
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO APPROVE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
STATE OF HAWAII AND THE RIAU ISLANDS PROVINCE OF INDONESIA.

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to the enactment of Act 150, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2006 (Act 150), the Hawaii Sister State Committee was
3 established within the Department of Business, Economic
4 Development, and Tourism to advise the Governor and the
5 Legislature on matters relating to sister state or province
6 relations and relations, in general, between the State and the
7 states or provinces of foreign countries; and
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9 WHEREAS, a sister state relationship between Hawaii and the
10 Riau Islands would be mutually beneficial to the United States
11 and Indonesia and fits well with the new "US-Indonesia
12 Comprehensive Partnership" initiative designed to strengthen
13 relations between the two countries through enhanced cooperation
14 on energy, the environment, health, science, technology, trade
15 and investment, in addition to other regional and global issues;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the Republic of Indonesia is the world's third
19 largest democracy and home to the largest Muslim population in
20 the world; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Riau Islands Province (also known as Kepulauan
23 Riau Province or abbreviated as KEPRI Province) is the 32nd
24 province in the Republic of Indonesia has 2,408 islands and
25 1,392,918 residents with 700,000 of those residents concentrated
26 on the main island of Batam and is the center of Malay culture
27 and the origin of the language, Bahasa Indonesia; and
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29 WHEREAS, Similar to Hawaii, the province enjoys a tropical
30 climate and 96 percent of its 251,810 sq-km area is comprised of
31 water, providing vast opportunities for shipping, fishing,



1 renewable energy production, marine study, ecotourism and more;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, Currently, Riau Islands Province provides free
5 education for children up to junior level (year nine), contains
6 a number of first-rate vocational schools which it is interested
7 in expanding and increasing; and

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9 WHEREAS, The Riau Islands desires to upgrade and improve
10 education from elementary to university levels and is developing
11 plans to construct a large university system containing
12 community colleges and junior colleges similar to Hawaii's
13 community college system; and

14
15 WHEREAS, The Riau Islands Province has organizations from
16 around the world participating in the preservation of ocean
17 corals and other endangered species that reside in the province
18 creating ample opportunity for exchanges between the Riau
19 Islands and environmentalist organizations in Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, Batam, the most populated island, has water, waste
22 disposal and other sanitation necessities, the Riau Islands are
23 looking to bringing these resources to its outer islands and
24 rural areas thus creating economic opportunities for Hawaii-
25 based planners and contractors who have expertise in the area of
26 civil engineering; and

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28 WHEREAS, In 2004, due to its strategic location, its oil
29 and natural gas resources and free trade zone, the province was
30 carved out of an existing Indonesian Province (Riau) and
31 established to promote foreign trade and encourage further
32 development of the area; and

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34 WHEREAS, When the sister state relationship is combined
35 with the needs and agendas from the U.S. State Department and
36 U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as the Export-Import Bank,
37 World Bank and U.S. AID, Hawaii could put together pieces that
38 would create a Hawaii-based regional center for international
39 finance and foreign policy pointed at the Pacific-Asia region;
40 and

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1 WHEREAS, A sister state working relationship with the Riau
2 Islands Province would, in turn, create sustainable jobs in
3 areas associated with international finance that would employ
4 economists, engineers, bankers, and other consultants helping to
5 build commerce and could work hand-in-hand with the U.S. Pacific
6 Command, fostering peace and stability in the region; and
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8 WHEREAS, The Hawaii Sister State Committee met on October
9 16, 2009 to consider the application of the Riau Islands and
10 unanimously approved the application after receiving testimony
11 in support from Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Honorary Consul of
12 Indonesia, the Indonesia-Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, the
13 Department of Defense, Indonesian specialists from the
14 University of Hawaii, Permias Hawaii, a 150-member Indonesian
15 Student Association, and Senior Advisor of the Governor of Riau
16 Islands; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2010, that the Governor of the State of Hawaii is requested
21 to assist Hawaii to become a more active participant in the
22 dynamic economic and diplomatic activities in the Asia-Pacific
23 region by authorizing the establishment of a sister state
24 relationship between Hawaii and Riau Islands Province; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama,
28 President of the United States, the Honorable Susilo Bambang
29 Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, the Honorable
30 Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, the Honorable Linda Lingle,
31 Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable Ismeth Abdullah,
32 Governor of the Riau Islands Province, Republic of Indonesia,
33 the director of the Department of Business, Economic Development
34 and Tourism, Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Honorary Consul of Indonesia
35 in Hawaii, Dr. Charles Morrison, President of the East-West
36 Center, the Indonesia-Hawaii Chamber of Commerce in Honolulu,
37 USINDO in Washington, DC, and the American Chamber of Commerce,
38 Jakarta, Indonesia.
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