



DEPT. COMM. NO. 219

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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December 21, 2016

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

In response to House Resolution 77, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is pleased to inform you that the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu has submitted a Hawaii Sister-State application to start the process of establishing a sister-state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines. Aklan Governor, Florencio Miraflores, has sent a letter in support of the establishment of a sister-state relationship to me. In my response to Governor Miraflores, I have asked him to provide DBEDT with the process that the Province of Aklan goes through to review and evaluate proposed sister-state/province relationships and to provide a list of sister-provinces that the Province of Aklan have established to date.

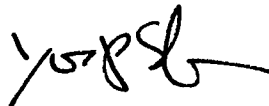
DBEDT is currently reviewing the documents Aklan submitted and have asked Philippine Consul General, Gina Jamoralin, the point of contact for the Aklan community in Hawaii, to provide DBEDT and the Hawaii Sister-State Committee with the justification for Hawaii to establish a sister relationship with Aklan.

When DBEDT receives the information requested from Governor Miraflores and Consul General Jamoralin, DBEDT will schedule a meeting of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to review the application, supporting documents and letters of support and evaluate the proposed relationship. The Committee will then forward their recommendation to the Legislature and to Governor Ige. Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 229-3, "Initiating sister-state relationships," allows the Legislature, if it so chooses, to adopt a concurrent resolution or enact session law to initiate a sister-state relationship.

Response to HR77
December 21, 2016
Page 2

Please contact Milton Kwock, DBEDT staff to the Hawaii Sister State Committee, at milton.kwock@hawaii.gov or call him at 808-587-2759 should you or your staff have any questions about the proposed sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis P. Salaveria', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luis P. Salaveria

Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016
STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 77
H.D. 1

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.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, similar state-province relationships exist between the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Isabela, where cooperation and communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism, disaster preparedness, beach restoration, sports, health care, social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, a similar state-province relationship would reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and mutual assistance between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan has vast fertile land resources, fishery and fabric industries, the world renowned Boracay Island, and Aklan State University; and

WHEREAS, the major industries of the Province of Aklan are agriculture, including sugarcane, corn, coconut, and rice; tourism; pina fabric; and materials for mats, pots, bags, fans, and décor; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a technological center in the Central Philippines with its growing business process outsourcing and other technology-related industries; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan is a top international tourist destination in the Republic of the Philippines, making the province much like Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, that there is authorized and established a sister-state/province relationship, as advised by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor or the Governor's designee is requested to keep the Legislature fully informed of the process in establishing the sister-state/province relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of Aklan be afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its sister-states and provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if by June 30, 2020, the sister-state/province relationship with the Province of Aklan has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic benefits through local community support, the sister-state/province relationship shall be withdrawn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, President of the Republic of the Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, Governor and Provincial Board of the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and

the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.