



# SUPPORT SB265

## DISAGGREGATE AANHPI DATA

### 1. The Issue



Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) [are](#) the fastest-growing racial demographic in Nevada and make up more than 50 unique subgroups. However, the demographic data collected by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other state agencies for public benefits programs — such as SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, and CHIP — are overly broad and fail to capture these nuances.

Currently, applicants are often limited to broad racial and ethnic categories (e.g. “Asian Pacific Islander”), masking the unique challenges and needs of specific subgroups. This lack of granular data undermines efforts to allocate resources effectively and tailor policies to meet the needs of our communities.

### 2. Key Bill Mandates



#### 1. Disaggregated Asian and NHPI Demographic Data Collection

- Separates Asian and NHPI categories.
- Expands the Asian category to include subcategories (Chinese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Korean, Filipino, Japanese).
- Expands the Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander category to include subcategories (Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese).
- Provides an the option for additional subcategories.

#### 2. Collection of Language Spoken at Home

- Adds separate categories for the collection and tabulation of information concerning the primary language spoken in the person’s home.

#### 3. Collaboration with Community and Data Experts

- [Aligns](#) with U.S. Census and federal demographic data collection standards.
- Assures best practices through collaboration with community stakeholders and data experts.

#### 4. Privacy and Accessibility of Information to the Public

- Ensures privacy of information while making demographic data accessible to policymakers, researchers, and the public.

### 3. Why This Matters



**Improved Resource Allocation:** Detailed data collection helps the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) identify which communities are most in need of support, in line with the [Silver State Health Improvement Plan 2023-2028](#). Currently, Nevada spends nearly half 46.6% of its state budget on health and human wellness, 95.1% of which is utilized to improve access to primary care, public health services, and health and quality outcomes. This proposal would ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, directing resources to programs that will have the greatest impact.



**Better Health Outcomes:** Aggregated data often hides differences in health outcomes across Nevada communities. For example, NHPs [experienced](#) some of the highest Covid-19 death rates of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, with the highest per capita death rate compared to all other races in the 18 of 20 states reporting this data. Disaggregating data ensures public health efforts are precisely targeted to the groups that need them most. Subsequently, improved health access and outcomes would help reduce the estimated [economic burden](#) of \$8 billion dollars lost due to health inequity, of which \$2 billion dollars are due to racial and ethnic health inequity.



**Efficiency in Government Programs:** Granular data collection enables policymakers to allocate resources to address health outcomes, insurance coverage, language access, food insecurity, and other socioeconomic indicators to the communities that need them most. Collecting more accurate demographic data ensures state-administered programs like SNAP, TANF, WIC, and Medicaid can operate more effectively.



**Fairness in Federal Funding Opportunities:** Accurate demographic data is crucial for fair distribution of federal funds. For instance, census data guides the allocation of over \$1.5 trillion in federal funding annually, impacting programs that benefit Nevadans. In FY2016, Nevada [received](#) \$6 billion through federal spending programs guided by 2010 Census data.



**Transparency and Accountability:** Publishing anonymized, easy-to-access data builds trust between Nevadans and their government. Taxpayers, policymakers, and researchers alike benefit from clear, accurate information about how programs are serving residents.

*By ensuring detailed, transparent demographic data collection, this bill equips Nevada to meet the needs of our valuable Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.*

