

MAR 09 2018

SENATE 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

5
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

10
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

16
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

29
30 WHEREAS, each of the relations requires the negotiation of
31 a separate and unique agreement to define the extent of the
32 relation between the foreign province or prefecture, and
33 sometimes national, government and the State of Hawaii,



1 presenting various challenges regarding national and state roles
2 in international activities involving foreign policy, trade,
3 travel, educational and cultural exchange, state financial
4 resource commitments, and potential state liabilities; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the role of the community and nongovernmental
7 organizations in the establishment of formal sister-state
8 relations and in providing the continuing capacity to sustain
9 the various relations is necessary for their success and
10 vitality, and over time some of the sister-state relations have
11 devolved to having no activities; now, therefore,
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
15 that the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the Department of
16 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in consultation
17 with the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and House
18 of Representatives Committee on Veterans, Military, and
19 International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts, are requested
20 to provide to the Legislature a report that evaluates the
21 sister-state program and makes recommendations to improve the
22 capacity and sustainability of the efforts to promote mutually
23 beneficial international relationships to stimulate economic
24 benefits, cultural and educational exchange, and goodwill; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be
27 delivered to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
28 the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaii Sister-
32 State Committee; Director of the Department of Business,
33 Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the Senate; and
34 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
35
36
37

OFFERED BY: 

