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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has developed and maintained a rich  
2 heritage of international relations and cultural exchange since  
3 the days of the Hawaiian monarchy in the nineteenth century; and  
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5           WHEREAS, since 1981, the Legislature has instituted sister-  
6 state relationships as a means of asserting and promoting the  
7 State's active participation in international matters; and  
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9           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains eighteen sister-state  
10 relationships, including relationships with five of Japan's  
11 forty-seven prefectures; and  
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13           WHEREAS, Yamaguchi is a prefecture in Japan's Chugoku  
14 region on the southwest side of Honshu Island; and  
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16           WHEREAS, Hawaii and the people of Yamaguchi share a long  
17 history and strong bond, beginning with *kanyaku imin* and the  
18 immigration of 10,424 contract laborers to Hawaii between 1885  
19 and 1894; and  
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21           WHEREAS, since then, there have been continuous cultural  
22 exchanges between the people of Yamaguchi and the five Yamaguchi  
23 Kenjinkai groups in Hawaii over the years; and  
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25           WHEREAS, other exchanges include annual fisheries training  
26 off the coast of Hawaii by a Yamaguchi high school, the arrival



1 of tour groups from Yamaguchi, and study abroad and academic  
2 exchanges with Kauai Community College; and

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4 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is tasked with  
6 evaluating and developing recommendations for the initiation of  
7 all sister-state relationships and forwarding its  
8 recommendations to the Legislature for implementation, if it so  
9 chooses, by either adopting a concurrent resolution or enacting  
10 session law to that effect; and

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12 WHEREAS, on March 15, 2021, the Hawaii Sister-State  
13 Committee unanimously recommended that a sister-state  
14 relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi Prefecture be  
15 established; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Muraoka  
18 Tsugumasa, supports and will apply for the establishment of a  
19 sister-state relationship with Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand  
22 its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing  
23 goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people  
24 of Hawaii and the people of many nations; and

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26 WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi will  
27 be highly beneficial in expanding tourism, strengthening  
28 cultural bonds, and advancing common goals of international  
29 peace and brotherhood; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Sister-State Committee  
34 is requested to evaluate and develop recommendations for the  
35 initiation of a sister-state relationship between the State of  
36 Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, Japan; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State  
39 Committee report its findings and recommendations, including  
40 proposed legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state  
41 relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of



1 Yamaguchi, Japan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
2 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
6 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in  
7 Washington, D.C.; Governor; Governor of the Prefecture of  
8 Yamaguchi, Japan; Consul General of Japan in Hawaii; Director of  
9 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the  
10 Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

