

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 47

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 47 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF OKAYAMA, JAPAN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a sister-state relationship between the State, United States of America, and the prefecture of Okayama in Japan.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; one member of the Honolulu City Council; Hawaii Okayama Kenjin Kai; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State has maintained sister-state relationships since 1981, six of the eighteen current relationships being with Japanese prefectures. Okayama, one prefecture not currently in a sister-state status, shares a unique bond with the State, begun in 1868 when one of its citizens arrived with the first group of Japanese immigrants and continued to this day through the activities of multiple nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. This measure will expand economic opportunity, strengthen tourism, enhance local agriculture, deepen cultural understanding, advance common goals



of international peace and cooperation, and recognize the legacy of Japanese immigrants from Okayama.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 47 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,

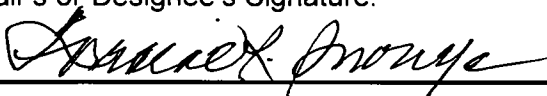


CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SCR 47	Committee Referral: WLA	Date: 4-8-2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes