



PERSPECTIVES OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN UTAH

Ethnic Studies Commission Presentation

August 10, 2023

Presenters:

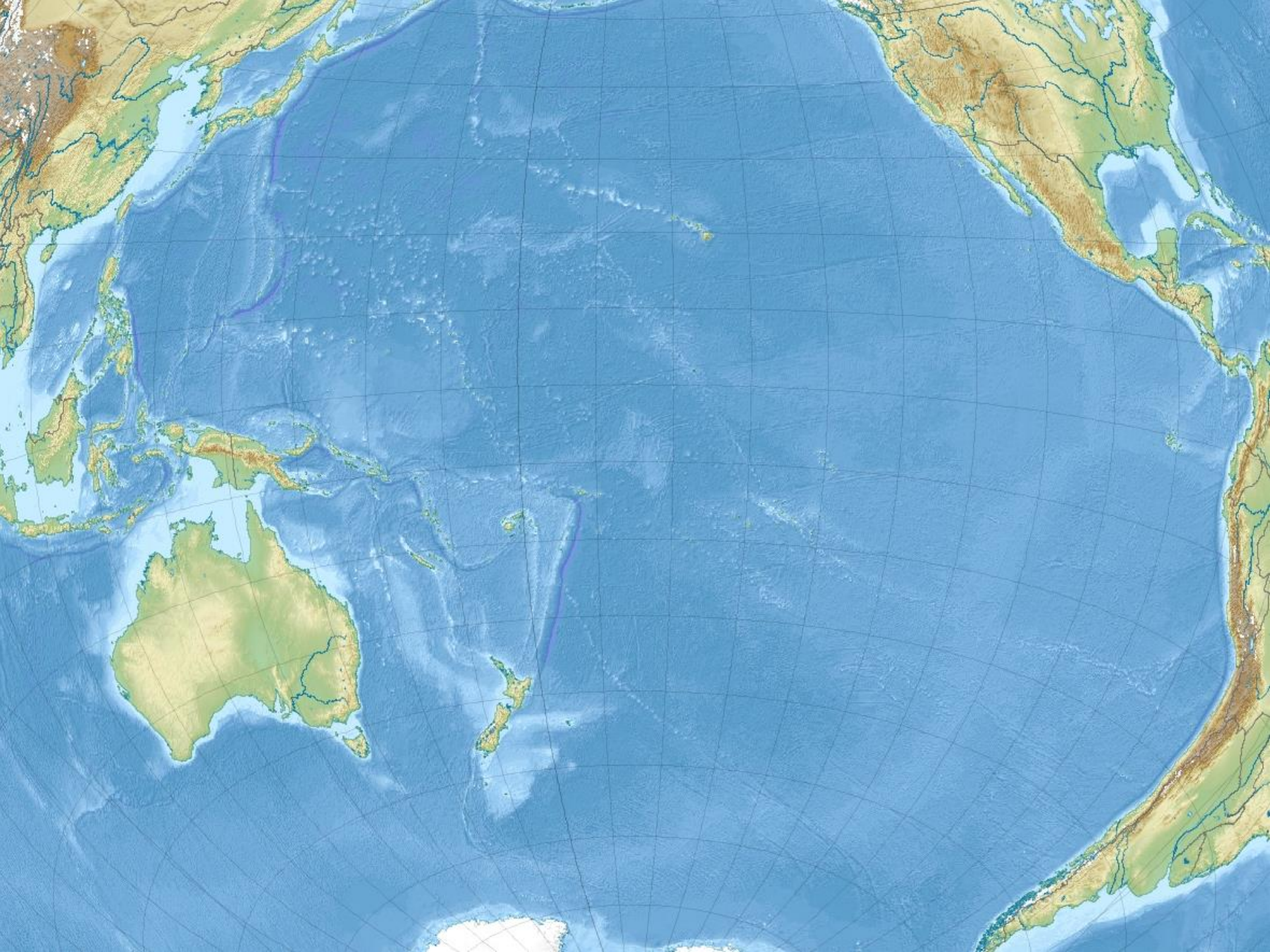
Charlene Lui, NAME Executive Director

Dr. Saia Hafoka, SLCHD Analyst



Session Objectives:

