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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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ENCOURAGING THE PROLIFERATION OF DEMOCRACY, PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC OPENNESS IN VIETNAM BY MEANS OF A SISTER-PROVINCE AFFILIATION WITH THE PROVINCE OF THUA THIEN-HUE IN VIETNAM.

1 WHEREAS, various organizations and numerous individuals  
2 have expressed concerned about continued human rights violations  
3 and political oppression in despotic regimes, communist states,  
4 and other closed political systems whose governments were  
5 birthed during the Cold War as satellite and/or client regimes  
6 of the former Soviet Union; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, with the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9,  
9 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 26,  
10 1991, people around the world have not only sought after  
11 democratic transition in their governments, but also economic  
12 openness, making oppressive, controlling governments  
13 increasingly under pressure and strain to retain their  
14 legitimacy and relevance in the post Cold War World; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the development and proliferation of mass  
17 communication technologies in the form of mobile phones, PDAs,  
18 laptop computers, and the global internet have made physical  
19 borders meaningless, and allowed information and ideas to travel  
20 freely, despite even the strictest degree of controls; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, in the September 2003 issue of International  
23 Studies Quarterly, a recognized scholarly, peer reviewed  
24 academic journal of the American Political Science Association,  
25 an article was published entitled "*Causes of Peace: Democracy,*  
26 *Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992*" by  
27 John R. Oneal, Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum, noted that  
28 "Using distributed-lags analyses, we find that economically  
29 important trade does have a substantively important effect in

1 reducing dyadic militarized disputes, even with extensive  
2 controls for the influence of past conflict"; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the proliferation of democracy and free trade has  
5 influenced even traditionally despotic and religiously  
6 ultraconservative regimes such as Iran to create "free zones"  
7 such as Kish Island, where oppressive controls are greatly  
8 relaxed, serving as a vector for democratic infection to the  
9 entire government; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, interaction and regular engagement between the  
12 United States of America and the State of Hawaii with Vietnam,  
13 may very well increase interdependence and cooperation, thereby  
14 resulting in not only improved diplomatic relations, but also  
15 the possibility of cultural exchange, leading to heightened  
16 calls for democratic reform in Vietnam; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, there are historical precedents exemplifying the  
19 common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and  
20 financial bridge between ethnic Vietnamese living in Hawaii and  
21 their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in Vietnam,  
22 such as the previously established sister-city relationship  
23 between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Hue,  
24 which is the capital of the Province of Thua Thien-Hue; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, a similar state-province relationship between the  
27 State and the Province of Thua Thien-Hue, whereby exchanges and  
28 cooperation could be established in the areas of business,  
29 trade, agriculture, environmentally and culturally sensitive  
30 tourism, sports, public health, education, economic development,  
31 and humanitarian assistance, would reinforce and cement this  
32 common bridge of understanding and mutual assistance between the  
33 ethnic Vietnamese of both the State and the Province of Thua  
34 Thien-Hue; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, the Province of Thua Thien-Hue, like Hawaii, has  
37 an agricultural economy that is based upon sugar cane, fruits,  
38 and flowers, and aquaculture crops, such as shrimp; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, the city of Hue, capital of the Province of Thua  
41 Thien-Hue has been designated as a World Heritage Site by the  
42 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural  
43 Organization because its cultural and natural properties are

1 considered to be of outstanding universal value and must be  
2 protected; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Province of Thua Thien-Hue's unique cultural  
5 and historical significance and natural beauty are important  
6 resources on which to base an environmentally and culturally  
7 sensitive tourism industry; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's long experience and expertise in tourism,  
10 agriculture, and aquaculture could be shared with the Province  
11 of Thua Thien-Hue; now, therefore,

12  
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
15 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature  
16 encourages the proliferation of democracy, protection of human  
17 rights and economic openness in Vietnam by means of a sister-  
18 province affiliation with the Province of Thua Thien-Hue in  
19 Vietnam; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
22 keep the Legislature fully apprised of any progress made in  
23 establishing the relationship in order that the Legislature may  
24 be involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of Thua Thien-Hue  
27 be afforded the privileges and honors to which Hawaii extends to  
28 its other sister-states and provinces; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to:

- 32  
33 (1) The Governor of the State of Hawaii;  
34 (2) The Director of the Department of Business, Economic  
35 Development, and Tourism;  
36 (3) The President of the United States through the  
37 Secretary of State;  
38 (4) The President of the United States Senate  
39 (5) The Speaker of the United States House of  
40 Representatives;  
41 (6) Hawaii's Congressional Delegation;  
42 (7) The President of Vietnam through its San Francisco  
43 Consulate General; and

1 (8) The Governor of the Province of Thua Thien-Hue in  
2 Vietnam.  
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