

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED  
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF  
HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.

1           WHEREAS, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have made  
2 longstanding efforts to build regional multilateral frameworks  
3 and harmonizing United States' policies in the North and South  
4 Pacific is critical in their engagement with Melanesian  
5 countries while recognizing challenges presented by regional  
6 adversaries, particularly China as well as Russia; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the East-West Center has engaged in efforts to  
9 revitalize the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders' (PICL)  
10 annual dialogue, which has historically linked Hawaii, Guam,  
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa with  
12 the Northern Pacific in a concrete framework; and  
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14           WHEREAS, these discussions have included addressing  
15 overlapping concerns, such as migration, health care, climate  
16 change, gender, and economic development; and  
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18           WHEREAS, revitalization of the PICL would augment existing  
19 regional multilateral priorities and would continue to reaffirm  
20 Hawaii's role as the epicenter for regional engagement; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Post-Forum Dialogue is a useful tool for the  
23 United States to link its priorities in the North Pacific with  
24 the South Pacific; for example, implementation of the 2017  
25 Women, Peace, and Security Act should be the cornerstone of the  
26 United States' efforts as it seeks to promote and protect women  
27 as well as other vulnerable populations in the region; and  
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29           WHEREAS, consistency with Pacific Island Forum countries,  
30 particularly Australia and New Zealand, is important to ensuring  
31 that relations in a changing Melanesia particularly with



1 stronger engagements with the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, and  
2 Vanuatu are properly navigated; aligning the United States with  
3 the central role of Fiji and Papua New Guinea in a regional  
4 strategy to counter Chinese encroachment; and working with other  
5 organizations such as the Forum Fisheries Agency, Melanesian  
6 Spearhead Group, and the Pacific Islands Development Forum as an  
7 important part of the integrated architecture linking the North  
8 and South Pacific; and  
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10 WHEREAS, at the center of this overall strategy to  
11 harmonize the United States policy with PICs is its charter  
12 membership in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC),  
13 which would help undergird the United States' review of how  
14 additional resources and assistance would be channeled through  
15 the region; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the United States should identify additional ways  
18 to coordinate assistance through the SPC to Kiribati, Marshall  
19 Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, and Palau, where appropriate, at the  
20 Center for Excellence and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security  
21 Studies in Hawaii; for example, the Coast Guard has a well-  
22 established relationship with the SPC, particularly regarding  
23 search and rescue efforts, that could further enhance regional  
24 maritime efforts, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
25 Administration has long been a partner to the SPC and a model  
26 for civilian agency participation in that body; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the United States should focus on identifying  
29 better ways to strengthen multilateral engagement and  
30 harmonizing its approaches to the North and South Pacific,  
31 including by using a constructive response to multilateral  
32 engagement to better place the United States to achieve its  
33 strategic regional objectives; now, therefore,  
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
38 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to  
39 convene a working group that will produce an integrated  
40 strategic plan for regional engagement by the State of Hawaii in  
41 the Pacific Islands region; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 2 to produce an integrated strategic plan that is designed to  
 3 achieve the long-term objective of reaffirming Hawaii as the  
 4 political, economic, environmental, sociological, and  
 5 technological epicenter for regional engagement in the Pacific  
 6 Islands region; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of  
 9 the following members or their designees:

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 11 (1) The President of the Pacific Forum;  
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 13 (2) The Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi;  
 14  
 15 (3) The President of the Hawaii Compacts of Free  
 16 Association Advocacy Hui;  
 17  
 18 (4) The Dean of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security  
 19 Studies;  
 20  
 21 (5) The President of the East-West Center at the  
 22 University of Hawaii; and  
 23  
 24 (6) The Director of the Center for Australian, New  
 25 Zealand, and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University;  
 26 and

27  
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
 30 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the  
 31 Pacific Forum; Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi; President  
 32 of the Hawaii COFA Advocacy Hui; Dean of the Asia-Pacific Center  
 33 for Security Studies; President of the East-West Center at the  
 34 University of Hawaii; and Director of the Center for Australian,  
 35 New Zealand, and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University.

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OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

