



LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 2, 2010
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HCR 67 / HR 60

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE ISLANDS OF POLYNESIA

Chair Awana, Vice Chair Hashem and Committee on International Affairs members:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HCR 67 and HR 60, which seeks to establish a relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Islands of Polynesia.

An active relationship between the State of Hawaii and the political entities in the Pacific mentioned in the bill could result in increased educational and cultural exchange, and has the potential to create trade opportunities for Hawaii-based companies and organizations and reinforce the State of Hawaii's role as a major force for commerce and diplomatic relations in the Pacific. However, DBEDT respectfully reminds the committee that the State of Hawaii establishes sister-state relationships with states, provinces, prefectures or similar political subdivisions, and is willing to work with the East-West Center to identify a prospective candidate for sister relations from the list provided in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.