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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO EVALUATE THE SISTER-STATE PROGRAM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
2 and Tourism's Sister-State Program dates back to 1981 with the  
3 establishment of the first sister-state relation between Fukuoka  
4 Prefecture, Japan, and the State of Hawaii; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee was established  
7 by Act 150, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, and administratively  
8 placed in the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
9 Tourism; and  
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11 WHEREAS, under section 229-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
12 the Hawaii Sister-State Committee's purpose is "to advise the  
13 governor and the legislature on matters relating to sister-state  
14 or province relations and relations, in general, between the  
15 State and the states or provinces of foreign countries"; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the sister-state program now includes seventeen  
18 formally established relations, including Greater China -  
19 Guangdong (1985), Hainan (1992), Taiwan (1993); Indonesia - Bali  
20 (2014); Japan - Fukuoka (1981), Okinawa (1985), Hiroshima  
21 (1997), Ehime (2003), Hokkaido (2017); Korea - Jeju (1986);  
22 Morocco - Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011); Philippines - Ilocos  
23 Sur (1985), Cebu (1996), Pangasinan (2002), Ilocos Norte (2005),  
24 Isabela (2006); and Portugal - Azores Islands (1982); and the  
25 eighteenth relation awaiting the formal signing ceremony is with  
26 the State of Goa, Republic of India, as provided by Senate  
27 Concurrent Resolution 20, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Regular Session of  
28 2016; and  
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1 WHEREAS, each of the relations requires the negotiation of  
2 a separate and unique agreement to define the extent of the  
3 relation between the foreign province or prefecture, and  
4 sometimes national, government and the State of Hawaii,  
5 presenting various challenges regarding national and state roles  
6 in international activities involving foreign policy, trade,  
7 travel, educational and cultural exchange, state financial  
8 resource commitments, and potential state liabilities; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the role of the community and nongovernmental  
11 organizations in the establishment of formal sister-state  
12 relations and in providing the continuing capacity to sustain  
13 the various relations is necessary for their success and  
14 vitality, and over time some of the sister-state relations have  
15 devolved to having no activities; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-State  
20 Committee and the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
21 and Tourism, in consultation with the members of the Senate  
22 Committee on Judiciary; Senate Committee on Economic  
23 Development, Tourism, & Technology; House Committee on Veterans,  
24 Military & International Affairs, and Culture & the Arts; and  
25 the House Committee on Economic Development & Business are  
26 requested to provide to the Legislature a report that evaluates  
27 the Sister-State program and makes recommendations to improve  
28 the capacity and sustainability of the efforts to promote  
29 mutually beneficial international relationships to stimulate  
30 economic benefits, cultural and educational exchange, and  
31 goodwill; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be  
34 delivered to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
35 the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaii  
3 Sister-State Committee; Director of the Department of Business,  
4 Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the Senate; and  
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
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