## H.C.R. NO. **[77**

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE SISTER-STATE APPLICATION AND, UPON APPROVAL, PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-PROVINCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is continually seeking to 2 expand its international ties and has an enduring interest in 3 the development of beneficial economic, social, cultural, 4 educational, and environmental relationships between the people 5 of Hawaii and the people of other nations throughout the world; 6 and 7

8 WHEREAS, since 1981, Hawaii has entered into 17 sister-9 state relationships, with the latest relationship being with the 10 Province of Goa, Republic of India, which still awaits 11 ratification; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to a large and vibrant Filipino
community that contributes culturally, socially, economically,
and educationally to Hawaii's well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Province of Aklan, Republic of
the Philippines, has submitted an application, which is
presently being reviewed by the Hawaii Sister-state Committee,
formally requesting the establishment of a sister-province
relationship between the State of Hawaii, United States of
America, and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines;
and

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WHEREAS, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a
 technological hub in the central Philippines, with growing
 business-process-outsourcing and other technology-related



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industries, and is a top international tourist destination, 1 2 making the province much like Hawaii; and 3 WHEREAS, in February 2017, the University of Hawaii at Hilo 4 5 and Aklan State University consummated a Memorandum of Understanding on International Exchange Programs, which will 6 7 provide for the exchange of scholars, students, academic 8 information, and materials in the belief that the agreement will enhance the research and educational processes at both 9 universities and that the establishment of such exchanges will 10 increase mutual understanding between their respective scholars 11 12 and students; and 13 WHEREAS, Section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides 14 15 that "The Hawaii sister-state committee shall evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of all sister-state 16 17 or province relationships and forward its recommendation to the The legislature, if it so chooses, shall implement legislature. 18 19 the recommendation to initiate a sister-state or province 20 relationship by either adopting a concurrent resolution or by enacting session law to that effect."; now, therefore, 21 22 23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 24 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-state 25 Committee is requested to: 26 27 28 (1)Evaluate the sister-state application of the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines; and 29 30 (2) Upon approval of the application, proceed with the 31 establishment of a sister-province relationship 32 between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan 33 of the Republic of the Philippines for the economic, 34 social, cultural, educational, and environmental 35 benefit of the people of both places; and 36 37 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if by June 30, 2020, the 39 sister-province relationship between the State of Hawaii and the 40 Province of Aklan has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic, social, cultural, educational, and 41 42 environmental benefits to the people of both places through



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local community support, the Hawaii Sister-state Committee may
 make a recommendation that the sister-province relationship
 should be terminated; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the 7 State of Hawaii; Governor of the Province of Aklan, Republic of 8 the Philippines; Consul General of the Republic of the 9 Philippines in Honolulu; Director of Business, Economic 10 Development, and Tourism; and Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-11 state Committee.

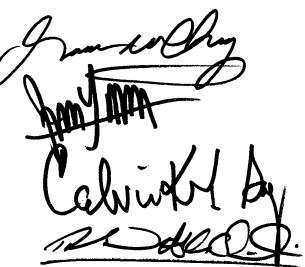
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