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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO EVALUATE THE SISTER-STATE PROGRAM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
2 and Tourism's Sister-State Program dates back to 1981 with the  
3 establishment of the first sister-state relation between Fukuoka  
4 Prefecture, Japan, and the State of Hawaii; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee was established  
7 by Act 150, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, and administratively  
8 placed in the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
9 Tourism; and  
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11           WHEREAS, under section 229-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
12 the Hawaii Sister-State Committee's purpose is "to advise the  
13 governor and the legislature on matters relating to sister-state  
14 or province relations and relations, in general, between the  
15 State and the states or provinces of foreign countries"; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the sister-state program now includes seventeen  
18 formally established relations, including Greater China -  
19 Guangdong (1985), Hainan (1992), Taiwan (1993); Indonesia - Bali  
20 (2014); Japan - Fukuoka (1981), Okinawa (1985), Hiroshima  
21 (1997), Ehime (2003), Hokkaido (2017); Korea - Jeju (1986);  
22 Morocco - Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011); Philippines - Ilocos  
23 Sur (1985), Cebu (1996), Pangasinan (2002), Ilocos Norte (2005),  
24 Isabela (2006); and Portugal - Azores Islands (1982); and the  
25 eighteenth relation awaiting the formal signing ceremony is with  
26 the State of Goa, Republic of India, as provided by Senate  
27 Concurrent Resolution 20, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Regular Session of  
28 2016; and  
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30           WHEREAS, each of the relations requires the negotiation of  
31 a separate and unique agreement to define the extent of the



1 relation between the State of Hawaii and the foreign province,  
2 foreign prefecture, or national government, presenting various  
3 challenges regarding national and state roles in international  
4 activities involving foreign policy, trade, travel, educational  
5 and cultural exchange, state financial resource commitments, and  
6 potential state liabilities; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the role of the community and nongovernmental  
9 organizations in the establishment of formal sister-state  
10 relations and in providing the continuing capacity to sustain  
11 the various relations is necessary for the success and vitality  
12 of sister-state relations, but over time some of the sister-  
13 state relations have devolved to having no activities; now,  
14 therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
18 that the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the Department of  
19 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in consultation  
20 with the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and House  
21 of Representatives Committee on Veterans, Military, and  
22 International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts, are requested  
23 to provide to the Legislature a report that evaluates the  
24 sister-state program and makes recommendations to improve the  
25 capacity and sustainability of the efforts to promote mutually  
26 beneficial international relationships to stimulate economic  
27 benefits, cultural and educational exchange, and goodwill; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be  
30 submitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
31 the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic  
35 Development, and Tourism; Chair of the Hawaii Sister-State  
36 Committee; President of the Senate; and Speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives.

