

tokioka1-Elijah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:12 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: [Fwd: RE: [Fwd: RE: Riau Islands Resolution HEARING MONDAY!]]

Dear Chair Manahan,

On behalf of Riau Islands Province, I want to thank you for your consideration of our application to establish a sister-state relationship with the State of Hawaii. I am writing today in strong support of HR39/HCR89 which is the next step in our efforts to create this relationship.

Discussion of this sister-state relationship began in 2007 when Governor Lingle visited Indonesia and the State Partnership Program between the Hawaii National Guard and Indonesia was announced. Since then, I have made numerous trips to Oahu to meet with various officials and the Sister State Commission in an effort to solidify the relationship that was discussed in 2007.

I would like to have made another trip to speak to your committee in person, but as I am already traveling, I have entrusted Representative Gene Ward with our government's application to establish a sister-state relationship with Hawaii. In the documents Representative Ward will provide you, you will see the many reasons we believe that a sister-state relationship with Hawaii will benefit both our province and your state, especially in the areas of education, environment, energy, tourism, trade and governance.

However, while Representative Ward will provide you with the many details, I would like to myself convey that Riau Islands Province is one of the most rapidly growing and strategically located areas of Indonesia. Riau Islands Province contains Indonesia's only Special Economic Zone (Free Trade Zone) and is located on a vital shipping lane only 45 minutes from Singapore. Currently, there are over a thousand foreign companies operating in Riau Islands Province with billions of dollars in investments. Riau Islands Province represents a market ripe for the expertise and products Hawaii can provide.

In short, I strongly believe this relationship could be mutually beneficial, and I know I speak for the people of Riau Islands Province when I ask you to support our application and establish a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and our province.

Sincerely,
Al Hirshen
Senior Advisor, Riau Province

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