S.C.R. NO. 55 S.D. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE STATE'S STRATEGIC PLAN TO EXPAND ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HAWAII BUSINESSES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO INCLUDE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

WHEREAS, according to the International Monetary Fund 2011 report, "Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific", economic growth throughout Asia reached 8.3 percent in 2010, and nearterm prospects are favorable, with growth in the Asia and Pacific region projected to continue the 2011 annual average growth rate of seven percent throughout 2012; and

WHEREAS, growth is expected to be led by China and India, whose economies are expected to expand by 9.5 percent and eight percent, respectively, through 2012; and

WHEREAS, this growth will have important spillover effects on other areas in the region; and

WHEREAS, in Australia, growth is expected to increase to 3.5 percent in 2012; and

WHEREAS, according to the February 2012 Blue Chip Economic Consensus Forecasts, real GDP growth for Japan is expected to increase 1.8 percent in 2012 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's economy depends significantly on the condition and stability of the economy in the United States and key international countries; and

WHEREAS, the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministers and Economic Leaders' Meeting in Honolulu in November 2011 offered increased opportunities for the State to engage in a wide range of business and other opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Lieutenant Governor is requested to report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013 on the State's strategic plan to expand Asia-Pacific business development opportunities for Hawaii businesses, including tourism, higher education, science and technology, entertainment and media, and renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to include in the Department's annual report the progress of the State in implementing the State's strategic plan to expand Asia-Pacific business development opportunities, beginning with the 2013 annual report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.