

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1745

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 18**, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1578  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Economic Development & Technology, to which was referred S.B. No. 1578, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the official designation of the East-West Center as the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West, Inc., and exempt state fund appropriations to the East-West Center from chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (2) Rename the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to the Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission and amends its functions and membership;
- (3) Require the Office of International Affairs to provide support to the Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission;
- (4) Expand the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's authority to establish out-of-state offices to include out-of-state facilities to support

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sister-state or province partnerships and other partnerships that promote and enrich the people, cultures, environments, and economies of the State and its international partners, generate revenue for the State, and buy property; and

- (5) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and East-West Center. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's international relationships have been instrumental in fostering economic growth, cultural exchange, and educational opportunities. This measure strengthens the State's commitment to global partnerships and empowers the East-West Center and state agencies to play a greater role in maintaining and leveraging these relationships for the long-term prosperity of Hawaii's residents.

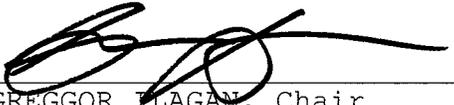
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Providing more context in the preamble regarding the East-West Center's history and public benefit that warrants its public financing going forward;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development & Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1578, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1578, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development & Technology,

  
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GREGGOR I. LAGAN, Chair



