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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has developed and maintained a rich  
2 heritage of international relations and cultural exchange since  
3 the days of the Hawaiian monarchy in the nineteenth century; and  
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5           WHEREAS, since 1981, the Legislature has instituted sister-  
6 state relationships as a means of asserting and promoting the  
7 State's active participation in international matters; and  
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9           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains eighteen sister-state  
10 relationships, including relationships with five of Japan's  
11 forty-seven prefectures; and  
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13           WHEREAS, Yamaguchi is a prefecture in Japan's Chugoku  
14 region on the southwest side of Honshu Island; and  
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16           WHEREAS, Hawaii and the people of Yamaguchi share a long  
17 history and strong bond, beginning with *kanyaku imin* and the  
18 immigration of 10,424 contract laborers to Hawaii between 1885  
19 and 1894; and  
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21           WHEREAS, since then, there have been continuous cultural  
22 exchanges between the people of Yamaguchi and the five Yamaguchi  
23 Kenjinkai groups in Hawaii over the years; and  
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25           WHEREAS, other exchanges include annual fisheries training  
26 off the coast of Hawaii by a Yamaguchi high school, the arrival  
27 of tour groups from Yamaguchi, and study abroad and academic  
28 exchanges with Kauai Community College; and  
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1           WHEREAS, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised  
2 Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is tasked with  
3 evaluating and developing recommendations for the initiation of  
4 all sister-state relationships, and forwarding its  
5 recommendations to the Legislature for implementation, if it so  
6 chooses, by either adopting a concurrent resolution or by  
7 enacting session law to that effect; and

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9           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is taking steps  
10 to review the Hawaii-Yamaguchi sister-state application and make  
11 their recommendation that a sister-state relationship be  
12 established; and

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14           WHEREAS, the Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Muraoka  
15 Tsugumasa, supports and will apply for the establishment of a  
16 sister-state relationship with Hawaii; and

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18           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand  
19 its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing  
20 goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people  
21 of Hawaii and the people of many nations; and

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23           WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi will  
24 be highly beneficial in expanding tourism, strengthening  
25 cultural bonds, and advancing common goals of international  
26 peace and brotherhood; now, therefore,

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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Sister-State Committee  
31 is requested to evaluate and develop recommendations for the  
32 initiation of a sister-state relationship between the State of  
33 Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, Japan; and

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35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State  
36 Committee report its findings and recommendations, including  
37 proposed legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state  
38 relationship between Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi,  
39 Japan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
40 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
3 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in  
4 Washington, D.C.; Governor; Governor of the Prefecture of  
5 Yamaguchi, Japan; Consul General of Japan in Hawaii; Director of  
6 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the  
7 Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2021

