. citizen household is defined as a household which is headed by a native-born U.S. citizen, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. Conversely, an immigrant-headed household is defined as a household which is headed by a foreign-born individual, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. For fact sheets that examine total household income, please note that the total annual income of all members in the household is included in the analysis. For fact sheets that examine personal income, personal income refers to total personal income earned on an annual basis.

For fact sheets that examine poverty status, please note that it excludes individuals who live in group quarters and those who are under the age of 18 with no family.

IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult <https://www.census.gov/topics/> for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation.

## Immigrants in Hawaii



## Institute for Immigration Research

### **Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)**

The goal of iDod is to connect people with customized data about immigrants in particular regions or sectors of interest. This data provides insights into the vital contributions immigrants make to the economy and society.

### **The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)**

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

[www.iir.gmu.edu](http://www.iir.gmu.edu)

4400 University Drive, MSN 1D7

Fairfax, VA 22030

703.993.5833