
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE PROLIFERATION OF DEMOCRACY, PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC OPENNESS IN VIETNAM BY MEANS OF A SISTER-PROVINCE AFFILIATION WITH THE PROVINCE OF THUA THIEN-HUE IN VIETNAM.

1 WHEREAS, various organizations and numerous individuals
2 have expressed concerned about continued human rights violations
3 and political oppression in despotic regimes, communist states,
4 and other closed political systems whose governments were
5 birthed during the Cold War as satellite and/or client regimes
6 of the former Soviet Union; and

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8 WHEREAS, with the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9,
9 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 26,
10 1991, people around the world have not only sought after
11 democratic transition in their governments, but also economic
12 openness, making oppressive, controlling governments
13 increasingly under pressure and strain to retain their
14 legitimacy and relevance in the post Cold War World; and

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16 WHEREAS, the development and proliferation of mass
17 communication technologies in the form of mobile phones, PDAs,
18 laptop computers, and the global internet have made physical
19 borders meaningless, and allowed information and ideas to travel
20 freely, despite even the strictest degree of controls; and

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22 WHEREAS, in the September 2003 issue of International
23 Studies Quarterly, a recognized scholarly, peer reviewed
24 academic journal of the American Political Science Association,
25 an article was published entitled "*Causes of Peace: Democracy,*
26 *Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992*" by
27 John R. Oneal, Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum, noted that
28 "Using distributed-lags analyses, we find that economically
29 important trade does have a substantively important effect in
30 reducing dyadic militarized disputes, even with extensive
31 controls for the influence of past conflict"; and

1 WHEREAS, the proliferation of democracy and free trade has
2 influenced even traditionally despotic and religiously
3 ultraconservative regimes such as Iran to create "free zones"
4 such as Kish Island, where oppressive controls are greatly
5 relaxed, serving as a vector for democratic infection to the
6 entire government; and
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8 WHEREAS, interaction and regular engagement between the
9 United States of America and the State of Hawaii with Vietnam,
10 may very well increase interdependence and cooperation, thereby
11 resulting in not only improved diplomatic relations, but also
12 the possibility of cultural exchange, leading to heightened
13 calls for democratic reform in Vietnam; and
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15 WHEREAS, there are historical precedents exemplifying the
16 common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and
17 financial bridge between ethnic Vietnamese living in Hawaii and
18 their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in Vietnam,
19 such as the previously established sister-city relationship
20 between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Hue,
21 which is the capital of the Province of Thua Thien-Hue; and
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23 WHEREAS, a similar state-province relationship between the
24 State and the Province of Thua Thien-Hue, whereby exchanges and
25 cooperation could be established in the areas of business,
26 trade, agriculture, environmentally and culturally sensitive
27 tourism, sports, public health, education, economic development,
28 and humanitarian assistance, would reinforce and cement this
29 common bridge of understanding and mutual assistance between the
30 ethnic Vietnamese of both the State and the Province of Thua
31 Thien-Hue; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Province of Thua Thien-Hue, like Hawaii, has
34 an agricultural economy that is based upon sugar cane, fruits,
35 and flowers, and aquaculture crops, such as shrimp; and
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37 WHEREAS, the city of Hue, capital of the Province of Thua
38 Thien-Hue has been designated as a World Heritage Site by the
39 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
40 Organization because its cultural and natural properties are
41 considered to be of outstanding universal value and must be
42 protected; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Province of Thua Thien-Hue's unique cultural
2 and historical significance and natural beauty are important
3 resources on which to base an environmentally and culturally
4 sensitive tourism industry; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's long experience and expertise in tourism,
7 agriculture, and aquaculture could be shared with the Province
8 of Thua Thien-Hue; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2007, that this Body encourages the proliferation of
13 democracy, protection of human rights and economic openness in
14 Vietnam by means of a sister-province affiliation with the
15 Province of Thua Thien-Hue in Vietnam; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
18 keep the Legislature fully apprised of any progress made in
19 establishing the relationship in order that the Legislature may
20 be involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of Thua Thien-Hue
23 be afforded the privileges and honors to which Hawaii extends to
24 its other sister-states and provinces; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duly certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to:

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29 (1) The Governor of the State of Hawaii;
30 (2) The Director of the Department of Business, Economic
31 Development, and Tourism;
32 (3) The President of the United States through the
33 Secretary of State;
34 (4) The President of the United States Senate
35 (5) The Speaker of the United States House of
36 Representatives;
37 (6) Hawaii's Congressional Delegation;
38 (7) The President of Vietnam through its San Francisco
39 Consulate General; and
40 (8) The Governor of the Province of Thua Thien-Hue in
41 Vietnam.
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