- History of Pacific Islanders in Utah and their contributions
- Issues that Impact Pacific Islanders
 - Education
 - Health
 - Economic Development
- Recommendations for Ethnic Studies core standards





History of Pacific Islanders In Utah



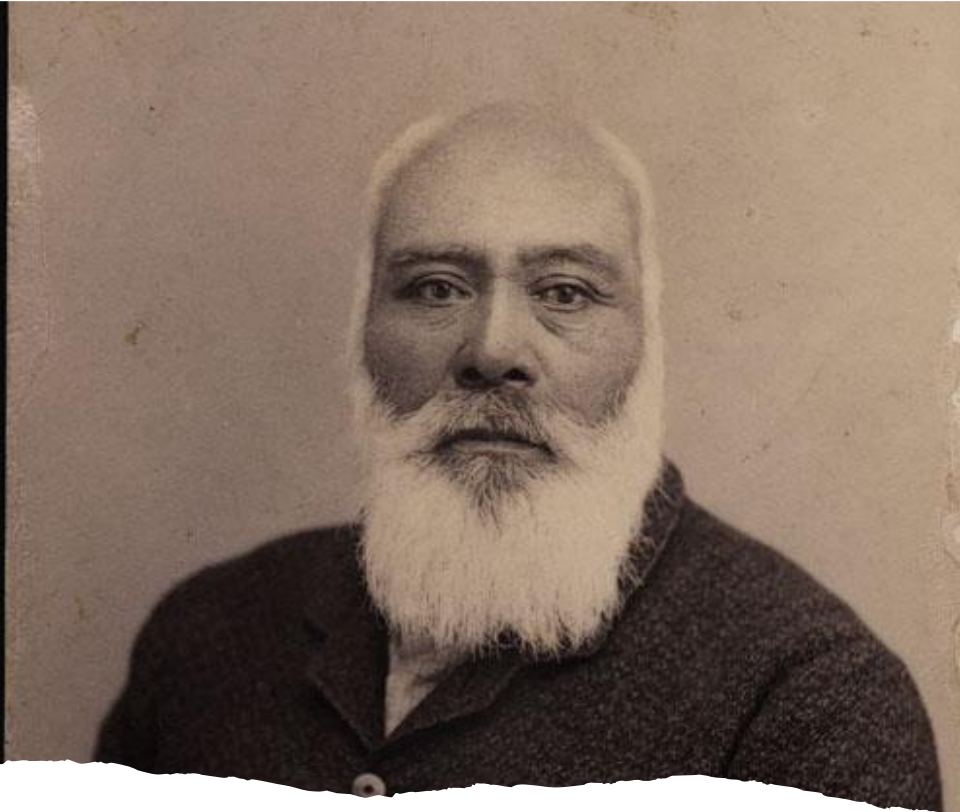
...ants, c. 1910. Utah State Historical



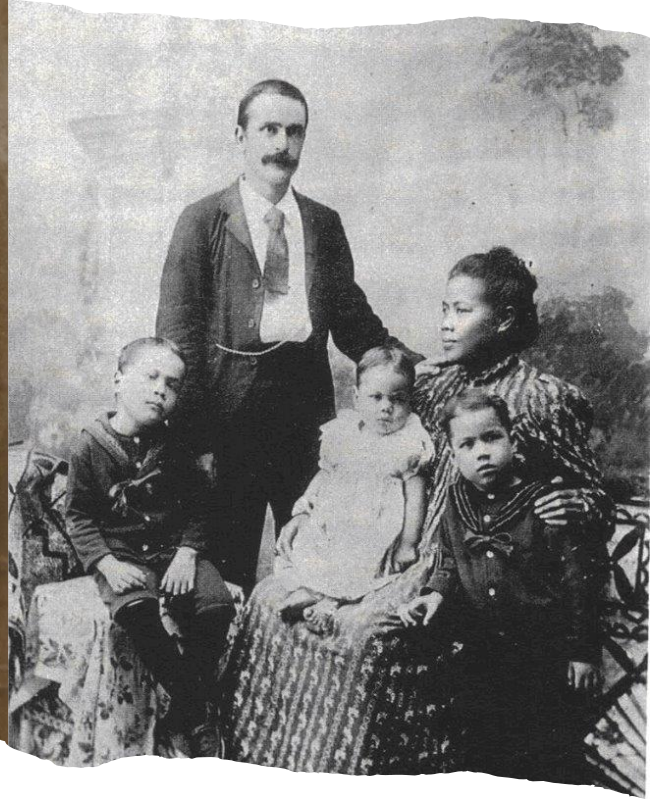
