We Know The Way: Centering Pacific Islanders in an API Society

Marquina Hofschneider
Pacific Islander Students Alliance (PISA)
Where are you a local?
“...one has no need to 'decenter' anyone in order to center someone else; one has only to constantly, appropriately, 'pivot the center.'”

-Patricia Hill Collins
Who are Pacific Islanders?

Being Pacific Islander refers to being racially categorized of having your ethnicity being indigenous to the Pacific Islands.
The creation of NHPI

1997 Federal Office of Management and Budget re-evaluates demographic categories on US Census

Motivated by struggles of Native Hawaiians

2000 Census created category of “Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander”
Make up 1% of the population (2010)

Population grew 61% between 2000-2010

Second largest population of Chuukese Americans in the 50 states (3rd largest of Fijians, 4th largest of Palauans)

About 5,000 reported Pacific Islander populations are immigrants
Under the Umbrella: Issues Pacific Islanders Face

A Community of Contrasts (2015), Asian Americans Advancing Justice
A Community of Contrasts (2014), Empowered Pacific Islanders/Asian Americans Advancing Justice
US Department of Education (2014)
Under the Umbrella: Issues that Pacific Islanders Face

“DO YOU HULA DANCE?”
How Far We’ll Go: Resources and Moving Forward
“...one has no need to 'decenter' anyone in order to center someone else; one has only to constantly, appropriately, 'pivot the center.'”

-Patricia Hill Collins