



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
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,
& INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Monday, March 21, 2016
9:00am
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HCR 123/HR 77
**REQUESTS THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE/PROVINCE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee on Veterans,
Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to provide comments on HCR 123/HR 77, which requests the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to review and consider the establishment of a state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii of the United States of America and the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines.

In 2006, the Legislature established the Hawaii Sister-State Committee. Its responsibility includes providing recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor 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 a comprehensive review of an application, the Committee forwards its recommendation to the Legislature and the Governor for their review and decision.

We recommend that the entities pursuing a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan follow the process established by the Legislature.

The State of Hawaii already has five sister-state relationships with provinces in the Philippines, which is the most it has with any country. Exchanges, especially in trade, education, investment and other mutually beneficial economic development areas have been limited.

DBEDT recommends that efforts be placed on revitalizing existing sister relationships within the Philippines rather than enter into new ones.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Testifier: DR. DANILO E. ABAYON, President II, Aklan State University, Banga, Aklan, Philippines
The Committee to which the comments are directed: House Committee on Veterans, Military and
International Affairs and Culture and the Arts.

Date and Time of the Hearing: Monday, 21 March 2016 at 9:00 am

Measure Number: H. C. R. No. 123 / HR 77

TESTIMONY

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

On behalf of the Aklan State University, a state institution for higher education in Banga, Aklan, Philippines, we are greatly honoured by your passage of H.C R. No. 123/HR 77 entitled "REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE/PROVINCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES". We, therefore, humbly request your consideration for the establishment of a state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii of the United States of America and the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines.

Furthermore, we strongly believe that your profound consideration of the stipulations in H.C.R. 123 will open up long lasting and productive international cooperation with two academic institutions – the Aklan State University in the Province of Aklan and University of Hawaii, Hilo of the State of Hawaii.

A memorandum of understanding has been proposed which aims to establish general modalities of cooperation in the fields of instruction, research, professional development and collaborative sustainable development initiatives may be enhanced between institutions.

The areas of cooperation are slated to include the following:

- (a) Exchange of faculty and staff, and student mobility activities;
- (b) Joint research activities; publishing and information sharing;
- (c) Professional development and other activities to build capacities;
- (d) Collaborative sustainable development initiatives

On March 10, 2016, the Board of Regents of the Aklan State University approved the proposal to forge a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Hawaii, Hilo.

The University's Board of Regent is presently chaired by Hon. Patricia P. Licuanan, Chair of the Philippines Commission on Higher Education (CHED), she is duly represented by Commissioner Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista, a commissioner from CHED. The undersigned, Dr. Danilo E. Abayon sits as the Vice Chair. The members are: Senator Pia S. Cayetano of the Philippine Senate representing the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Congressman Roman T. Romulo of the House of Representative's Committee on Higher and Technical Education; Regent Ro-Ann A. Bacal, the Regional Director of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA); Regent Rowen R. Gelonga, the Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology; Regent Roy A. Abaya, Regional Director

of the Department of Agriculture; Regent Marlon Julius E. Lao, a private sector representative; Regent Lyle T. Ibabao, an alumni federation representative; Regent Sergio F. Tolentino, representative of the faculty federation, Regent Rogie Abenir, a representative of the Supreme Student Council.

If I may recall, the University had collaborative research with the East-West Center several decades ago. We can level up much greater commitment when this relationship agreement is passed.

Very truly yours,

DANILO E. ABAYON, PhD
University President II