
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The spirit of internationalism has been the
2 foundation for a myriad of activities in business, government,
3 education, and culture, as well as personal ties between our
4 citizens and those from many other nations, especially the
5 Pacific-Asian region.

6 Establishing an office of international relations will
7 strengthen these ties and the cooperative relationships between
8 the State and countries throughout the world. An office of
9 international relations will coordinate the international
10 activities of the various state agencies to maximize the use of
11 resources and avoid duplication of efforts. The office will
12 coordinate and focus the State's international efforts, heighten
13 public awareness of the importance of Hawaii's role in the world
14 market, and propose new programs to achieve our international
15 goals.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish an office of
17 international relations to play a critical and needed role in
18 fostering, coordinating, and creating international programs and



1 policies to improve and enhance the State's role in
2 international relations.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding
4 a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as
5 follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

8 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
9 context requires otherwise:

10 "Director" means the director of the office of
11 international relations.

12 "Office" means the office of international relations.

13 "Sister-state agreement" means a formal agreement between
14 the State, through the governor of Hawaii, and an equivalent
15 jurisdiction of another country, that provides for cultural and
16 economic exchanges.

17 § -2 **Office of international relations.** There is
18 established, within the office of the governor, the office of
19 international relations. The head of the office shall be known
20 as the director of international relations. The director shall
21 have experience in international affairs, business, law, or
22 other related fields. The director shall be appointed by the



1 governor without regard to chapters 76 and 77, and shall be
2 compensated at a salary level set by the governor. The
3 director, without regard to chapters 76 and 77, may retain staff
4 necessary for the purpose of this chapter and may set their
5 salary levels. The director and staff shall be included in any
6 benefit program generally applicable to the officers and
7 employees of the State.

8 § -3 **General functions, duties, and powers of the office**

9 **of international relations.** The office shall serve as the
10 governor's principal resource for the overall analysis,
11 formulation, and coordination of state policies and strategies
12 relating to international matters. The office shall have the
13 following powers, functions, and responsibilities:

- 14 (1) Formulate and articulate comprehensive statewide
15 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities with
16 respect to matters of an international nature;
17 provided that the office may consult with the
18 chairpersons of appropriate legislative subject matter
19 committees in formulating its goals, objectives,
20 policies, and priorities;



- 1 (2) Identify and analyze significant issues, problems, and
2 opportunities in the international arena that may
3 confront the State and its citizens;
- 4 (3) Collect, analyze, maintain, and disseminate
5 information relating to international activities,
6 programs, and organizations within the State and that
7 involve or may involve the State and its agencies;
- 8 (4) Serve as the governor's representative and the State's
9 liaison with county, state, and federal agencies, as
10 well as foreign governments and their local
11 consulates, with respect to international matters;
- 12 (5) Provide direction and coordination of the
13 international programs, projects, and activities of
14 the various state departments and agencies;
- 15 (6) Devise and recommend legislative and administrative
16 actions for the accomplishment of the State's
17 international policies and goals;
- 18 (7) Stimulate and promote an international awareness and
19 education by the State and its citizens through
20 various programs, including, but not limited to, the
21 publication of newsletters, bulletins, and other
22 materials, and community outreach efforts;



- 1 (8) Meet with foreign governmental agencies and officials,
2 institutions of higher education, and other
3 organizations, to nurture and promote new cooperative
4 ventures and agreements of scientific and
5 technological exchange, as well as health,
6 educational, and cultural exchanges;
- 7 (9) Host government and business officials and other
8 foreign dignitaries at conferences, meetings, and
9 social occasions, or other events on matters
10 pertaining to economic opportunities overseas, to
11 enhance the State's image in the global marketplace;
- 12 (10) Enter into contracts of cooperative agreements with
13 foreign nations or political subdivisions thereof on
14 behalf of the State, subject to approval by the
15 governor and in accordance with the laws of the United
16 States;
- 17 (11) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purposes of
18 this chapter;
- 19 (12) Attract international trade, businesses, and
20 investments to the State;



1 (13) Make and execute contracts and all other instruments
2 necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers
3 and functions under this chapter;

4 (14) Do anything in its discretion, with the prior approval
5 of the governor and within available resources, as may
6 be relevant to this chapter and beneficial to the
7 State's economy;

8 (15) Keep the legislature informed through the chairpersons
9 of appropriate subject matter committees so that
10 legislators may participate in planned international
11 affairs events; and

12 (16) Submit an annual report to the legislature prior to
13 the convening of each regular session on the status of
14 international relations as it pertains to the
15 activities of the office for the preceding year.

16 **§ -4 State strategic plan for international activities.**

17 The office shall develop a comprehensive, state strategic plan
18 for international activities. The plan shall include, but not
19 be limited to, the establishment of immediate and long-range
20 goals for programs and services relating to international
21 activities in the State and the assignment of goals to
22 appropriate state agencies. The office may consult with the

1 chairpersons of appropriate legislative subject matter
2 committees before developing a strategic plan. The office shall
3 submit its plan to the legislature not later than December 31,
4 2008.

5 § -5 **Protocol services.** The office shall develop
6 uniform protocol procedures for state agencies.

7 § -6 **Sister-state agreements.** The office shall develop
8 criteria by which sister-state agreements shall be established
9 and maintained, and shall be the lead agency to implement each
10 sister-state agreement.

11 § -7 **Powers of other departments and agencies;**
12 **cooperation with office.** It shall be the duty and
13 responsibility of every state agency that operates programs and
14 services relating to international activities, to actively work
15 toward the goals and objectives articulated in the state
16 strategic plan for international activities and to coordinate
17 these goals and objectives with the office. The executive heads
18 of all appropriate departments and agencies shall cooperate with
19 the office in providing information as the office deems
20 necessary for the effective discharge of its duties. Nothing in
21 this chapter shall be deemed to delegate or detract in any way
22 from the functions, powers, and duties prescribed by law for any



1 other department or agency of the State, nor to interrupt or
2 preclude the direct relationships of any department or agency or
3 units of county government in the performance of their
4 functions, powers, and duties. Each department, agency,
5 officer, and employee of the State shall cooperate and assist
6 the office in the performance of the functions, powers, and
7 duties of the office.

8 § **-8 Gifts.** (a) The office may receive, manage, and
9 invest moneys or other property, real, personal, or mixed, that
10 may be given, bequeathed, devised, or in any manner received
11 from sources other than the legislature or any federal
12 appropriation, for the benefit of the office, or the aid or
13 advantage of the State or counties, and in general act as
14 trustee on behalf of the governor for any of these purposes or
15 objectives.

16 (b) The office shall keep suitable books of accounts to
17 record and manage each gift and the expenditure of the income.
18 A statement of all receipts and expenditures shall be included
19 in the regular reports prepared by the office that are required
20 under this chapter.

21 § **-9 Gift account.** The office, with the approval of the
22 director of finance, may establish a separate account to



1 receive, manage, and invest moneys that may be given,
2 bequeathed, devised, or in any manner received from sources
3 other than the legislature or any federal appropriation for the
4 benefit of the office, or the aid or advantage of the State or
5 counties."

6 SECTION 3. No person who transfers to the office of
7 international relations from another state agency, after being
8 retained by the director of the office of international
9 relations pursuant to section -2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
10 shall suffer any loss of prior service credit, vacation, sick
11 leave, or other employee benefit or privilege as a consequence
12 of that transfer.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
16 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2008-2009, for the purposes of this Act.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
19 the governor for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

21

INTRODUCED BY:

Collin Mui
Rida T. R. Calanilla



Report Title:

Office of International Relations; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and funds the office of international relations.

