

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that on November 1, 1972,
2 business leaders of Hawaii and Japan met in Honolulu to
3 establish the Japan-Hawaii economic council. Their primary
4 motivations were to further economic relations between Japan and
5 the United States and to recognize Hawaii's important role in
6 that regard. For nearly thirty years, hundreds of business and
7 government leaders from Japan and Hawaii met at annual meetings,
8 alternating between Hawaii and Japan, to discuss and improve
9 business, tourism, investment, education, and other mutually
10 beneficial interests. These meetings improved relations,
11 increased cultural understandings, reduced trade restrictions,
12 and improved the economies of Japan, Hawaii, and the United
13 States.

14 The legislature finds that relations between China and
15 Hawaii today are similar to those that began to develop between
16 Japan and Hawaii in the 1960s and 1970s. The legislature
17 further finds that establishment of a similar China-Hawaii



1 economic council will provide an invaluable opportunity to
2 further economic relations between Hawaii and China, including
3 providing a better understanding of cultural differences,
4 facilitating investment, increasing tourism, and promoting
5 trade.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish the China-Hawaii
7 economic council to further economic relations between China and
8 Hawaii.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§201- China-Hawaii economic council. (a) There is
13 established within the department of business, economic
14 development, and tourism for administrative purposes the China-
15 Hawaii economic council to further economic relations between
16 China and Hawaii.

17 (b) The China-Hawaii economic council shall be governed by
18 a policymaking and oversight commission to be known as the
19 China-Hawaii economic council commission. The China-Hawaii
20 economic council commission shall consist of seven members
21 appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34. Members



1 shall not receive compensation but shall be reimbursed for
2 reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

3 (c) The China-Hawaii economic council commission shall
4 appoint an executive director of the China-Hawaii economic
5 council, who shall:

6 (1) Serve as the China-Hawaii economic council chief
7 executive officer;

8 (2) Be responsible for developing and administering the
9 China-Hawaii economic council programs;

10 (3) Serve on a part-time or full-time basis;

11 (4) Be a person who, by reason of education or extensive
12 experience, is generally recognized as being
13 professionally qualified in China-Hawaii relations;

14 (5) Be familiar with the people and cultures of Hawaii and
15 China;

16 (6) Be exempt from chapter 76; and

17 (7) Select and employ necessary additional staff pursuant
18 to chapter 76, subject to available appropriations.

19 (d) Not later than December 31, 2022, the China-Hawaii
20 economic council shall conduct the inaugural China-Hawaii
21 economic council general meeting with business and government



leaders from China and Hawaii. Subsequent China-Hawaii economic council general meetings shall occur annually.

(e) Annual China-Hawaii economic council general meetings may:

(1) Alternate between Hawaii and China; and

(2) Include discussions on trade, tourism, education, investment, finance, communication, and culture.

(f) The China-Hawaii economic council shall submit a report on the proceedings of each China-Hawaii economic council general meeting to the legislature no later than one hundred eighty days following the closing of each China-Hawaii economic council general meeting."

SECTION 3. The China-Hawaii economic council shall provide an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session in 2020, 2021, and 2022, which at a minimum shall include a description of progress made toward conducting the inaugural China-Hawaii economic council general meeting.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the



S.B. NO. 349

1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2018-2019 for the China-Hawaii economic council.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
5 of this Act.

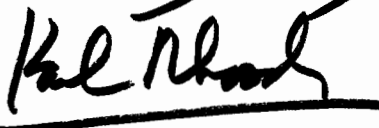
6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:











S.B. NO. 349

Report Title:

China-Hawaii Economic Council; Economic Development;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the China-Hawaii Economic Council to further
economic relations between China and Hawaii. Appropriations.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