Native Hawaiians

Warm Springs (1873)

Iosepa (1889)



Māori (Aotearoa/New Zealand)
Salt Lake City (1884)



Samoans

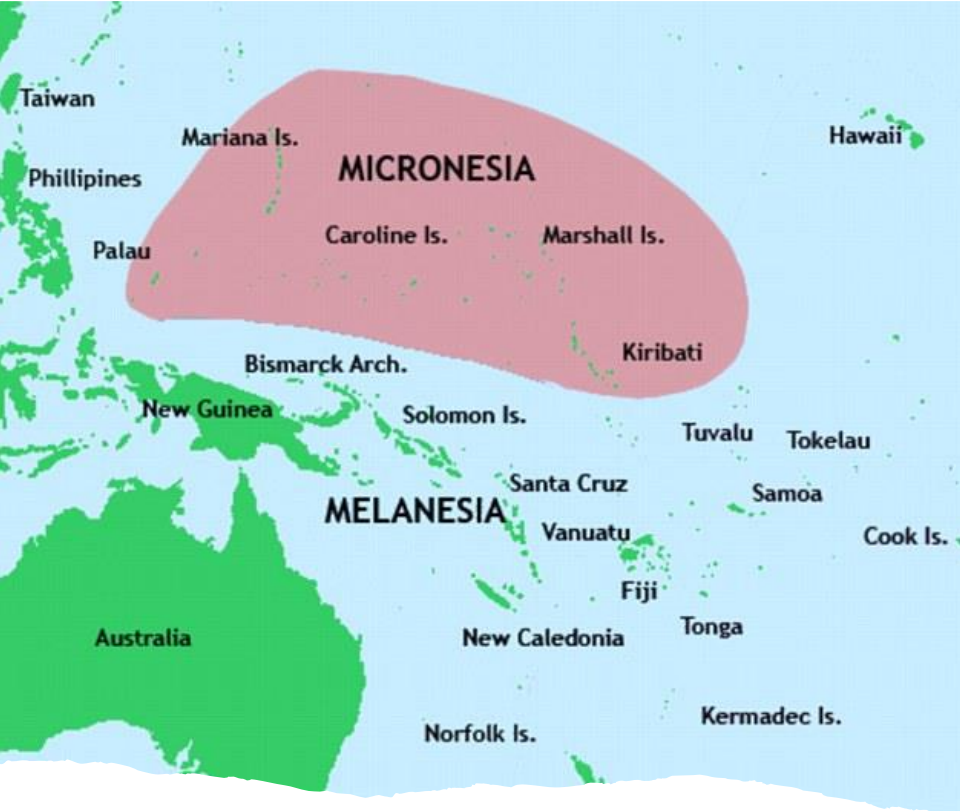
Castle Dale (1898)

Iosepa (1899)



Tongans

Salt Lake City (1924)



**Chamorros, Marshallese, Pohnpeians,
Palauans, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraeans**
Salt Lake City (1960s)

Did you know?

