

SCR78

REQUESTING THE HAWAII
SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO
EVALUATE AND DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE
OF GOA IN THE COUNTRY OF
INDIA AND FORWARD ITS
RECOMMENDATION TO THE
LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO
SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES, FOR FURTHER
ACTION.



**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
SCR78

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF GOA IN THE COUNTRY OF INDIA AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to offer comments on SCR78. This resolution requests the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state relationship with the State of Goa, India, and forward its recommendation to the Legislature pursuant to Section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for further action.

The Hawaii Sister State Committee consists of a board of volunteers. The Committee has developed written guidelines to apply for and procedures to evaluate possible sister-state relationships. Based upon this application, the Committee will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on the merits of such a relationship. The Committee, however, lacks the necessary resources to conduct research on potential relationships. The Committee's policy is that thorough research is conducted by the community or parties seeking to establish such a relationship. By having the initiating parties do this research, and formally apply for such a relationship, it demonstrates that there will be continued support from the community and that the relationship will be one that is lasting.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Re: SCR 78

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF GOA IN THE COUNTRY OF INDIA AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

For hearing on Monday, March 30, 2015

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Dear legislators, please consider very carefully the various hidden agendas that probably lie behind this resolution to establish a sister-state relationship between Hawaii (a State within the United States, whose statehood some activists deny) and Goa (a State within India whose status as part of India is protested by some activists).

Goa was a colony of Portugal for more than four centuries, continuing through the period when India was a colony of Britain. In the 1950s there was great political unrest in Goa from native Goans seeking independence from Portugal. Because Goa was immediately adjacent to India, and the newly independent India was feeling a desire for a robust and expansive foreign policy and wanted to push out Portugal, India provided economic and military assistance to the independence movement in Goa. In 1961 India staged a massive armed invasion of Goa by land and air, pushing out Portugal and then annexing Goa to become a part of India. There was strong international condemnation of India for its actions in Goa, including a resolution in the United Nations offered by U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, and a resolution in the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. I was a college student at the time and recall campus protests by the same left-leaning activists who protested Israel's existence, protested CIA involvement and military advisers in Viet Nam, and protested domestic civil rights injustices against Negroes (as they called themselves back then). To this day there are claims that India's annexation of Goa was illegal under international law, and Goa should be recognized as an independent nation. Does that sound familiar? Have you heard that rhetoric somewhere in relation to Hawaii?

Today the same people who protest against China's invasion and continuing occupation of Tibet also protest against India's invasion and continuing occupation of Goa; and they also protest against the so-called U.S. "armed invasion" of Hawaii during the 1893 overthrow of the monarchy, and the continuing U.S. "belligerent military occupation of Hawaii." The analogy to Hawaii is historically and morally incorrect; but the activists nevertheless love to assert it.

Among the factors you should consider is that the primary sponsor of this resolution is the father of U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, who recently made a highly publicized trip to India and gave her strong support to the newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose alleged oppression of minorities is a controversial issue in India's politics. Why would this legislature wish to embroil itself in the internal politics of India, and the even more obscure internal politics of the Goa region?

If the Legislature of the State of Hawaii wants to establish a sister-state relationship with one of the states in India, I urge you to choose a different Indian state whose status as part of India is beyond dispute and has never been a part of international controversy (and stay away from Punjab and Kashmir too!).

From: [Raj Kumar](#)
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: testimony for SCR 78 - establishing sister state relationship with GOA- India.
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:53:23 PM
Attachments: [Splendid Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration in Hawaii.docx](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Dear Senators,

I strongly support the bill SCR 78 to establish a sister state relationship with GOA in India. Goa is known for its beauty, ocean, tropical climate and ancient churches. The tourists from all over the world visit Goa, when they travel to India.

On October 2, 2012, Dr. Krishna Reddy, Founder and President of the Indian-American Friendship Council from California visited Hawaii. Dr. Reddy and I presented the same idea to the previous honorable Governor, Neil Abercrombie to open a sister office in India to promote trade and tourism between Hawaii and India. The article about this vision to open a sister office in India was published in the Civil Beat Newspaper on October 15, 2012. Please see attached article.

