
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO REEVALUATE THE CURRENT STATUS OF HAWAII'S SISTER
RELATIONSHIPS.

1 WHEREAS, at present, Hawaii has seventy-two state and
2 county sister relationships; and
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4 WHEREAS, as of December, 2005, the State had fourteen
5 sisters, including four each from Japan and the Philippines,
6 three from the People's Republic of China, and one each from the
7 Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and Portugal; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
10 and Tourism, in its *State of Hawaii's Sister States/Cities: A*
11 *Report to the Hawaii State Legislature January 1, 2005 -*
12 *December 31, 2005*, supported the continued pursuit of sister
13 relationships for both cultural and economic development
14 reasons, with attention to fostering the most productive ties;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, the Department reported that the most successful
18 sister relationships occur when:
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- 20 (1) There is commonality between Hawaii and the sister,
21 primarily from geographical, historical, cultural, or
22 economic standpoints;
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- 24 (2) There are active and interested support groups, such
25 as the Chambers of Commerce, and cultural and civic
26 associations;
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- 28 (3) There are economic benefits for both sisters, such as
29 increased numbers of visitors, or enhanced investment
30 or marketing opportunities;
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- 32 (4) Close ties have been established between the
33 educational institutions of the two potential sisters,
34 including both student and faculty exchanges; and



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2 (5) There is a clear, strong governmental interest in not
3 only forming, but maintaining, the relationship; and
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5 WHEREAS, however, to ensure the productivity and viability
6 of a sister relationship, the Department recommended that the
7 State needs a rigorous selection process, including
8 reconstituting the Hawaii Sister-State Committee and the re-
9 utilization of the Sister-State Application Form developed by
10 the erstwhile Office of International Relations, which must
11 incorporate:
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- 13 (1) A letter from the Governor of the proposed sister;
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15 (2) A designated point-of-contact person;
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17 (3) Recent activity reports between Hawaii and the
18 proposed sister;
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20 (4) Recommendations for future activities; and
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22 (5) Proposed calendar of future events; and
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24 WHEREAS, although sister agreements traditionally are
25 filled with general statements of friendship and goodwill, the
26 Department recommended that they should include a higher degree
27 of specificity, including each side's responsibilities to ensure
28 that each sister agreement is realistically and mutually
29 beneficial; and
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31 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Department recommended that the
32 State carefully review the quality of its sister relations to
33 determine which ties should be strengthened and which should be
34 severed; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
38 Session of 2007, that the Department of Business, Economic
39 Development, and Tourism is requested to reevaluate the current
40 status of Hawaii's sister relationships to ensure that such
41 relationships are mutually beneficial and that truly productive
42 relationships are not trivialized by those that are not
43 productive; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to detail in its reevaluation:

- (1) Which relationships are mutually beneficial and productive and should be maintained and nurtured;
- (2) Which relationships are not currently mutually beneficial or productive but are worth maintaining with a view towards achieving mutual benefit and increased productivity; and
- (3) Which relationships are not likely to become mutually beneficial or productive and thus should be terminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to report findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008, on the status of Hawaii's current sister relationships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, who in turn is requested to transmit copies to the heads of the cities or provinces of Hawaii's fourteen current sisters, namely Fukuoka, Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Ehime in Japan; Guangdong, Hainan, and Tianjin in the People's Republic of China; Taiwan; Ilocos Sur, Cebu, Pangasinan, and Ilocos Norte in the Republic of the Philippines, Cheju Island in the Republic of Korea, and the Azores Island of Portugal.

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