

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

---

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2006

CONTACT: SOCK-FOON MACDOUGALL

202/376-7700

### **USCCR TO EXAMINE CENSUS 2010**

*Commission to probe legal and policy implications of new racial categories*

**What: Meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring and protecting civil rights**

WASHINGTON, DC – At its monthly meeting, a panel of experts will advise the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concerning utility of racial categories planned for use in Census 2010. Furthermore, following Census 2000, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance to federal agencies including how to allocate responses which now allow participants to declare two or more races. Are these new policies effective? Speakers including Charles Louis Kincannon, Director, U.S. Census Bureau; Kenneth Prewitt, Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs, Columbia University; Ward Connerly, Chairman, American Civil Rights Institute; Sharon M. Lee, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Portland State University, will offer expertise.

The Commission also will decide its actions on the Akaka bill. The bill would allow Native Hawaiians to organize their own government, which opponents have characterized as tantamount to racial balkanization. As well, Commissioners plan to finalize a report on whether or not Congress should renew expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act. A meeting agenda follows:

- I. BRIEFING: RACIAL CATEGORIZATION IN THE 2010 CENSUS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2006 MEETING
- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IV. STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. PROGRAM PLANNING: 1) REPORTS: VOTING RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION; BRIEFING ON THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT; BRIEFING ON DISPARITY STUDIES. 2) ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING
- VI. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LETTER
- VII. STRATEGIC PLANNING

**When: Friday, April 7, 2006 9:00 a.m.**

**Where: 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C**

---

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chairman Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Jennifer C. Braceras, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, and Michael Yaki. Kenneth L. Marcus is Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the media and general public.

**624 9th Street, N.W. • Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20425**  
**Ph: (202) 376-7700 • Fx: (202) 376-7672**