Income Inequality in Hawaii

Hawaii’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 5.8 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 5.3 in the late 1980s.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 8.9 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Hawaii’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.2 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.0 in the late 1980s.

Income Grew for All Families in Hawaii

Between the late 1980s and the mid-2000s:

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $2,468, from $20,860 to $23,328. This is an increase of $145 per year.
- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $6,652, from $54,477 to $61,130. This is an increase of $391 per year.
- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $24,952, from $110,574 to $135,525. This is an increase of $1,468 per year.

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute
Pulling Apart: A State By State Analysis of Income Trends
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm