
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-
STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

1 WHEREAS, due to its multicultural population since the days
2 of the Hawaiian Monarchy, Hawaii maintains a heritage of
3 international participation and cultural sensitivity that is
4 unparalleled in other states; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State actively seeks to expand its
7 international ties and has an abiding interest in developing
8 goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people
9 of Hawaii and the people of many nations; and
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11 WHEREAS, while Hawaii currently maintains eighteen sister-
12 state relationships, none are with any cities or provinces in
13 New Zealand; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii and New Zealand are part of the triangle of
16 Polynesia, and the indigenous people of Hawaii and New Zealand
17 share many cultural and language similarities; and
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19 WHEREAS, collaboration with the many Maori and Polynesian
20 cultural institutes in New Zealand would be culturally
21 beneficial to Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, since 2014, Hawaii has participated in the
24 Pasifika Festival, an annual Pacific Islands-themed festival
25 typically held in Western Springs, Auckland, New Zealand; and
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27 WHEREAS, New Zealand is consistently ranked among the top
28 twenty countries for quality of education by the Organisation
29 for Economic Co-operation and Development; and
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31 WHEREAS, as an island nation in the middle of the Pacific
32 Ocean, New Zealand faces some of the same geographic challenges



1 as Hawaii and has taken steps in protecting its environment and
2 expanding its economy; and

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4 WHEREAS, establishing a relationship with New Zealand,
5 which was the one of the first countries to crack down on
6 COVID-19 through extensive contact tracing and restrictions to
7 ensure its employees return to work quickly, would be a boon to
8 Hawaii's tourist economy; and

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10 WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and New Zealand
11 would also be highly beneficial in expanding and diversifying
12 Hawaii's film industry, enhancing Hawaii's educational quality
13 and opportunities, developing and meeting Hawaii's environmental
14 goals, and developing and bolstering Hawaii's exportable
15 commodities; and

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17 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised
18 Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is tasked with
19 evaluating and developing recommendations for the initiation of
20 all sister-state relationships and forwarding its
21 recommendations to the Legislature for implementation by either
22 adoption of a concurrent resolution or enactment of session law
23 to that effect; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2021, that the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is requested to
28 evaluate and develop recommendations to initiate a sister-state
29 relationship between Hawaii and the city of Auckland, New
30 Zealand; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State
33 committee report its findings and recommendations for further
34 action related to initiating a sister-state relationship between
35 Hawaii and the city of Auckland, New Zealand, including any
36 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
37 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Business,
41 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of the Hawaii
42 Sister-State Committee.

