

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS**

Friday, April 1, 2011
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

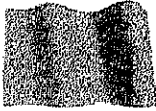
in consideration of
HCR 249, HR212
**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAWAII AND THE PROVINCE OF MARRAKESH OF
THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.**

Chairs Awana and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Hashem and Choy and Members of the
Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the
following comments to HCR 249 and HR212, which request that the Governor establish a sister-
state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Marrakesh of the Kingdom of
Morocco.

The Hawaii Sister-State Committee was established by the Legislature in 2006 to advise
the Governor and the Legislature on matters relating to sister-state relations and relations in
general between the State of Hawaii international jurisdictions. DBEDT respectfully suggests
that the initiative mentioned in this measure be first undertaken by the Hawaii Sister-State
Committee to provide advice and recommendation prior to passing a resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Office of the Morocco Honorary Consulate
Honolulu, Hawaii • United States of America



M. Jan Rumi
Honorary Consul

The Honorable Rep. Karen Awana, Chair, International Affairs Committee
The Honorable Rep. Mark Hashem, Vice Chair, International Affairs Committee
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii

Date: March 31, 2011

Re: Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 249
Friday, April 1, 2011. 11:00 am Room 312, Hawaii State Capitol
To establish a Sister Province relationship with the Province of
Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer, Kingdom of Morocco

From: M. Jan Rumi, Honorary Consul of Morocco, Honolulu, Hawaii

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

As the Honorary Consul of Morocco, Honolulu, Hawaii and a member of the Consular Corps of Hawaii, I enthusiastically urge and ask for your support for the establishment of a Sister Province relationship between our State of Hawaii and the Province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer, Kingdom of Morocco.

Why I believe this relationship between our State of Aloha and the far-away Kingdom of Morocco is so important is Morocco's desire to be mentored by Hawaii, not only in matters of tourism (it is also Morocco's number-one business in dollar terms), but also to become the major catalyst for moderation and aloha in the Muslim and Arab World. The Moroccans were the source of the Andalusian dynasty in Spain where for several hundred years Jews, Christians, and Muslims were able to live in peace, harmony, and fruitful collaboration. Some of the greatest works of architecture, poetry, philosophy, theology, and music came from that era of all three Abrahamic faiths living peacefully side by side.

In my capacity serving as their Honorary Consul for the last seven years here in Honolulu, Hawaii and my several visits to Rabat, Morocco, it appears that leaders in Morocco would like to reclaim that heritage in becoming a—if not the—major voice for moderate Islam throughout the Muslim world. And, a number of those leaders have come to see our state as role model for tolerant, respectful, productive living across all kinds of differences.

I am personally excited to see the possibility of our state becoming more than just one of the world's premier holiday destinations. Beyond our beautiful geography and incomparable climate, what we really have going for us is our social climate, our aloha spirit. Perfect, of course, it's not—we're not. But relative to most of the rest of the world, Hawaii may just harbor the secret to enable all of us and the planet to reach Century 22 intact. That's why I think of Hawaii, potentially at least, as "the capital of the 21st Century"—the place that shows the rest of

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Testimony of the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the International Affairs Committee
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii
March 31, 2011
Page 2 of 2

the world that cross-ethnic, cross-racial, cross-cultural, and cross-religions relations can be sources of creativity rather than misunderstanding and violence. If we have our wits about us, we may just begin producing and exporting the one thing most needful in the world right now—the “Aloha Vaccine.”

That is why I am so enthusiastic about the developing relationship between us and Morocco, led by the Hawaii-base Friends of Morocco. Also, I see where we might train selected government, NGO, educational, and commercial (especially tourism) leaders of Morocco here in English (their second language is French), our way of doing things (including enterprise), the ways of democracy, volunteerism, and—yes—Aloha.

And, the other side of the coin is, we can begin to import the wonderful leather goods, ceramics, carved wood, clothing, spices, and foods of that world of 1001 Nights and begin, through exchanges, to develop a generation of our youth who can speak French and Arabic, have lived and worked (or volunteered) in Morocco, and who know and have regard for some fellow human beings who happen to be Muslims.

I'll end here, and I hope you get a sense of how profoundly important successful, mutually fruitful relations between our former kingdom and Morocco's current one might be and how, if we play our cards right, Hawaii can become a kind of Switzerland of the Pacific—a place whose catalytic importance in world affairs far outweighs its small size or physical beauty.

So I hope this writing will help you put into context why this developing set of relations, though small potatoes now, could become one of tomorrow's biggest stories. Both Hawaii and Morocco are viewed as “cross road” points in their respective areas of the world. With these similarities and our excellence in areas such as tourism, I believe we are well positioned to craft mutually beneficial arrangements (including economic and bilateral trade and cultural exchanges) benefiting the State of Hawaii while making a positive contribution to Morocco's and the world at large.

Thank you and aloha,

Jan Rumi
Honorary Consul of Morocco
Honolulu, Hawaii

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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*
KAPI'OLANI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hon. Denny Coffman – Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
Hon. Karen Awana – Chair, International Affairs Committee
Hon. Mark Hashem – Vice Chair, International Affairs Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature

Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 249

This will provide you with testimony in support of HCR 249 to establish a sister province relationship with the province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Morocco.

