
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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 Resolution 20, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2016; and
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29 WHEREAS, each of the relations requires the negotiation of
30 a separate and unique agreement to define the extent of the
31 relation between the foreign province or prefecture, and



1 sometimes national, government and the State of Hawaii,
2 presenting various challenges regarding national and state roles
3 in international activities involving foreign policy, trade,
4 travel, educational and cultural exchange, state financial
5 resource commitments, and potential state liabilities; and
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7 WHEREAS, the role of the community and nongovernmental
8 organizations in the establishment of formal sister-state
9 relations and in providing the continuing capacity to sustain
10 the various relations is necessary for their success and
11 vitality, and over time some of the sister-state relations have
12 devolved to having no activities; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2018, that the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the
17 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in
18 consultation with the members of the Senate Committee on
19 Judiciary; Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, &
20 Technology; House Committee on Veterans, Military &
21 International Affairs, and Culture & the Arts; and the House
22 Committee on Economic Development & Business are requested to
23 provide to the Legislature a report that evaluates the Sister-
24 State program and makes recommendations to improve the capacity
25 and sustainability of the efforts to promote mutually beneficial
26 international relationships to stimulate economic benefits,
27 cultural and educational exchange, and goodwill; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be
30 delivered to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
31 the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaii Sister-
35 State Committee; Director of the Department of Business,
36 Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the Senate; and
37 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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