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**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

**St. Paul City Council, Ward 6**



# Katlin Her

*City of Saint Paul, Ward 6 - Right Track Intern*

- ❖ Fifth year in Right Track
- ❖ Harding High School Grad, Class of 2023
- ❖ University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Fall 2023

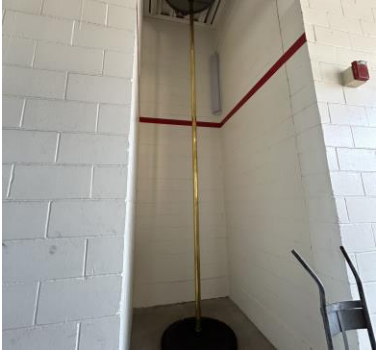


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# My Summer Experience

Developed professional writing skills

Improved research skills

Gained understanding of systems and policies





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# **The Misclassification of the Hmong Ethnic Group in the 2020 Census Data Products**





# A Call for Action

- ❖ In June, South East Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) reached out.
- ❖ Tasked to draft a letter to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI).





# Background

- ❖ In January 2023, “2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A Proof of Concept” released for public feedback.
- ❖ In 2021, the “2020 Census State Redistricting File (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.”

## EAST ASIAN

### East Asian

East Asian

### Chinese

Chinese (Detailed Checkbox)

Chinese

Hakka

Han

Hong Kong

Macanese

Tibetan

### Japanese

Japanese (Detailed Checkbox)

Japanese

Okinawan

Iwo Jiman

### Korean

Korean (Detailed Checkbox)

Korean

### Mongolian

Mongolian

### Taiwanese

Taiwanese

### Hmong

Hmong

## 4010-4099

### 4010-4019

4010

### 4020-4039

4020

4021

4022

4023

4024

4025

4026

### 4040-4049

4040

4041

4042

4043

### 4050-4059

4050

4051

### 4060-4069

4060

### 4070-4079

4070

### 4080-4089

4080



# Why is this a Misclassification?

- ❖ Majority of Hmong-Americans have come from Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The Hmong identity is not tied to a geographic location.
- ❖ Our sociopolitical identity aligns more with Southeast Asia.





## #SoutheastAsian



"Due to the uprooting of our homes and violence from the effects of war, Hmong people have had huge educational, economic, and health setbacks."

HOUA YANG

#AccurateRepresentation

## #SoutheastAsian



"With the U.S. Census' current misclassification of the Hmong ethnic group, this will likely result in decades of false and misrepresented researching findings involving the Hmong ethnic group and possibly skew any future research for the Asian regional group of East Asians."

CAM YANG

#AccurateRepresentation

## #SoutheastAsian



"As stateless people who have been constantly erased through history and having to find creative ways to preserve our history and culture, having us misclassified by the Census is a projection of history repeating itself."

KALEB HAWJ

#AccurateRepresentation

# Hmong/Asian American Organizations have been...

- ❖ Reaching out to the U.S Census Bureau.
- ❖ Asking for the support of more organizations and Hmong leaders.
- ❖ Spreading awareness in the community.



March 2, 2023

Nicholas A. Jones  
Director and Senior Advisor of Race and Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau

Rachel Marks  
Chief, Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau

Cynthia Davis Hollingsworth  
Program Manager for 2020 Census Data Products and Dissemination  
U.S. Census Bureau

Re: Feedback on Hmong Coding in the Detailed DHC-A Proof of Concept

Dear Mr. Jones, Mr. Marks, and Ms. Hollingsworth:

We, the undersigned 57 Hmong American, Southeast Asian American, and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander organizations write to express our concern regarding the inclusion of Hmong under the East Asian regional group, rather than the Southeast Asian regional group, in the 2020 Census Data Products, including the upcoming Demographic and Housing Characteristics products and last year's 2020 Census State Redistricting File (public Law 116-111) Summary File. We urge you to rectify the Hmong as Southeast Asian and, moving forward, improve how the U.S. Census Bureau conducts outreach to diverse communities to accurately assess and represent how they self-identify.

As Hmong and Southeast Asian refugee organizations, we have advocated at all levels of government for disaggregated race and ethnicity data to ensure that our communities are seen and equitably supported by public policies. Our organizations played critical roles in ensuring



May 11, 2023

Nicholas A. Jones  
Director and Senior Advisor of Race and Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau

Rachel Marks  
Chief, Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau

RE: Recommendations for Hmong Coding in the Detailed DHC-A Proof of Concept

Dear Mr. Jones and Mr. Marks:

The undersigned write to thank you for taking time to discuss our concerns about the misclassification of the Hmong community into the East Asian regional grouping by the Census Bureau and to offer some follow-up proposed solutions that could go a long way to address our concerns.

As we discussed in our call on March 27, 2023, and filed up in numerous letters, the inclusion of Hmong under the East Asian regional group, rather than the Southeast Asian regional group, is incorrect and harmful to the Hmong American community. We are especially concerned about the impact this misclassification will have in the 2020 Census Data Products, including the upcoming Demographic and Housing Characteristics products and last year's 2020 Census State Redistricting File (public Law 116-111) Summary File. Hmong Americans' origins in the United States can be traced to their status as refugees from Laos and other Southeast Asian countries. Southeast Asian American (SEAA) is a geographic and political identity characterized by the shared experiences of people who came to this country as refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The vast majority of the SEAA community are refugees from Cambodia, and their family members. Hmong Americans tend to make up the over 7 million SEAA, improperly categorizing Hmong Americans as East Asian conceals the inequities they





# Overview

## Content of My Letter

Main Points:

- Hmong people are Southeast Asian
- Misclassification equals misinformation
- Correction is urgent



# Questions?



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