- 2nd largest Tongan population of any US city:
 - West Valley City
- Largest Tongan population of any US city:
 - Salt Lake City
- One out of four Tongans in the US live in Utah
- 4th largest Samoan population in the USA:
 - Salt Lake City

US Census Bureau; 2010 SF1 (Table PCT10)

Percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in Combination, Total Population by State: 2020

Top 5



Hawai'i

27.1%



Alaska

2.5%



Utah

1.8%



Nevada

1.7%



Washington

1.5%



Percent Change Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in Combination, Total Population by State: 2010 to 2020

2010
2020



.4%
.5%

United States



1.3%
1.8%

Utah

1,225,195
1,586,463

361,268 29.5%

Population Pop. Change % Change

36,777
59,247

22,470 61.1%

Population Pop. Change % Change



CENSUS 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

[BIT.LY/CENSUSUTAH](https://bit.ly/censusutah)

Utah's Growing NH/PI Population

Year	Population
2015	43,116
2016	44,569
2017	46,750
2018	48,025
2019	50,053
2020	59,247

US Census Bureau; 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables; Table B02019

Utah NH/PI Communities (2020)

Ethnicity	Population
Tongan	17,549
Samoaan	16,730
Native Hawaiian	9,520
Other Pacific Islander	6,826
Chamorro	1,660
Fijian	756
Marshallese	641

US Census Bureau; 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables; Table B02019

NH/PI Population by County (2021)

County	Population
Salt Lake	30,041
Utah	13,811
Davis	4,780
Washington	3,201
Weber	1,925
Tooele	1,073
Cache	805

US Census Bureau; 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables; Table B02019

NH/PI Population by City (2020)

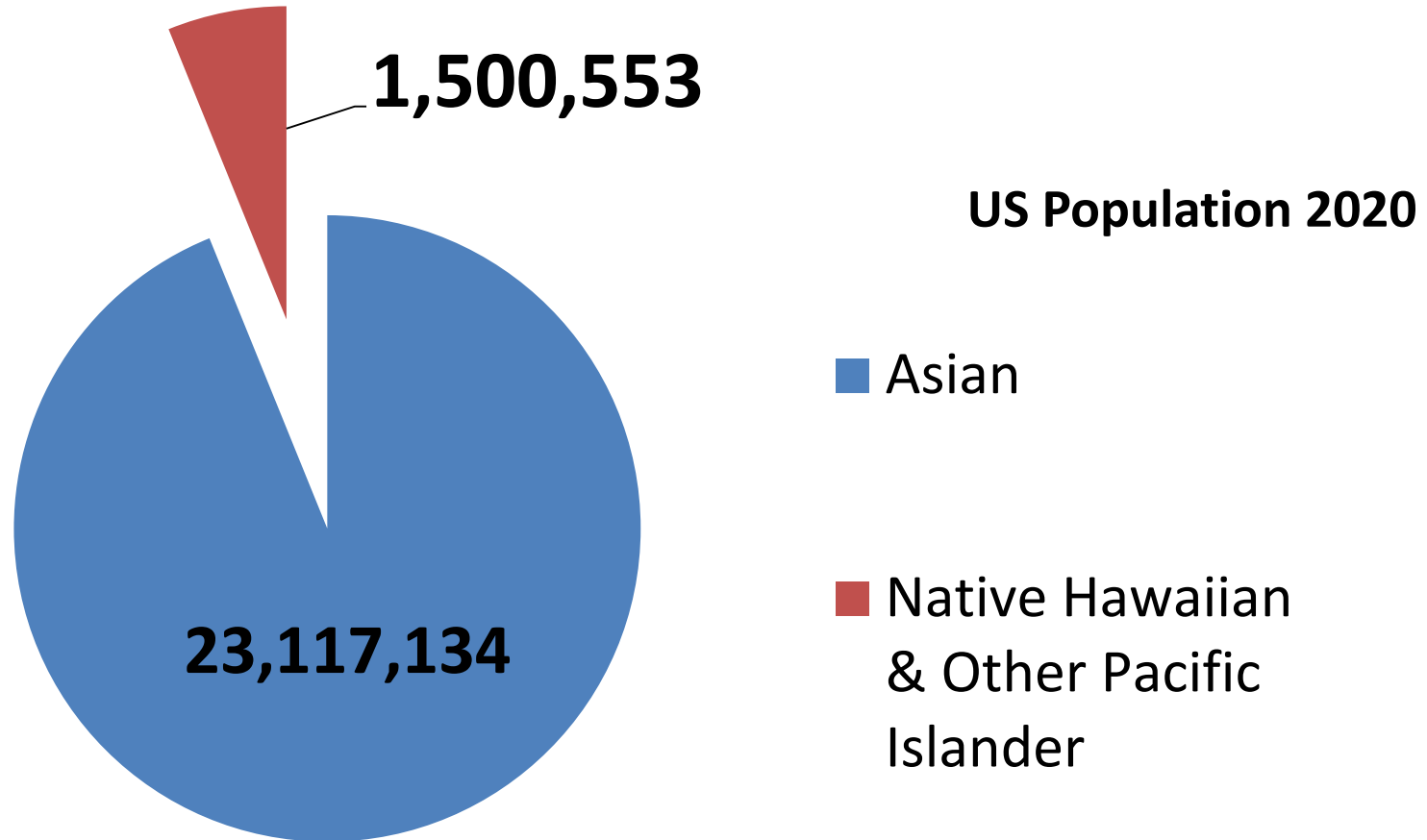
City	Population
West Valley City	7,636
Salt Lake City	5,377
Provo	3,306
Orem	2,668
St. George	1,878
Kearns	1,371
North Salt Lake	776