As noted in the resolution, there is a history to the relationship with Morocco dating back to at least 1999 which has grown and developed over time. Most recently, Kapi'olani Community College has signed several memoranda of agreement strengthening this relationship. The College has a MOA with Mohammed V University and, in September 2010, we completed a project to review tourism plans developed by a Rabat-based government agency, *Agence pour le Développement des Provinces du Sud du Royaume*. As a result of that project, KCC has signed another MOU opening the door to pursue additional projects in Morocco, capitalizing on our expertise in tourism and hospitality training.

While in Rabat, KCC staff was hosted by the Moroccan government. The various staff members of the Moroccan government that we worked with were extremely hospitable and anxious to explore ways that we could work together for the development of their economy and the improvement of understanding between our cultures.

For these reasons, I support the adoption of HCR 249.

Frank Haas
Dean

To:

Hon. Denny Coffman – Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
Hon. Karen Awana – Chair, International Affairs Committee
Hon. Mark Hashem – Vice Chair, International Affairs Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re:

Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 249, Friday, April 1, 11:00 a.m.
Room 312

To establish a sister province relationship with the province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Morocco.

From: Mae Mendelson, Friends of Maroc and International Advisory Board of the World Youth Congress

On behalf of the 200 members of the Friends of Maroc and as a member of the Advisory Board of the World Youth Congress, I support the establishment of a sister province relationship between Hawai'i and greater Rabat. Both entities will benefit from the energy of citizen diplomats who will honor the commitment to create economic, cultural, and educational ties between the two regions.

The history of the relationship began with the Millennium Young People's Congress (MYPC) held in Hawaii in 1999. I co-chaired this event with my colleagues in England. The congress series continued when Morocco, under the High Patronage of the King, Mohammed VI, committed to holding the second world congress and convened over 1,000 youth in August 2003. We sent 30 young people and 15 mentors to Morocco.

Now we have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the values of cultural exchange. We can work together with Rabat on projects of mutual benefit. With Morocco, we share a tradition of hospitality and a community based in the nurturing of the family.

An action plan had been developed through the extensive network of the Friends of Maroc that included 1) a Morocco Week in Hawai'i with a fundraising dinner to benefit youth in both regions; 2) several trade missions to exchange business, marketing and education professionals; and an international Rotary project to send older adult volunteers to teach English in two middle schools in Rabat and Bouznika.

We believe that this resolution will continue a relationship that will only grow to enrich Hawai'i and our global connections.

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Community Empowerment Services

A CARF Certified Psychosocial Rehabilitation Not-For-Profit Agency
1110 University Ave. #411, Honolulu, HI 96826



To: Hon. Denny Coffman- Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
Hon. Karen Awana- Chair, International Affairs Committee
Hon. Mark Hashem- Vice Chair, International Affairs Committee, Hawai'i State Legislature

Date: March 31, 2011

From: Aliman Sears, Chief Operating Officer, CES

Re: **Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 249, Friday, April 1, 11:00 a.m. Room 312, to establish a sister province relationship with the province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Morocco**

As a member of a private non-profit social work agency in Hawaii, I support the establishment of a sister province relationship between Hawai'i and greater province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Morocco. Both entities will benefit from the energy of citizen diplomats who will honor the commitment to create economic, cultural, and educational ties between the two regions.

The history of the relationship between Hawaii and Morocco began with the Millennium Young People's Congress (MYPC) held in Hawaii in 1999. The congress series continued when Morocco, under the High Patronage of the King, Mohammed VI, committed to holding the second world congress and convened over 1,000 youth in August 2003. Hawaii sent 30 young people and 15 mentors to Morocco.

Through the work of Mr. M. Jan Rumi, Honorary Consul of Morocco here in Hawaii, we know that the Moroccan government is extremely hospitable and anxious to explore ways that we could work together for the development of both the economy in Morocco and the economy in Hawaii, as well as the improvement of understanding between our cultures.

The connections between Morocco and Hawaii continue to flourish. Kapi'olani Community College has signed several memoranda of agreement strengthening this relationship with Morocco. KCC has signed agreements opening the door to pursue additional projects in Morocco, capitalizing on Hawaii's expertise in tourism and hospitality training.

Now we have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the values of cultural exchange. We can work together with the province of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer Morocco on projects of mutual benefit. Our mutual desire to develop the tourism industry and our shared values as "melting pots" of international exchange mean that in the coming years this relationship could have extreme importance for Hawaii.

Aliman Sears, Chief Operating Officer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:11 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HCR249 on 4/1/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for INT/ERB 4/1/2011 11:00:00 AM HCR249

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teresita G. Bernales
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: _____
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I sent in a testimony in support of HCR 249, however the name of the province should state as Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer. kindly note this correction. I would like to add more to my previous testimony:

As the coordinator the Global Youth Center Hawaii, I concur with the rest of the other testimonies about the many positive things that will come to Hawaii and Morocco in all areas of government, business and education. The King of Morocco is a young person himself and has keen interest in developing the leadership of youth as successor generation. Having them involved in this stage of their life will give them the needed expertise to lead in a global society. Hawaii as crossroad to east and west is in the best position to be the model for the whole world on youth leadership development.

Respectfully submitted:

Teresita G. Bernales
Coordinator, Global Youth Center Hawaii