
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF
YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN.

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 the immigration of
18 10,424 contract laborers to Hawaii between 1885 and 1894 as
19 *kanyaku imin* (government-sponsored immigrants) pursuant to the
20 Hawaiian-Japanese Labor Convention of 1886; and
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22 WHEREAS, since then, there have been continuous cultural
23 exchanges between the people of Yamaguchi and the five Yamaguchi
24 *kenjinkai* groups in Hawaii; and
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26 WHEREAS, other exchanges include annual fisheries training
27 off the coast of Hawaii by a Yamaguchi high school, the arrival
28 of tour groups from Yamaguchi, and study abroad and academic
29 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 State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand
 10 its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing
 11 goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people
 12 of Hawaii and the people of many nations; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee has reviewed the
 15 Hawaii-Yamaguchi sister-state application and recommended that a
 16 sister-state relationship be established between Hawaii and
 17 Yamaguchi; and
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19 WHEREAS, this body believes that a sister-state
 20 relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi will be highly
 21 beneficial in expanding tourism, strengthening cultural bonds,
 22 and advancing common goals of international peace and
 23 brotherhood; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
 27 House of Representatives concurring, that a sister-state
 28 relationship between the State of Hawaii, United States of
 29 America, and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, Japan, is hereby
 30 established; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
 34 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in
 35 Washington, D.C.; Governor; Governor of the Prefecture of
 36 Yamaguchi, Japan; Consul General of Japan in Hawaii; Director of
 37 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of
 38 the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

