
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's desire for
2 economic growth that benefits all residents depends on building
3 our State's human resources.

4 Realization of Hawaii's longstanding desire for economic
5 diversification and sustainability turns on applying the State's
6 high skilled resources to the creation and adoption of
7 innovation across the economy.

8 The legislature finds that Act expands the role of the
9 office of international affairs to include the facilitation,
10 coordination, and promotion of educational relationships and
11 exchanges with other countries through collaboration with and
12 funding of existing international programs and organizations.
13 It also clarifies the office's position as the central point of
14 accountability in international affairs.

15 SECTION 2. Globalization refers to the increasing
16 integration of economies and societies around the world, enabled
17 by human innovation and technological progress. It has set in



1 motion the means by which goods, services, ideas, and capital
2 can flow relatively freely across national borders. It has not
3 only enabled new types of activity, but it has also empowered
4 individuals and small businesses to undertake economic activity
5 that previously was reserved for large multinational firms.
6 While it has increased a whole range of opportunities for those
7 with minimum means, ability, and willingness to participate in
8 this new global economy, it has also created major challenges.
9 For young people graduating from high school or college, this
10 has meant that they now have to compete for jobs globally.

11 The new global economy demands that we establish Hawaii as
12 a community of lifelong learners, where children build a strong
13 foundation in internationalism during the K-12 years, and where
14 flexible, responsive, and continuing education and training are
15 available to meet the challenges of the global economy and are
16 available to all of Hawaii's adults.

17 There are a number of factors – including our location,
18 multicultural and ethnic population, and an environment
19 conducive to discussion and negotiation – that support Hawaii as
20 a center for international conferences. However, very little or
21 no concerted effort has been made to bring resources, plans, and



1 programs together and in line with any form of a larger vision
2 for Hawaii, within the context of a rapidly globalizing world.

3 The legislature understands that in order to advance global
4 competitiveness through education, there needs to be
5 coordination between the State, counties, educational
6 institutions, and private agencies on international affairs, as
7 well as a central point of accountability and a leveraging of
8 resources.

9 Section 201-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established the
10 office of international affairs to carry out various
11 international responsibilities and duties, but left out
12 education and training as a means to prepare Hawaii for a
13 globalized world. It also did not specify that the office of
14 international affairs would be the coordinator on international
15 matters for the State. And finally, it did not provide funding
16 for the office to carry out its broad mandate. This Act
17 remedies those problems.

18 SECTION 3. Section 201-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 " [{}§201-17 {}] Office of international affairs;
21 established. (a) There is established, within the department



1 of business, economic development, and tourism, an office of
2 international affairs.

3 (b) The office shall:

4 (1) Develop policies that promote and strengthen relations
5 with other countries in the areas of international
6 business, economy, culture, education, and the arts;

7 (2) Develop policies that promote transportation between,
8 and tourism with, other countries;

9 (3) Develop and promote international telecommunications
10 and high technology exchanges;

11 (4) Encourage the development of international sister-city
12 programs, pairing Hawaii cities with cities around the
13 globe for artistic, cultural, economic, educational,
14 and faith-based exchanges;

15 (5) Develop and promote Hawaii as the economic, trade,
16 commerce, transportation, banking, ~~and~~ tourism,
17 regional headquarters, and international conferences
18 hub of the ~~[Paeific,]~~ Asia-Pacific region;

19 (6) Develop an international affairs and peace education
20 curriculum that includes studies of international
21 affairs and peace initiatives and takes a proactive,
22 strategic approach to the development of policies that



1 promote the prevention of national and international
2 conflict, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful
3 resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of
4 conflict; [~~and~~]

5 (7) Provide for exchanges of individuals between Hawaii
6 and other nations to develop international and peace-
7 based initiatives[~~-~~];

8 (8) Facilitate an international educational links program
9 by increasing collaboration and coordination of
10 international, educational, business, and community
11 organizations and providing funding for activities
12 that include, but are not limited to:

13 (A) School excursions from Asia to Hawaii schools,
14 targeting middle and high school students from
15 Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and China with special
16 focus on Hawaii's sister-states, utilizing the
17 department and its overseas offices to market
18 school excursions to Hawaii and match these
19 overseas school visits with Hawaii schools;

20 (B) Study abroad programs, targeting middle and high-
21 school students from Hawaii's schools, utilizing



1 the department's overseas offices and focusing on
2 Hawaii's sister-states, that match Hawaii schools
3 with overseas schools for school-to-school visits
4 and hosting. The office shall fund, and
5 encourage funding sources both public and private
6 to help finance the studies abroad; and

7 (C) Teacher exchange programs through which teachers
8 from Hawaii and abroad exchange a period of time
9 of teaching. The office shall fund, and
10 encourage funding sources both public and private
11 to help finance the teaching abroad;

12 (9) Facilitate an international leaders program by
13 facilitating the collaboration and coordination of
14 international, educational, business, and community
15 organizations and funding activities that include, but
16 are not be limited to:

17 (A) International conferences for high school
18 students involving international organizations
19 such as the east west center and the pacific
20 asian affairs council;



1 (B) Adopt-a-school programs partnering international
2 companies and organizations schools for cultural
3 and educational enrichment;

4 (C) School competitions to become a high-school
5 fellow at international agencies' programs;

6 (10) Serve as the State's central point of contact and
7 accountability in international affairs and serve as
8 the State's advocate for a global orientation;

9 (11) Inventory existing international programs and develop
10 a web-based information portal to make this
11 information available to the public;

12 (12) Encourage the attraction of international conferences
13 to be held in Hawaii; and

14 (13) Encourage the development of international programming
15 and content on local radio shows and a dedicated
16 public access channel for international programs and
17 issues.

18 ~~[(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if any~~
19 ~~of the responsibilities or duties of the office of international~~
20 ~~affairs under this section overlap with the responsibilities or~~
21 ~~duties of another agency or authority under this chapter, the~~
22 ~~office of international affairs shall have exclusive~~



1 ~~jurisdiction and authority over these responsibilities and~~
2 ~~duties.] "~~

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$531,000, or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
6 sum of \$518,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary fiscal
7 year 2008-2009, for the hiring of an executive director and
8 administrative assistant for the office of international affairs
9 and for operating and program expenses.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
12 of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Office of International Affairs

Description:

Expands the duties of the office of international affairs in the department of business, economic development, and tourism to include education and training. Eff. 7/1/2050. (SD1)

