HOUSE 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.

WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's Sister-State Program dates back to 1981 with the establishment of the first sister-state relation between Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee was established by Act 150, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, and administratively placed in the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and

WHEREAS, under section 229-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee's purpose is "to advise the governor and the legislature on matters relating to sister-state or province relations and relations, in general, between the State and the states or provinces of foreign countries"; and

WHEREAS, the sister-state program now includes seventeen formally established relations, including Greater China - Guangdong (1985), Hainan (1992), Taiwan (1993); Indonesia - Bali (2014); Japan - Fukuoka (1981), Okinawa (1985), Hiroshima (1997), Ehime (2003), Hokkaido (2017); Korea - Jeju (1986); Morocco - Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011); Philippines - Ilocos Sur (1985), Cebu (1996), Pangasinan (2002), Ilocos Norte (2005), Isabela (2006); and Portugal - Azores Islands (1982); and the eighteenth relation awaiting the formal signing ceremony is with the State of Goa, Republic of India, as provided by Senate Resolution 20, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2016; and

WHEREAS, each of the relations requires the negotiation of a separate and unique agreement to define the extent of the relation between the foreign province or prefecture, and
sometimes national, government and the State of Hawaii,  
presenting various challenges regarding national and state roles  
in international activities involving foreign policy, trade,  
travel, educational and cultural exchange, state financial  
resource commitments, and potential state liabilities; and  

WHEREAS, the role of the community and nongovernmental  
organizations in the establishment of formal sister-state  
relations and in providing the continuing capacity to sustain  
the various relations is necessary for their success and  
vitality, and over time some of the sister-state relations have  
devolved to having no activities; now, therefore,  

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
of 2018, that the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in  
consultation with the members of the Senate Committee on  
Judiciary; Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, &  
Technology; House Committee on Veterans, Military &  
International Affairs, and Culture & the Arts; and the House  
Committee on Economic Development & Business are requested to  
provide to the Legislature a report that evaluates the Sister-  
State program and makes recommendations to improve the capacity  
and sustainability of the efforts to promote mutually beneficial  
international relationships to stimulate economic benefits,  
cultural and educational exchange, and goodwill; and  

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to be  
delivered to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and  

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaii Sister-  
State Committee; Director of the Department of Business,  
Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the Senate; and  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.