SENATE RESOLUTION

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATEMUNICIPALITY RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE MUNICIPALITY
OF SARRAT IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people of Hawaii and the people of Asian and Pacific countries; and

WHEREAS, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawaii has established a number of sister state-province and state-municipality agreements with provinces and cities in the Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, because of the historical relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, there continue to exist valid reasons to promote international friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of both countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as it serves the common interests of both countries; and

WHEREAS, there are historical precedents exemplifying the common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and financial bridge between ethnic Filipinos living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the Philippines, such as the previously established sister-city relationship between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Cebu in the Province of Cebu; and

WHEREAS, similar state-province relationships exist between the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan, whereby cooperation and communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of business, trade, agriculture and industry, tourism, sports, health care, social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, a similar sister state-municipality relationship would reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and mutual assistance between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of Hawaii and the Municipality of Sarrat, located in the Province of Ilocos Norte and the birthplace of former Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that Governor Linda Lingle of the State of Hawaii, or her designee, is requested to take all necessary actions to establish a state-municipality affiliation with the Municipality of Sarrat in the Province of Ilocos Norte in the Republic of the Philippines; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor or her designee is requested to keep the Legislature of the State of Hawaii fully informed of the process in establishing the relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality of Sarrat in the Province of Ilocos Norte be afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its sister provinces and cities; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if by June 30, 2012, the sister state-city affiliation with the Municipality of Sarrat in the Province of Ilocos Norte has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic benefits through local community support, the affiliation shall be withdrawn; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, the President of the Republic of the Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, the Governor and Provincial Board of the Province of Ilocos Norte, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Sarrat, Republic of the Philippines.

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