

Rachel Inafuku

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Citizenship: USA

Education

University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Ph.D. in Economics

Expected Graduation: May, 2022

Loyola Marymount University
B.A. in Economics, *magna cum laude*
GPA: 3.87

August 2013 – May 2017

Research

Job Market Paper:

Only the Fit Survive Recessions: Estimating Labor Market Penalties for the Obese Over the Business Cycle

There is evidence of labor market discrimination against minority groups based on race, gender, beauty and other characteristics. Using two national surveys, I measure labor market differentials between obese and healthy weight workers over business cycle fluctuations. I find that during economic downturns, obese individuals experience larger declines in income relative to those who are not obese. These findings are robust to the inclusion of occupation fixed effects, suggesting the findings cannot be fully explained by obese workers selecting careers that tend to have greater sensitivity to business cycle fluctuations.

Works in Progress:

VOG: Using Volcanic Eruptions to Estimate the Impact of Air Pollution on Student Learning Outcomes (with Tim Halliday, Lester Lusher, and Aureo de Paula)

This study pairs variation stemming from volcanic eruptions with panel data on the census of Hawai'i public student test scores to estimate the impact of pollutants on student performance. We first precisely estimate a small drop in average test scores. Then, utilizing Hawai'i's rich diversity across schools in baseline exposure, we estimate sharp nonlinearities - effects for schools with $PM_{2.5}$ levels above $9 \mu g/m^3$ are nearly five times the magnitude as for schools below. Lastly, we find that the drop in test scores for economically disadvantaged students is nearly four times the magnitude of their advantaged counterparts. This performance gap across student type arises from within school variation, suggesting the gap cannot be explained by differences in school resources.

Are the Unhealthy Disproportionately Penalized During Recessions? (with Maya Ward)

Employment History

University of Hawai`i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) <i>Research Assistant</i>	<i>August 2018 – Present</i>
University of Hawai`i Social Science Research Institute <i>Summer Research Assistant</i>	<i>May 2018 – August 2018</i>
University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student-Athlete Academic Services <i>Math and Economics Tutor</i>	<i>January 2018 – May 2018</i>
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. <i>Financial Planning Assistant</i>	<i>January 2017 – December 2017</i>

Presentations

- Hawaii Economic Association Monthly Luncheon Seminar, *November 2021*
- University of Hawai`i Applied Micro Workshop, *October 2020 & September 2021*

Awards

- Valedictorian Scholar, Loyola Marymount University
Department of Economics *May 2017*
- Provost Scholar, Loyola Marymount University *May 2017*
- Dean's List, Loyola Marymount University *2013 – 2017*

Certificates

- SQL for Data Science, UC Davis *August 2021*

Skills

Languages:

English (native), Japanese (some conversational)

Programming Languages:

STATA, R, LaTeX, SQL (some), Python (some), Microsoft Excel

References

Timothy Halliday (*advisor*)
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