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Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:27 PM
To: INTtestimony
Cc: Jr. Jr. Jr.; Brian Taylor; awana2 - Irene
Subject: HCR 148: personal testimony in support

LATE TESTIMONY

Written Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on International Affairs
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Friday, April 1, 2011

11:00 a.m.

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

by

Dr. Brian Taylor

HCR 148 Requesting to Establish a Sister-State Relationship with Queensland, Australia
for Economic, Cultural, and Intellectual Benefits

Chair Awana and Chair McKelvey

Please accept my personal testimony in support of HCR 148. This is my 30th year living in Hawaii as an Australian citizen and US resident. My wife is a US citizen and our daughter, born in Hawaii, has dual US and Australian citizenship. Thus, our family is one example of the close ties referred to in the third paragraph of HCR 148. From my personal experience, I can attest to the many common values shared by people in both states.

Furthermore, for the past five years I have served as the Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It is with that perspective that I can affirm the close scientific and technological ties of Hawaii with Queensland, particularly between the universities, agricultural and energy industries.

One of the strongest cultural, tourism, security, transportation, resource, and environmental connections between our two states comes from the common body of water that bathes our shores, the Pacific Ocean. Especially notable in that regard is the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, two of the largest marine reserves on the planet. These bountiful preserves of coral reef to deep ocean ecosystems are a wonder for all humanity, a subject of shared research, and a common concern in the face of thermal bleaching, rising sea levels and ocean acidification.

For these and the many other reasons referenced in HCR 148, I support the establishment of a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Queensland.