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

