HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PROVINCE OF BALI, INDONESIA.

WHEREAS, a sister-state relationship between Hawaii Bali would be mutually beneficial to the United States and Indonesia, and is consistent with the new U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership; and

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

WHEREAS, the Republic of Indonesia is the world's third largest democracy, with a population of over 225 million people, and is regarded as a world-renowned destination for tourism and resort travel; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, The Bali Times reported that the Bali province attracted 2.57 million tourists, which is approximately one-third of the total number of 7.65 million foreign visitors who traveled to Indonesia; and

WHEREAS, similar to Hawaii, Bali's economy is heavily dependent on tourism, which is its single largest industry, followed by agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership initiative was designed to strengthen relations between the two countries through enhanced cooperation on energy efficiency, the environment, health, science, technology, trade, and investment; and

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WHEREAS, when the sister-state relationship is combined with the needs and agendas from the U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Commerce, Export-Import Bank, World Bank, and USAID, Hawaii could create a Hawaii-based regional center for international finance and foreign policy in the Pacific-Asia region; and

WHEREAS, a sister-state working relationship with Bali would, in turn, create sustainable jobs in areas associated with international finance and other commerce-related industries; and

WHEREAS, these industries would employ economists, engineers, bankers, and other consultants who could help build trade practices in the region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, that the Governor of the State of Hawaii is requested to assist Hawaii in becoming a more active participant in the dynamic, economic, and diplomatic activities in the Asia-Pacific region by authorizing the establishment of a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Bali; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; President of the Republic of Indonesia; United States Secretary of State; Governor of the State of Hawaii; Governor of Bali; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Indonesian Ambassador to the United States; President of the East-West Center; Hawaii-Indonesia Chamber of Commerce in Honolulu; USINDO in Washington, D.C.; and American Chamber of Commerce in Jakarta, Indonesia.