
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE/PROVINCE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand
2 its international ties and has an abiding interest in the
3 developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between
4 the people of Hawaii and the people of Asian and Pacific
5 countries; and

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7 WHEREAS, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawaii
8 has established a number of sister-state relationships with
9 provinces in the Pacific region; and

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11 WHEREAS, because of the historical relationship between the
12 United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines,
13 there continue to exist valid reasons to promote international
14 friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of both
15 countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as it serves
16 the common interests of both countries; and

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18 WHEREAS, there are historical precedents exemplifying the
19 common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial,
20 educational, and financial bridge between ethnic Filipinos
21 living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business
22 counterparts in the Philippines, such as the previously
23 established sister-city relationship between the City and County
24 of Honolulu and the City of Cebu in the Province of Cebu; and

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26 WHEREAS, similar state-province relationships exist between
27 the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte,
28 Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Isabela, where cooperation and



1 communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of
2 business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism,
3 disaster preparedness, beach restoration, sports, health care,
4 social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and
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6 WHEREAS, a similar state-province relationship would
7 reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and
8 mutual assistance between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of
9 Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan has vast fertile land
13 resources, fishery and fabric industries, the world renowned
14 Boracay Island, and Aklan State University; and
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16 WHEREAS, the major industries of the Province of Aklan are
17 agriculture, including sugarcane, corn, coconut, and rice;
18 tourism; pina fabric; and materials for mats, pots, bags, fans,
19 and décor; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a
22 technological center in the Central Philippines with its growing
23 business process outsourcing and other technology-related
24 industries; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan is a top international
27 tourist destination in the Republic of the Philippines, making
28 the province much like Hawaii; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that there is authorized
33 and established a sister-state/province relationship, as advised
34 by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, between the State of
35 Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines;
36 and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor or the Governor's
39 designee is requested to keep the Legislature fully informed of
40 the process in establishing the sister-state/province
41 relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent
42 practicable; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of Aklan be
2 afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its
3 sister-states and provinces; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if by June 30, 2020, the
6 sister-state/province relationship with the Province of Aklan
7 has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic
8 benefits through local community support, the sister-
9 state/province relationship shall be withdrawn; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
13 United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of
14 the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's
15 Congressional Delegation, President of the Republic of the
16 Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, Governor and
17 Provincial Board of the Province of Aklan, Republic of the
18 Philippines, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of
19 the State Department of Business, Economic Development and
20 Tourism, and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State
21 Committee.