US Census Bureau; 2020 Redistricting Data; Table P1



K-12 Education

“Big” AA, “Little” PI



Graduation Rates

2021

2022

Asian

91.7%

Asian

90.65% (-1.05)

PI

83.68%

PI

80.05% (-3.64%)

Discipline Rates

Asian Enrollment	12,566
Incident Rate	3.4% (427)

Pacific Islander Enrollment	12,178
Incident Rate	7.1% (864)



Health Disparities

Diabetes Death – Utah

Report Date	Category	Death Rate
2010	Asian	43.0 per 100,000
2010	Pacific Islander	139.1 per 100,000
2015	Asian	22.5 per 100,000
2015	Pacific Islander	72.0 per 100,000
2020	Asian	17.6 per 100,000
2020	Pacific Islander	107.1 per 100,000

Chlamydia - Utah

Report Date	Category	Incidence Rate
2010	Asian	188.1 per 100,000
2010	Pacific Islander	651.9 per 100,000
2015	Asian	165.3 per 100,000
2015	Pacific Islander	527.3 per 100,000
2020	Asian	222.0 per 100,000
2020	Pacific Islander	1002.4 per 100,000

COVID-19 - Utah

Category	Age-adjusted case rate
White	31239.7 per 100,000
Asian	33156.2 per 100,000
Pacific Islander	59677.6 per 100,000

SLCoHD Workforce

Report Date	SLCoHD (%)	SLCo Residents (%)
Asian	4.33	5.5
Pacific Islander	1.78	2.1
Black	1.53	2.7
Hispanic	27.74	19.9

SLCoHD Workforce





Business



The Mill Entrepreneurship Center @ SLCC has seen a significant increase in minority owned businesses and minority clients looking to start a small business.

- Traditionally minority owned business do not have an equal playing field when it comes to borrowing money and business education.
- Resources are increasingly focused on financial literacy for minority-owned business to ensure a highly likelihood of success in managing money, taking loans and understanding cash flow.
- Challenges: Funding for programs, trust from minority communities, lack of knowledge about resources available to minority business owners.



Recommendations for Ethnic Core Standards



Recommendations:

- Include the historical significance of the early arrival of Pacific Islanders to Utah
- Include Iosepa in the history of Utah
- Include the history of Hawaii becoming the 50th state
- Implement policies to address health disparities



Mahalo!

Malo aupito!

Fa'afetai lava!

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