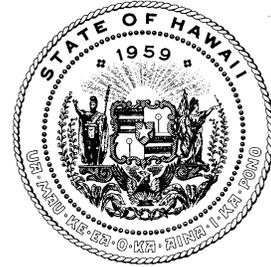


Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
Vice President of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6030



Media Contact: Caroline Julian-Freitas/586-6261

PRESS RELEASE

January 23, 2013

SENATE VICE PRESIDENT RONALD D. KOUCHI MEETS WITH FUKUOKA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY

Honolulu -- Senate Vice President Ronald D. Kouchi, Senator for the 8th Senatorial District for the islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, received the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly on behalf of Senate President Donna Mercado Kim. The delegation was here to visit with Governor Neil Abercrombie, Speaker of the House Joseph Souki, and Senate President Donna Mercado Kim.

Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly Chair Kunihiro Matsumoto and the delegation wished Senator Kouchi a successful legislative session, congratulated him on becoming vice president, and discussed issues of interest for the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Fukuoka. Senator Kouchi expressed his appreciation for the culture and people of Japan and his gratitude for the contributions of the Japanese professional baseball team, the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks to Kaua'i residents. Chair Matsumoto and Senator Kouchi expressed their interest in continuing and supporting the established relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Fukuoka.

In 1981, the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Fukuoka established a Sister-State relationship to exchange knowledge and encourage international cooperation. This relationship serves to raise Hawaii's profile internationally, attract dynamic cooperative programs, and stimulate Hawaii's economy. Since 1982, it has become tradition for the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly to send a delegation to attend the celebration of the opening of the Hawaii legislative session.

(Photo Caption: Senate Vice President Ronald D. Kouchi meets with the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly.)

(Photo Courtesy: The Office of Senate Vice President Ronald D. Kouchi)

END