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HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SISTER STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE OR PROVINCE RELATIONSHIP WITH LORRAINE, FRANCE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 150, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006 (Act 150), the Hawaii Sister State Committee (Committee) was established within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes, to advise the Governor and the Legislature on matters relating to sister state or province relations and relations, in general, between the State and the states or provinces of foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, codified in part as section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Act 150 requires the Committee to "evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of all sister state or province relationships and forward its recommendation to the legislature"; and

WHEREAS, Act 150 also provides that "[t]he Legislature, if it so chooses, shall implement the recommendation [of the Committee] to initiate a sister state or province relationship by either adopting a resolution or by enacting session law to that effect"; and

WHEREAS, a strong bond of friendship has existed between the people of Bruyeres, France, and the people of Hawaii since 1944; and

WHEREAS, this bond of friendship has its roots in the liberation of Bruyeres from Nazi rule by the American forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, many sons of Hawaii, serving with the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regiment, sacrificed their lives as members of this liberating force; and

WHEREAS, the people of Bruyeres have held annual memorial services to honor the liberators who fought so well in the cause of freedom and peace; and

WHEREAS, the people of Bruyeres have suggested a further means of strengthening this bond of friendship by entering into a sister city relationship with the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, through the adoption of Resolution No. 342 by the Honolulu City Council on November 1, 1960, this sister city relationship has been in existence for the past 49 years; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Committee's deliberation on evaluating the feasibility of extending sister state and province relationships with similar governmental or political subdivisions of foreign nations, the Legislature believes it is fitting for the Committee to consider extending this relationship with Bruyeres, France; and

WHEREAS, the town of Bruyeres is located in the region of Lorraine; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the Legislature requests the Committee to evaluate the feasibility of extending a sister state or province relationship with Lorraine, France, to strengthen the bond of friendship and long history the people of the State of Hawaii have with Bruyeres, France; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Chair of the Hawaii Sister State Committee, President of the Regional Council of Lorraine, France, and Mayor of the City of Bruyeres, France.