We are proud to have sister offices in China, Japan, Philippines and Korea. The strong relationship with these countries have helped us to promote tourism, business investments and diversity in Hawaii. It is the right time to open a sister office in India as Indian economy is booming due to trade and technology and India has become an economic leader in South Asia.

The Hindu temple on Kauai and the ISKCON temple in Honolulu are already attracting thousands of tourists from India for pilgrimage, Weddings, surfing, fun and pleasure.

Once this bill is passed, it will encourage Bollywood movie industry to visit Hawaii to shoot Indian Films or hold their annual award ceremony in Hawaii. In 2014, IIFA award ceremony was held in Tampa Bay Florida.

Gandhi International Institute for peace is also raising awareness about 'Peace' from the land of Aloha to the rest of the world.

I am requesting Senate Hearing Committee to approve such an important bill to attract more tourists from India to Hawaii. This may also help us to generate more revenues and boost our economy in Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Raj Kumar, Ph.D., President

Gandhi International Institute for Peace

From: [Barbara Melamed](#)
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: SCR78
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:16:47 AM

Dear Congress folks

With the world in such turmoil what would be better Aloha than to join our Gandhi ohana with that of India. At our beautiful bronze statue each Oct. 2 we bring out those of the Indian community to feel that they too are recognized in our diverse community.

Last month you gave a heads up to SSB332 to celebrate Oct 2 as a day to commemorate nonviolence on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday..

We all come together...our Royal Hawaiian Band plays in Hawaiian, English and Hindustani to remind us that PEACE is better than WAR.

Please vote positively to promote our sisterhood and bring more Indian nationales to enjoy our wealth and kindness to people of all nations.

Remember they also have the nuclear capacity and we need to join hands with those within our nations that want to honor peace at all costs.

Give it your heartfelt and hand-raised support...say AYE , Namaste, and ALoha to this sisterhood.

Barbara G. Melamed, Ph.D. ABPP
Certificate from UH Matsunaga Center for Peace & Conflict Resolution

Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Cc: solmag52@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR78 on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:31:47 AM

SCR78

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for TSI on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bikram sahdev	Individual	Support	No

Comments: India and Hawaii have great things to share in commerce. Also the diversity and economic and ancient cultures will add to the synergy. Goa itself reminds me of Hawaii, one of my favorite places in India. Commerce bureau is a start to this friendship.

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From: [BIRENDRA HUJA](#)
To: [Gandhian Peace: TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: Goa as a sister city
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 12:40:04 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,
Re: TSI 03 30 15 HTM

I am very excited that we are considering Goa as Sister city (Panjim?). I have been there many moons ago. With climate and poly-cultural nature of both the places it is a most suited place for such a relationship. I will be very likely going there next yea . I am excited to say the least. Mahalo Senator Gabbard.

Sincerely,
Birendra Singh Huja MD

5505 Poola Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Cc: giarc49@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR78 on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:41:38 AM

SCR78

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for TSI on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Shull	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of SCR 78. Developing a sister relationship with the state of Goa in India would encourage tourism and cultural exchange, resulting in economic growth and a stronger bond of friendship between our countries.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Cc: harendrap@leisinc.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR78 on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:16:37 AM

SCR78

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for TSI on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harendra M Panalal	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Honorable Senators: I SUPPORT SCR 78. For more than 40 years, I have been living in Honolulu. I have been VP of Gandhi Int'l Institute for Peace since its inception about seven years ago. Goa, like Hawaii, is world famous for surf and beaches. This relationship will be mutually beneficial. Harendra Panalal, MSE, PE, RME off 792-0455 harendrap@leisinc.com

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From: [madana sundari](#)
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill SCR 78
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 2:45:26 PM

I'm writing in support of bill SCR 78 . This in my opinion will bring diversity not only to increasing our tourism base, it will also bring opportunity for culture exchange . Hawaii has become a destination for Indian weddings & events . This can only be good for Hawaii ... Madana Sundari owner of Creative Cuisine

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Manav Lalwani](#)
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony - SCR 78; March 30 @ 2:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:04:23 PM

To The Tourism & International Affairs Committee of the Hawai'i Senate:

As a child growing up here in the United States, whenever I told my friends about Goa, the Indian state where my grandparents lived, I would describe it as the "Hawai'i of India."

