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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO REEVALUATE THE CURRENT STATUS OF HAWAII'S SISTER  
RELATIONSHIPS.

1           WHEREAS, at present, Hawaii has seventy-two state and  
2 county sister relationships; and

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4           WHEREAS, as of December, 2005, the State had fourteen  
5 sisters, including four each from Japan and the Philippines,  
6 three from the People's Republic of China, and one each from the  
7 Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and Portugal; and

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9           WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
10 and Tourism, in its *State of Hawaii's Sister States/Cities: A*  
11 *Report to the Hawaii State Legislature January 1, 2005 -*  
12 *December 31, 2005*, supported the continued pursuit of sister  
13 relationships for both cultural and economic development  
14 reasons, with attention to fostering the most productive ties;  
15 and

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17           WHEREAS, the Department reported that the most successful  
18 sister relationships occur when:

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20           (1) There is commonality between Hawaii and the sister,  
21           primarily from geographical, historical, cultural, or  
22           economic standpoints;  
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24           (2) There are active and interested support groups, such  
25           as the Chambers of Commerce, and cultural and civic  
26           associations;  
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28           (3) There are economic benefits for both sisters, such as  
29           increased numbers of visitors, or enhanced investment  
30           or marketing opportunities;  
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1 (4) Close ties have been established between the  
2 educational institutions of the two potential sisters,  
3 including both student and faculty exchanges; and  
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5 (5) There is a clear, strong governmental interest in not  
6 only forming, but maintaining, the relationship; and  
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8 WHEREAS, however, to ensure the productivity and viability  
9 of a sister relationship, the Department recommended that the  
10 State needs a rigorous selection process, including  
11 reconstituting the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the re-  
12 utilization of the Sister-State Application Form developed by  
13 the erstwhile Office of International Relations, which must  
14 incorporate:

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16 (1) A letter from the Governor of the proposed sister;

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18 (2) A designated point-of-contact person;

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20 (3) Recent activity reports between Hawaii and the  
21 proposed sister;

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23 (4) Recommendations for future activities; and

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25 (5) Proposed calendar of future events; and  
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27 WHEREAS, although sister agreements traditionally are  
28 filled with general statements of friendship and goodwill, the  
29 Department recommended that they should include a higher degree  
30 of specificity, including each side's responsibilities to ensure  
31 that each sister agreement is realistically and mutually  
32 beneficial; and  
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34 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Department recommended that the  
35 State carefully review the quality of its sister relations to  
36 determine which ties should be strengthened and which should be  
37 severed; now, therefore,  
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
40 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
41 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
42 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to  
43 reevaluate the current status of Hawaii's sister relationships  
44 to ensure that such relationships are mutually beneficial and



