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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE HAWAII SISTER STATE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE STATE OF DAKHLA OF THE REGION OF OUED ED-DAHAB-LAGOUIRA OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

WHEREAS, Hawaii maintains a heritage of international participation and cultural sensitivity unparalleled in other states due to its multicultural population since the days of the Hawaiian monarchy; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, the Legislature has instituted sisterstate relationships as a means of asserting the State's active participation in international matters; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains 16 sister-state relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is advantageous to the State to continue to pursue sister-state relationships for cultural and economic development purposes, with attention on fostering the most productive relationships; and

WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla and Hawaii share similar environments that foster an active tourism industry: both offer ideal conditions for surfing, fishing, diving, and other outdoor water sports; and

WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla has a very mild Mediterranean climate due to the cool currents of the Atlantic Ocean and has some of the best weather in the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla has a population of approximately 60,000 people and plans to benefit its people with economic development, education, youth employment, and renewable energy; and

 WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and the Kingdom of Morocco began with the Millennium Young People's Congress in 1999; and

WHEREAS, numerous other events and activities have occurred to strengthen ties between Hawaii and the Kingdom of Morocco, including an "Aloha Morocco Week" event held in 2007; and

WHEREAS, a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the Province of Marrakesh of the Kingdom of Morocco was established in 2012; and

WHEREAS, a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the State of Dakhlah will be highly beneficial in expanding economic ties related to tourism and related work and advancing common goals of international peace and brotherhood; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested to authorize the establishment of a sister-state relationship, as advised by the Hawaii Sister State Committee, between Hawaii and the State of Dakhla of the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Morocco in Washington, D.C.; Governor of Dakhla; Consul General of Morocco in Hawaii; Governor of the State of Hawaii; and Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister State Committee.