



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY,
& INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

HR 47

**URGING THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM, BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, BOARD OF
EDUCATION, AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO STRENGTHEN THE
SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAWAII AND TAIWAN.**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HR 47, which requests the Governor, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the Board of Education, and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to strengthen Hawaii's sister-state relationship with Taiwan in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Taiwan.

DBEDT continues to maintain a long and productive relationship with Taiwan in the areas of clean energy technologies, trade, and education exchange due in large part to the State of Hawaii Office in Taipei which DBEDT established in 1994.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:05 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: leonard.kam@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR47 on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM

HR47

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for VMI on Mar 27, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard J. K. H. Kam	Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii celebrated it's centennial 2 years ago. In our hundred years of existence, we have brought numerous cultural and business enhancing programs to the people of Hawaii. One of the most notable of events is our annual Narcissus Festival. The festival now entering it's 65th year has enriched our local community through the sharing of Chinese culture. As a Chamber of Commerce, it is our goal to further promote and develop business relationships not only in China, but in Taiwan and other Asian countries as well. Passage of this bill would demonstrate our State's desire to truly be a power in the global community. Hawaii's proximity to Asia and the US Mainland only further solidifies our position literally and figuratively as being strategic in any discussion that involves doing business in Asia. Both Taiwan and Hawaii share so many similarities. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Sister State Relationship that we have enjoyed. It is only fitting that we make public our desire to strengthen our cultural, educational, and economic ties in order to promote greater exchange between Taiwan and Hawaii. The City and County of Honolulu recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship with Kaohsiung. We have done so much on the city level and now we should expand our focus to growing our Sister State Relationship. I personally have visited Taiwan on numerous occasions. Each time I brought with me the Aloha Spirit and in return received the Taiwan Spirit. This truly exemplifies the similarities that we have with Taiwan. By passing this bill, we will make a strong statement of support for all that Taiwan stands for. I would welcome the opportunity to assist the State in developing ways in which we both can work together to further enhance our relationship. Leonard J. K. H. Kam
President Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii

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Wednesday, March 27, 8:30am-CR312

In support of HR47/SCR61-Urging the Governor, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Board of Education, and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to strengthen the sister-state Relationship with Taiwan in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Taiwan

My name is Carol Tsai, President of the Hawaii Chinese Association. It is my honor to testify in support of HR47/SCR61.

As commercial and trade advocate, we believe that a strong relationship between Taiwan and Hawaii will bring mutual economy benefits to the people from two sides. It is even important for the related government agencies to grip this golden opportunity to take necessary actions to strengthen the ties, in terms of boosting tourism, trade, culture and education exchanges.

For the culture exchange, I would like to point out that Hawaii is a big melting pie, embracing diversified cultures and ethnic peoples. Taiwan and Hawaii shares strong core relation in history and culture. We strongly support an enhanced sister-sate relationship between Hawaii and Taiwan.

Thank you.

Testimony by Mr. V.C. Chu, Director General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office

In support of HR47/SCR61-Urging the Governor, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Board of Education, and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to strengthen the sister-state Relationship with Taiwan in Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Taiwan

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Hawaii. It is undoubtedly an auspicious moment for all of us to celebrate. The people and Government of Taiwan and the people and Government of Hawaii have established profound exchanges in culture, business, education, tourism and agriculture since the sister-state memorandum was signed by Governor James Soong and Governor John Waihee in 1983. The friendship has been cultivated by the people and governments from both sides and has yielded fruitful results.

After Taiwan joined the U.S. Visa Waiver Program last November, the China Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines announced to launch the direct flights between Honolulu and Taipei this summer. This is a golden opportunity of boosting tourism, business and cultural activities for us to catch. Moreover, the U.S.-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) talk was held in Taipei last week. This meeting produced numerous positive results and provided a significant platform for us to further discuss matters on trade and investment and reducing barriers.

We are at the moment not only to celebrate the friendship but more importantly to take actions. I would like to thank you, Chair English and members of TIA to take initiative step in drafting this meaningful resolution to urge the Governor and related governmental agencies to take necessary measures to enhance the bilateral relationship between the Hawaii and Taiwan. We are looking forward a fruitful year to come. Thank you.