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# HOUSE 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  
29 communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of  
30 business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism,



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



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

