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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE WITH THE MARITIME PROVINCE, RUSSIA, FOR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SECURITY, AND INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has become a gathering place for its  
2 neighbors in the Pacific Ocean; and

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4           WHEREAS, in expanding its international reach, Hawaii has  
5 established a number of sister-state agreements with its Pacific  
6 Ocean neighbors; and

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8           WHEREAS, the Maritime Province, also known as Primorsky  
9 Krai in Russia, is near to Korea, China, Japan, and other  
10 Southeast Asian countries that border the Pacific Ocean; and

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12           WHEREAS, historical precedent exists which exemplify a  
13 common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and  
14 financial bridge between Russians living in Hawaii and their  
15 relatives, friends, and business counterparts in Russia, and the  
16 establishment of sister-state relations between Hawaii and the  
17 Maritime Province in Russia would help reinforce and cement this  
18 common bridge; and

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20           WHEREAS, the Maritime Province and Hawaii have a rich  
21 history together, starting in 1803, when the Nadezhda, under the  
22 command of Captain Yury Lisiansky, became the first Russian ship  
23 from the voyaging era to arrive in Hawaii; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, more than five decades later in 1859, the Hawaiian  
26 Kingdom and Imperial Russia established consular representation  
27 in Nikolaevsk-on-Amur and Honolulu, respectively; and

28           WHEREAS, the relationship between Hawaii and Russia  
29 continued when Russian businessmen from Vladivostok vacationed



1 in Hawaii's San Souci area in the 1890s, and Russian workers  
2 arrived from Vladivostok to work in Hawaii's sugar and pineapple  
3 plantations in the early 1900s; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, in addition, several Russians made important  
6 contributions to Hawaii, as the first President of the Hawaii  
7 Territorial Senate was Nikolas Russel Sudzilovskii, a medical  
8 doctor and a member of a Russian anti-Imperialist group, who  
9 ended up in Hawaii practicing on the Waianae coast, and then  
10 growing coffee on the Big Island; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the Honorary Russian Consul General in Hawaii,  
13 Natasha Owen, has promoted and nurtured ties between Hawaii and  
14 Russia as she has worked for decades in Vladivostok assisting in  
15 the construction of a hospital for children's diseases that will  
16 serve the Maritime Province and has received support from many  
17 places, including Hawaii; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, Hawaii's academic foundation has been strengthened  
20 by Russia after former University of Hawaii President Gregg  
21 Sinclair established an Oriental Institute in 1932, and hired  
22 the first teachers of Russian history and language, which during  
23 the 1961 Pacific Science Association conference in Honolulu  
24 several Soviet scientists attended; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, since then, University of Hawaii has maintained  
27 scholarly ties with the Russian Academy of Sciences,  
28 universities and major libraries in the Russian Far East in the  
29 areas of marine science, astronomy, oceanography, geography,  
30 economics, history and Asian-Pacific studies; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, during the Soviet era, University of Hawaii hosted  
33 prominent Soviet scholars in Asian and Pacific specialties each  
34 year, and years later former University of Hawaii President  
35 Albert Simone signed the first agreement with the Far Eastern  
36 State University in 1988; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, in the past 20 years spanning most summers, Hawaii  
39 has sent University of Hawaii students to Russia's Far Eastern  
40 State University to study intensive Russian; and

41 WHEREAS, the newly created Far Eastern Federal University  
42 (formed from four universities, including Far Eastern State



1 University) in Vladivostok provides Hawaii the opportunity to  
2 continue relations with Russia; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the geographic location of Hawaii presents an  
5 outstanding opportunity to promote global connectivity in the  
6 Asia-Pacific region, in particular with the Maritime Province in  
7 the Russian Far East, and to proliferate meaningful and mutually  
8 rewarding international friendships, understanding between  
9 cultures, economic and social interests and technological  
10 advancement, and enhanced regional security; now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested  
15 to establish a sister-state relationship through the Hawaii  
16 Sister-State Committee between Hawaii and the Maritime Province,  
17 Russia for economic, cultural, security, and intellectual  
18 benefits; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the Hawaii  
21 Sister-State Committee are requested to keep the Legislature  
22 fully informed of the process in establishing these  
23 relationships and to be involved in formalization; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
27 United States; President of the Russian Federation; Governor of  
28 the State of Hawaii; Russian Ambassador to the United States;  
29 Russian Consul General in San Francisco; Governor of the  
30 Maritime Province; Director of Business, Economic Development,  
31 and Tourism; Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee;  
32 President of the University of Hawaii System; and President of  
33 the East-West Center.

