

population is much smaller than the other races. Because of its relative size, any misreporting of Pacific Islander by respondents of another race could have a large effect on the Pacific Islander population.

## THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of the Pacific Islander population focuses on the Pacific Islander alone or in combination population in the text. As the upper bound of this population, this group includes all respondents who reported Pacific Islander, whether or not they reported any other race.<sup>9</sup> Hereafter in the text of this section, the term “Pacific Islander” will be used to refer to those who reported Pacific Islander, whether they reported one or more than one race. However, in the tables and graphs, data for both the Pacific Islander alone and alone or in combination populations are shown.

### Nearly three-fourths of the Pacific Islander population lived in the West.<sup>10</sup>

According to Census 2000, of all respondents who reported Pacific

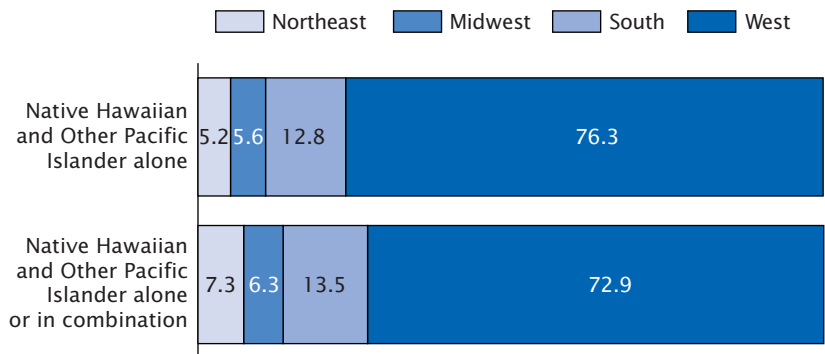
<sup>9</sup> The use of the *alone or in combination* population in this section does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. In general, either the *alone* population or the *alone or in combination* population can be used, depending on the purpose of the analysis. The Census Bureau supports both approaches.

<sup>10</sup> The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Figure 2.

### Percent Distribution of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population by Region: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Islander, 73 percent lived in the West, 14 percent lived in the South, 7 percent lived in the Northeast, and 6 percent lived in the Midwest (see Figure 2).

The West had the largest Pacific Islander population as well as the highest proportion of Pacific Islanders in its total population: 1.0 percent of all respondents in the West reported Pacific Islander, compared with 0.1 percent each in the Northeast, South, and Midwest.

### Over half of all people who reported Pacific Islander lived in just two states.

Over half (58 percent) of the Pacific Islander population lived in just two states, Hawaii and California. The ten states with the largest Pacific Islander populations in 2000 were, in addition to Hawaii and California, Washington, Texas, New York, Florida, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Arizona (see Table 2). Combined, these states represented 80 percent of the Pacific Islander population.

In the West, eight states (Hawaii, California, Washington, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Arizona, and

Colorado) had Pacific Islander populations of 10,000 or higher, and when combined, they represented 71 percent of the Pacific Islander population in the country. The only two states with Pacific Islander populations over 50,000 were Hawaii (283,000) and California (221,000).

The Pacific Islander population exceeded the U.S. level of 0.3 percent of the total population in seven states, and all of them were located in the West — Hawaii (23 percent); Utah (1.0 percent); Alaska (0.9 percent); Nevada (0.8 percent); Washington (0.7 percent); California (0.7 percent); and Oregon (0.5 percent).

The proportion of Pacific Islanders represented by the states of Hawaii and California declined between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, Pacific Islanders enumerated in Hawaii represented 44 percent of all Pacific Islanders; by 2000, the proportion declined to 32 percent. Pacific Islanders in California represented 30 percent of the total in 1990; by 2000, the proportion had dropped to 25 percent.