
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF
YAMAGATA, JAPAN.

1 WHEREAS, the State and Yamagata Prefecture, Japan, share
2 long-standing historical, cultural, and people-to-people ties
3 rooted in Japanese immigration and ongoing cultural exchange;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, Japan remains one of the State's most important
7 international partners in tourism, trade, education, and
8 cultural exchange, and Yamagata Prefecture is widely recognized
9 for its leadership in agriculture, food production,
10 manufacturing, sustainability, and rural revitalization; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the State and Yamagata Prefecture share deep
13 culinary similarities grounded in respect for land and sea,
14 seasonal ingredients, craftsmanship, and cultural traditions,
15 including rice cultivation, seafood, fermentation, noodles, and
16 locally sourced cuisine; and

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18 WHEREAS, Yamagata Prefecture is renowned for premium rice,
19 cherries, wagyu beef, soba, and sake, while the State's culinary
20 identity reflects indigenous Hawaiian foodways and multicultural
21 influences, including Japanese cuisine, contributing to the
22 State's global reputation for farm-to-table and culinary
23 innovation; and

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25 WHEREAS, both jurisdictions share common priorities
26 including sustainable tourism, workforce development, food
27 security, clean energy, climate resilience, and the preservation
28 of cultural heritage; and

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30 WHEREAS, a formal sister-state relationship between the
31 State and Yamagata Prefecture will strengthen institutional



1 collaboration, economic opportunity, and cultural exchange for
2 the benefit of residents, businesses, students, and communities
3 in both regions; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that a sister-state
8 relationship between the State of Hawaii, United States of
9 America, and the Prefecture of Yamagata, Japan, is hereby
10 established; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in their partnership, the State
13 and Yamagata Prefecture are encouraged to promote collaboration
14 in the areas of economic development and trade, sustainable
15 tourism, education and workforce development, agriculture and
16 food security, clean energy and climate resilience, and cultural
17 and people-to-people exchange; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State and Yamagata
20 Prefecture are encouraged to pursue initial pilot initiatives,
21 including but not limited to:
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23 (1) A Culinary and Agricultural Exchange Pilot Program to
24 promote chef, farmer, and food artisan exchanges that
25 highlight local ingredients, traditional practices,
26 and value-added food production;
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28 (2) A Culinary Tourism and Cultural Showcase Pilot Program
29 to promote joint food and cultural events in the State
30 and Yamagata Prefecture that promotes regional
31 products, culinary traditions, and tourism
32 experiences;
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34 (3) An Education and Workforce Exchange Pilot Program to
35 promote student, faculty, and professional exchanges
36 focused on agriculture, hospitality, sustainability,
37 and culinary arts; and
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39 (4) A Sustainable Development Collaboration Pilot Program
40 to promote knowledge-sharing on renewable energy,
41 climate adaptation, rural revitalization, and
42 community-based economic development; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sister-state relationship
3 between the State and the Prefecture of Yamagata, Japan, is
4 requested to:

- 5
6 (1) Expand economic and trade opportunities for local
7 businesses and entrepreneurs;
8
9 (2) Strengthen sustainable tourism and destination
10 stewardship practices;
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12 (3) Support workforce development and education pathways;
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14 (4) Enhance food security, agricultural innovation, and
15 culinary excellence;
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17 (5) Deepen cultural understanding and long-term people-to-
18 people ties; and
19
20 (6) Promote climate resilience and sustainable community
21 development; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, or the Governor's
24 designee, is requested to collaborate with Yamagata Prefecture
25 to develop memoranda of understanding and implementation
26 frameworks to advance the sister-state relationship between the
27 State and the Prefecture of Yamagata, Japan; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
31 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in
32 Washington, D.C.; Governor; Governor of the Prefecture of
33 Yamagata, Japan; Consul General of Japan in Honolulu; Director
34 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson
35 of the Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships
36 Commission.

