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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I AND THE ISLANDS OF OCEANIA.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i is actively seeking to expand its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people of Hawai'i and the people of many nations and territories comprising Oceania; and

WHEREAS, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawai'i has established a number of sister-state agreements with provinces in the Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, historical precedent exists which exemplifies a common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and financial bridge between Oceanians living in Hawai'i and their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the islands of Oceania; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of sister-state relations between the State of Hawai'i and Oceania would help reinforce and cement this common bridge; and

WHEREAS, the geographic location of Hawai'i presents an outstanding opportunity to promote global connectivity among the islands of Oceania to proliferate meaningful and mutually rewarding international friendships, understanding between cultures, economic and social vitality, scientific and technological advancement, and enhanced regional security; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested to set up a task force within the Department of Business,

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    Economic Development, and Tourism to establish a relationship
    between Hawai'i and the islands of Oceania, including, but not
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    limited to:
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              Province of Tahiti - French Polynesia;
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         (1)
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         (2) Westland Province - New Zealand;
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         (3)
             Republic of the Fiji Islands;
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              Republic of Vanuatu;
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         (5)
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              Western Province - Solomon Islands;
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         (6) Rarotonga District - Cook Islands;
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         (7) Pohnpei Province - Micronesia;
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         (8)
              Madang Province - Papua New Guinea;
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         (9) Pitcairn Island District - Pitcairn Islands;
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        (10) Upolu District - Samoa;
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        (11) Tongatapu District - Tonga;
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        (12) Funafuti District - Tuvalu; and
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        (13) 'Uvea Province - Wallis and Futuna;
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    and
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         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
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    include the Governor, and members representing the Department of
    Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the East-West
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    Center; and
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         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
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    keep the Legislature fully informed of the process in
    establishing these relationships and to be involved in
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    formalization; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a report of the task force's findings to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of French Polynesia, Prime Minster of New Zealand, President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands, President of the Republic of Vanuatu, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Governor General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, Governor of American Samoa, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, King of Tonga, Governor General of Tuvalu, President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna, and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.