Many Native Hawaiians chose to leave their homeland to improve their economic circumstances but this type of migration is often overlooked because Native Hawaiians do not technically cross international borders. However, spatial, historical, and cultural distance between Hawai‘i and the continental U.S., create a set of circumstances suggesting that their experiences are similar to those migrating from developing countries to the U.S. Some indicators suggest that after relocating to California, Native Hawaiians still do not do any better than their counterparts in Hawai‘i. If so, to what extent are these patterns due to oppressive historical circumstances transported from their homeland?

In examining this question, we will work with Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) in Los Angeles, a nonprofit organization with a mission to achieve full participation and equality for Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) through leadership, empowerment, and policy. In collaboration with them, we plan to present findings and community solutions to federal, state, and local policymakers, including members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, and Los Angeles Community College District.”

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