

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT 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 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 Senate of the Twenty-ninth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-
20 State Committee and the Department of Business, Economic
21 Development, and Tourism, in consultation with the members of
22 the Senate Committee on Judiciary and House of Representatives
23 Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and
24 Culture and the Arts, are requested to provide to the
25 Legislature a report that evaluates the sister-state program and
26 makes recommendations to improve the capacity and sustainability
27 of the efforts to promote mutually beneficial international
28 relationships to stimulate economic benefits, cultural and
29 educational exchange, and goodwill; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be
32 delivered to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
33 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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OFFERED BY:

