



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Monday, March 29, 2021  
2:00PM  
State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329

In consideration of  
**HCR 127**  
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND  
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF  
YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE  
LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,  
FOR FURTHER ACTION.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HCR 127 to establish the Hawaii-Yamaguchi Sister-State Relationship.

Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State of Hawaii have had a strong relationship from the early days of the Kanyaku-Imin when the first immigrants left Japan, with over 10,000 people from Yamaguchi Prefecture, for Hawaii to work as contract laborers. Enabling the official sister-state relationship to be signed will contribute to ongoing people-to-people exchanges in education, culture, business and government between Hawaii and Yamaguchi to thrive.

On March 15, 2021, the Hawaii Sister State Committee (established by the Legislature) recommended unanimously that a sister state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Yamaguchi Prefecture be established.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HCR-127**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 2:07:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reyna Kaneko	Individual	Support	No

Comments: