

HCR158

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR
AND THE HAWAII SISTER
STATE COMMITTEE TO
APPROVE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-
STATE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII AND THE STATE OF
DAKHLA OF THE REGION OF
OUED ED-DAHAB-LAGOUIRA
OF THE KINGDOM OF
MOROCCO.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Monday, April 20, 2015
10:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HCR 158, HD1

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE HAWAII SISTER STATE COMMITTEE TO
APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
STATE OF HAWAII
AND THE REGION OF OUED ED-DAHAB-LAGOUIRA OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair English and Members of the Senate Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HCR 158, HD1, which requests the Governor's and the Hawaii Sister State Committee to approve the establishment of a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco.

In 2006, the Legislature established the Hawaii Sister State Committee. Its responsibility includes recommending to the Governor and the Legislature on proposed sister state relationships. Accordingly, the Hawaii Sister State Committee has developed an application and process for entities seeking to establish a sister-state relationship with the State of Hawaii.

After review of a completed application, the Committee forwards its recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature for their review and decision. We recommend that those entities pursuing a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco follow the process established by the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



April 20, 2015
Room 312, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

House Concurrent Resolution 158, HD1

Honorable Chair Kahele and members of the Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 158, House Draft 1 (HD1), to establish a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the state of Dakhla of the region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco. My name is Hakim Ouansafi and I am here representing the Muslim Association of Hawaii and its 4,500 members.

The Muslim Association of Hawaii stands in strong support of HCR 158, HD1. The state of Dakhla and Hawaii share many similar traits, such as the weather, water sport activities and an active tourism industry.

The ties between our two countries go back to when Morocco was the first country to recognize the independence of the United States and ever since then, our relationship has been fruitful and prosperous.

Dakhla is considered to be Hawaii decades ago, and can benefit tremendously from this sister state relationship with Hawaii in regards to tourism. Currently, there are 10 million tourists that visit Morocco annually, with plans of increasing that amount to 20 million tourists by the year 2020. Hawaii will also benefit with tremendous business opportunities that will flourish and shape the surfing, windsurfing, diving and fishing industries to name a few.

The Muslim Association of Hawaii appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee with our position regarding HCR 158, HD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your support.