
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
INITIATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HAWAII
AND NEW ZEALAND TO FOSTER STRONGER TIES IN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, ARTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, EDUCATION, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii and New Zealand share deep historical,
2 cultural, economic, and environmental connections, rooted in the
3 rich heritage of the Pacific islands; and
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5 WHEREAS, the indigenous peoples of Hawaii and New Zealand,
6 the Kanaka Maoli and Māori, share linguistic, ancestral, and
7 cultural ties as members of the greater Polynesian family; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii and New Zealand are committed to the
10 preservation and promotion of indigenous cultures, sustainable
11 environmental practices, and economic development that respects
12 traditional knowledge and values; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii and New Zealand serve as important hubs for
15 regional cooperation, fostering economic development and
16 environmental sustainability throughout the Pacific region; and
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18 WHEREAS, the establishment of a memorandum of understanding
19 would strengthen mutual interests in trade, tourism, education,
20 environmental protection, cultural exchange, and disaster
21 preparedness and response efforts; and
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23 WHEREAS, the arts are a vital and transformative part of
24 Hawaii's cultural identity and economy, and New Zealand's rich
25 artistic traditions offer an opportunity for cross-cultural
26 collaboration, creative exchange, and mutual growth in the arts;
27 and
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1 WHEREAS, the establishment of a memorandum of understanding
2 would foster artistic innovation, enhance cultural
3 understanding, and create new opportunities for artistic
4 expression, education, and professional development in both
5 Hawaii and New Zealand; and

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7 WHEREAS, a formalized relationship between Hawaii and New
8 Zealand would provide opportunities for collaboration in
9 renewable energy initiatives, agricultural innovation, marine
10 conservation, and technology sharing; and

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12 WHEREAS, cultural exchange programs between educational
13 institutions in Hawaii and New Zealand would enhance
14 understanding and appreciation of Polynesian traditions,
15 language revitalization efforts, and academic cooperation in
16 fields such as marine biology, climate change, and Pacific
17 studies; and

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19 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii and New Zealand share a
20 strong commitment to global peace, security, and prosperity,
21 making a memorandum of understanding an opportunity to promote
22 goodwill and shared goals; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2025, that the Department of Business, Economic Development,
27 and Tourism is urged to evaluate and develop recommendations for
28 the initiation of a memorandum of understanding between Hawaii
29 and New Zealand to foster stronger ties in economic development,
30 arts and cultural exchange, education, and environmental
31 sustainability; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged, in
34 consultation with relevant government agencies and stakeholders,
35 to take necessary steps to implement this memorandum of
36 understanding and facilitate ongoing collaboration; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the establishment of the
39 memorandum of understanding, appropriate state agencies,
40 educational institutions, business organizations, and cultural
41 institutions are encouraged to develop programs and initiatives
42 in collaboration with their counterparts in New Zealand; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
4 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Prime Minister of New
5 Zealand.

