



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

10:00 AM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

In consideration of

**SCR 241, SD1**

**ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF  
HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF  
YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN.**

Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SCR 241, SD1 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SCR-241-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 7:38:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Aloha ?Aina Party	Comments	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Aloha 'Äina Party, its organization and membership, we hereby express support in a sisterhood between Hawai'i and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, however do not recognize that the State of Hawai'i has the corporate authorization to speak on behalf of the United States and vice versa. If there are going to be nation to nation relations, let that relationship be built on a national level. The State of Hawai'i does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the Hawaiian Kingdom nor the United States.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Cedric Gates, Chair  
Rep. Matt LoPresti, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

FR: Reyna Kaneko  
President  
Japan-America Society of Hawai`i

RE: SCR241, SD1 ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN.

DT: Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 10:00 am  
State Capitol, Room 329

Chair Gates and Vice Chair LoPresti:

On behalf of the Japan-America Society of Hawai`i, we strongly support SCR241, SD1 requesting a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai`i and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, Japan be established.

Sister State relationships play a key role in fostering important relationships between Hawai`i and foreign countries. Since the immigration of the Japanese to Hawai`i in the 1800's, persons from Yamaguchi, Japan have played an integral role as contract laborers in Hawai`i, and then, the overall economic, social and cultural development of modern Hawaii. Over the decades, Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai groups have also upheld the bonds and relationships through cultural and business exchanges between Japan and Hawai`i, including study abroad and academic exchanges and tour groups.

SCR241, SD1 would formalize a Sister state relationship between the State of Hawai`i and Yamaguchi, Japan, and continue the vibrant relationship that has existed over the years. We recommend this committee support SCR241, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

/S/

REYNA KANEKO  
President  
Japan-America Society of Hawai`i  
808-292-0049