
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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

21
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

28
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
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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
27

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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42 WHEREAS, A sister state working relationship with the Riau
43 Islands Province would, in turn, create sustainable jobs in
44 areas associated with international finance that would employ



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1 economists, engineers, bankers, and other consultants helping to
2 build commerce and could work hand-in-hand with the U.S. Pacific
3 Command, fostering peace and stability in the region; and
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5 WHEREAS, The Hawaii Sister State Committee met on October
6 16, 2009 to consider the application of the Riau Islands and
7 unanimously approved the application after receiving testimony
8 in support from Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Honorary Consul of
9 Indonesia, the Indonesia-Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, the
10 Department of Defense, Indonesian specialists from the
11 University of Hawaii, Permias Hawaii, a 150-member Indonesian
12 Student Association, and Senior Advisor of the Governor of Riau
13 Islands; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Governor of the State
18 of Hawaii is requested to assist Hawaii to become a more active
19 participant in the dynamic economic and diplomatic activities in
20 the Asia-Pacific region by authorizing the establishment of a
21 sister state relationship between Hawaii and Riau Islands
22 Province; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Barack
26 Obama, President of the United States, the Honorable Susilo
27 Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, the
28 Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, the Honorable
29 Linda Lingle, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable
30 Ismeth Abdullah, Governor of the Riau Islands Province, Republic
31 of Indonesia, the director of the Department of Business,
32 Economic Development and Tourism, Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Honorary
33 Consul of Indonesia in Hawaii, Dr. Charles Morrison, President
34 of the East-West Center, the Indonesia-Hawaii Chamber of
35 Commerce in Honolulu, USINDO in Washington, DC, and the American
36 Chamber of Commerce, Jakarta, Indonesia.
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OFFERED BY:

Gene Ward

Rida Cabanilla
M. Miller

Karen Anderson

Mel Carroll

Phil Bruner

Mark

John
John

Barbara Marumoto

Ray Stephens

Z. R.

Charles

Mungin

Jyle B. Berg

Tom Brown

Paul
Shum & Co

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