

SCR201

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR
TO APPROVE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER
STATE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE
OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN.



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

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, March 30, 2015
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SCR 201
**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII
AND THE PREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN.**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SCR 201, which requests the Governor's approval to establish a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hokkaido, Japan.

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 Hokkaido follow the process established by the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.