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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the existing scope  
2 of chapter 229, Hawaii Revised Statutes, needs to be broadened  
3 because, at present, it focuses largely on sister-state or  
4 province partnerships. The legislature further finds that  
5 modern government-to-government work requires the ability to  
6 enter into nonbinding memoranda of understanding with national  
7 governments or ministries, regional bodies, and other  
8 international partners. This will enable the State to advance  
9 in key areas, including agriculture, biosecurity, climate  
10 resilience, indigenous knowledge, education, renewable energy,  
11 and economic development.

12           The legislature also finds that it is important that  
13 international agreements between the State and other governments  
14 are transparent to the public and should be subject to public  
15 input.

16           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Authorize the State to enter into nonbinding
- 2 international cooperative agreements with foreign
- 3 national governments, foreign subnational
- 4 jurisdictions, and regional intergovernmental
- 5 partners;
- 6 (2) Clarify the scope of sister-state relationships; and
- 7 (3) Ensure public input in the process of establishing
- 8 international cooperative agreements and sister-state
- 9 relationships by only entering them upon approval by
- 10 the legislature through the adoption of a concurrent
- 11 resolution by the legislature or by the enactment of
- 12 session law to that effect, both of which require
- 13 public hearings to be held.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 229, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 15 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
 16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§229- Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to  
 18 facilitate the State's engagement in international, regional,  
 19 and sister-state or province partnerships to support the  
 20 cultural, educational, environmental, and economic goals of the  
 21 State or an international partner. This chapter authorizes the



1 State to enter into sister-state or province partnerships and  
2 international cooperative agreements with foreign national  
3 governments, foreign subnational jurisdictions, and regional  
4 intergovernmental partners.

5 **§229- International cooperative agreements; authorized.**

6 (a) The governor may propose that the State enter into  
7 nonbinding international cooperative agreements with national  
8 governments; national ministries, departments, or agencies;  
9 provincial or regional governments; or international  
10 intergovernmental bodies relevant to the interests of the State  
11 or an international partner and may forward the proposal to the  
12 legislature.

13 (b) The legislature, through concurrent resolution or by  
14 enacting session law to that effect, may enter into nonbinding  
15 international cooperative agreements with national governments;  
16 national ministries, departments, or agencies; provincial or  
17 regional governments; or international intergovernmental bodies  
18 relevant to the interests of the State or an international  
19 partner.

20 (c) Any international cooperative agreement entered into  
21 pursuant to subsection (b):



- 1        (1) Shall be nonbinding;
- 2        (2) Shall not create legally enforceable obligations; and
- 3        (3) Shall not constitute any treaty, alliance, compact, or
- 4                other agreement that is prohibited by Article I,
- 5                Section 10, of the United States Constitution."

6        SECTION 3. Chapter 229, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 7 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

8                                "[+]CHAPTER 229[+]"

9                                INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS;

10                               SISTER-STATE [AND] OR PROVINCE [RELATIONSHIPS]

11                               PARTNERSHIPS; INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS"

12        SECTION 4. Section 229-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 13 amended to read as follows:

14        "§229-1 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter,  
 15 unless the context otherwise requires:

16        "Commission" means the Hawaii sister-state and  
 17 international partnerships commission established under section  
 18 229-2.

19        "International cooperative agreement" means a formal  
 20 recognition of a joint agreement with a focus on an issue of  
 21 mutual interest or concern between the State and the state,



1 province, prefecture, or similar governmental or political  
2 subdivision of a foreign nation, or between the State and a  
3 foreign nation, as appropriate.

4 "Sister-state or province partnership" means a partnership  
5 between the State [~~of Hawaii~~] and the state [~~of~~], province,  
6 prefecture, or similar governmental or political subdivision of  
7 a foreign nation, or between the State and a foreign nation, as  
8 appropriate."

9 SECTION 5. Section 229-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

11 "(b) The commission shall support the governor,  
12 legislature, and office of international affairs in building and  
13 maintaining strategic long-term sister-state or province  
14 partnerships and international cooperative agreements that  
15 promote and enrich the people, cultures, environments, and  
16 economies of the State and its international partners."

17 SECTION 6. Section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§229-3 Initiating sister-state [~~relationships-~~] or**  
20 **province partnerships; proposal review; international**  
21 **cooperative agreements.** (a) The commission [~~shall~~] may



1 evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of ~~[all]~~  
2 sister-state or province partnerships or international  
3 cooperative agreements and forward its recommendation to the  
4 legislature.

5 (b) The legislature~~[, if it so chooses, shall]~~ may  
6 implement ~~[the recommendation to initiate]~~ a sister-state or  
7 province partnership or international cooperative agreement by  
8 either adopting a concurrent resolution or by enacting session  
9 law to that effect."

10 SECTION 7. Section 229-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

12 "**§229-4 Maintaining sister-state [relationships-] or**  
13 **province partnerships.**"

14 SECTION 8. Section 229-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

16 "**§229-5 Dissolving sister-state [relationships-] or**  
17 **province partnerships.**"

18 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Legislature; Governor; International Relations; International Cooperative Agreements; Sister-State or Province Partnerships; Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission

**Description:**

Authorizes the State to enter into nonbinding international cooperative agreements with foreign national governments, foreign subnational jurisdictions, and regional intergovernmental partners, under certain conditions. Clarifies the scope and process for sister-state relationships. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

