Subcounty Population Facts

The U.S. Census Bureau released subcounty population estimates on June 28, 2012. In this data release, the Census Bureau ranked 715 incorporated places with populations over 50,000. Urban Honolulu CDP was the only place in Hawaii on this listing. It ranked 55th among the incorporated places in 2011, with a population of 340,936. This was a slight drop in ranking from April 1, 2010, when it was in the 54th position. Ranking was based on population size with the largest being ranked first.

CDP stands for census-designated place. A CDP is an area identified by the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes. CDPs are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places such as cities, towns, and villages. CDPs are communities that lack separate municipal government, but which otherwise physically resemble incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries of a CDP have no legal status.

Hawaii is the only state that has no incorporated places recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau. For this subcounty release, the City and County of Honolulu was reported as Urban Honolulu CDP and the balance of Honolulu.

In 2010, the former Honolulu CDP was mostly divided into Urban Honolulu CDP and East Honolulu CDP. A small portion of the former Honolulu CDP became part of Hickam CDP. Urban Honolulu and Arlington are the only CDPs for which postcensal population estimates are calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011, Urban Honolulu CDP had a 1.1% growth in population, from 337,256 on April 1, 2010 to 340,936 on July 1, 2011. This growth matched the population growth for the rest of Honolulu, for the City and County of Honolulu and for the entire state. Maui County, with a 1.2% increase, was the only county with a larger percentage increase than Honolulu. Both Hawaii County and Kauai County had population growths of 0.9% between these two time periods.

Urban Honolulu CDP accounted for 35.4% of Oahu’s population in 2010, while 64.6% of Oahu’s population lived in the rest of Oahu. On April 1, 2010, Urban Honolulu CDP share was 35.4% of Oahu’s population. No change in population shares occurred during this 15-month period.

Census Bureau used building permit information as the base for the population estimate.

New York City was the most populous city in the U.S. with 8.2 million people, followed by Los Angeles with 3.8 million people. Chicago was ranked the third largest city with a population of 2.7 million. Houston and Philadelphia were the next two in population size with 2.1 million and 1.5 million people, respectively.

Source: Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis Division.