While both states certainly have their own unique charm, even a passing glance at Goa's sprawling beaches, lush greenery, and abundant biodiversity renders the visual similarities to Hawai'i's own natural richness all too apparent. A closer understanding of the well-balanced Goan lifestyle, its native heritage, and its burgeoning hopes for a sustainable and promising future reveal further and deeper commonalities with Hawai'i.

Much like Hawai'i, tourism is an especially significant contributor to the Goan economy. My grandparents owned and operated a boutique hotel near the airport, playing warm hosts as visitors from around the world experienced all the state had to offer. They would have relished the opportunity to share perspectives with independent hotel operators from a different part of the world so as to improve their small business. This is the sort of mutually-beneficial exchange a sister-state relationship between Hawai'i and Goa could help facilitate.

When visiting Goa in a capacity other than a grandson for the first time last December along with US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, the potential benefits of a sister-state relationship, which she proposed, became further clear. In addition to what I knew both places already shared, from her conversations with the state's Chief Minister and Governor, I learned that Goa and Hawai'i also have similarly sized populations, and both are interested in sustainable development that allows citizens to prosper, while protecting our precious environment.

Goa's leaders met the Congresswoman's proposal with unabated enthusiasm, as they imagined the range of interaction such a relationship could bring - everything from sharing best practices to student exchange programs and even musical and other artistic collaborations.

Such exchanges would not only enrich individual Hawai'ians and Goans, but, from a larger perspective, also make Indians generally more aware of all Hawai'i has to offer. Currently, according to the East-West Center, trade between Hawai'i and India is near negligible, and such a relationship as the one proposed could be the first step in changing that. For example, sister statehood could be the gateway to bringing the vibrant Indian film industry, known as Bollywood, to Hawai'i as a destination setting for its next big blockbuster, which can have dynamic benefits for Hawai'i's economy.

It is my sincere hope that the measure SCR 78 proposes becomes a reality, and that my childhood perception of the natural synergies between both places is validated with sisterhood.

Thank for for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,
Manav A. Lalwani

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Manav A. Lalwani
manav.lalwani@gmail.com
Mobile: 1.201.456.8116

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Cc: patriciablair@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR78 on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 8:39:59 AM

SCR78

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for TSI on Mar 30, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Considering the distance to Goa, India, I do not think that there would be a benefit to the people of Hawaii to promote trade or tourism. This would be a waste of money, time, effort. Please oppose.

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I strongly support SCR78 – a measure to initiate sister state relationship with the state of Goa in the country of India. I am a United States citizen who was born in Goa. I am a registered patent attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, a registered attorney with US Federal Court, and was elected to and served on the Board of Education of the San Gabriel Unified School District in California.

Hawaii and Goa have much in common and Goa is often called the Hawaii of India. Just like the beaches of Hawaii, the beaches of Goa are world famous. There is even a beach resort in Goa called the Hawaii Beach Resort. <http://www.hawaiiibeachresortgoa.com/>

Like Hawaii that has a large presence of US Navy, Goa also is home to a large base of Indian Navy. Further, Goa is very cosmopolitan where people from all over the world, and particularly from UK and northern Europe have made it their second home. Goa has one of the highest literacy rates in India, and have excellent centers for advanced college education. A sister state relationship has the potential of synergy whereby new jobs in tourism, education, software development, pharmaceuticals and shipbuilding could be created in Hawaii and in Goa.

The beautiful state of Hawaii, US and the beautiful state of Goa, India are sisters separated by 8,000 miles. Let us bring them together. Aloha.

From: [Sarika Notani](#)
To: [TSI Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 78
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:20:51 PM

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I support bill/resolution SCR 78 to open a sister office in Goa- India.

This bill will promote tourism and trade between Hawaii and India. It will cause awareness and opportunities that Hawaii offers to people from all over the world. Passing this important bill will create more opportunities and help local businesses hence lowering unemployment rate.

In future, this will open investment opportunities for
Itsitestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov, ndians to invest in Hawaii hence improving our economy.

Thanks.
Sarika Notani