

*Opening Statement*

*Wm. Lacy Clay, Chairman*

*Joint Hearing on ““Census Data: Special Issues Related to U.S.  
Territories”*

*Information Policy, Census, and National Archives  
Subcommittee  
Subcommittee on Insular Affairs  
Oversight and Government Reform Committee*

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
2154 Rayburn HOB  
10:00 a.m.*

**GOOD MORNING, AND WELCOME  
TO YOU ALL. IT IS AN HONOR TO  
TEAM UP WITH MY GOOD FRIEND,  
CHAIRWOMAN DONNA CHRISTENSEN  
OF THE INSULAR AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE, FOR THIS HEARING.**

**TODAY WE WILL EXAMINE WHY  
WE NEED CURRENT, ACCURATE DATA  
IN THE U.S. TERRITORIES AND**

**POSSESSIONS. WE WILL ALSO  
EXPLORE HOW THESE AREAS, IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U. S. CENSUS  
BUREAU, CAN BEGIN TO SOLVE THIS  
PROBLEM.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CONGRESS  
TO UNDERSTAND THE OBSTACLES  
PRESENTED IN THE INSULAR AREAS  
BY THE UNAVAILABILITY OF  
CURRENT POPULATION, ECONOMY,  
OR LABOR FORCE DATA.**

**UNLIKE THE STATES, FOR THE  
MOST PART, THESE TERRITORIES ARE  
FORCED TO DEPEND ON 10 YEAR  
DECENNIAL AND 5 YEAR ECONOMIC**

**CENSUS DATA TO MAKE CRITICAL  
POLICY DECISIONS.**

**U.S. CITIZENS WITHIN THE  
INSULAR AREAS CONTRIBUTE  
ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND  
MILITARILY TO THE OUR COUNTRY.  
THEY RIGHTFULLY DESERVE EQUAL  
ACCESS TO ANNUAL FEDERALLY-  
SANCTIONED DATA THAT IS  
ACCURATE AND MEANINGFUL.**

**OUR EXPERT WITNESSES ARE  
EQUIPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE  
AND EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE US  
WITH VALUABLE INSIGHT ON HOW  
THIS OVERSIGHT CAN BE CORRECTED.**

**I THANK YOU ALL FOR  
APPEARING AND LOOK FORWARD  
TO YOUR TESTIMONY.**