
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during its service
2 in World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th
3 Infantry Battalion, composed almost entirely of second-
4 generation Japanese-American soldiers, many from Hawaii,
5 together earned seven presidential unit citations, two
6 meritorious service plaques, thirty-six army commendation
7 medals, and eighty-seven division commendations. Individual
8 soldiers in these units were awarded a combined eighteen
9 thousand decorations.

10 The legislature also finds that in September 1944, the men
11 of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were assigned to the
12 invasion of southern France under the 7th Army and took part in
13 the drive into the Vosges mountains. Over the course of four
14 weeks that fall, they liberated the towns of Bruyeres and
15 Biffontaine, in the Department of Vosges, and also rescued the
16 141st Regiment's 1st Battalion, known as the "Lost Battalion",



1 which had been cut off from its division and surrounded by enemy
2 troops for four days.

3 The 442nd Regimental Combat Team's actions to liberate
4 Bruyeres on October 30, 1944, were so heroic that a monument in
5 the town, dedicated to the soldiers, proclaims that they
6 "reaffirmed an historic truth here that loyalty to one's country
7 is not modified by racial origin," and "[t]hese Americans, whose
8 ancestors were Japanese, . . . broke the back-bone of the German
9 defense". Based on their shared history, cities of Bruyeres and
10 Honolulu in 1961 established a sister-city relationship that
11 continues today.

12 The legislature further finds that the department of
13 business, economic development, and tourism has established
14 close working relationships with foreign governments and non-
15 governmental organizations, federal agencies, and national
16 organizations. Many of these relationships have been
17 established pursuant to the department of business, economic
18 development, and tourism's sister-state program. These sister-
19 state relationships raise Hawaii's international profile,
20 attract dynamic cooperative programs, and stimulate Hawaii's
21 economy. The legislature finds that establishing a sister-state



1 relationship with the Department of Vosges in France would serve
2 to promote economic benefits to both states, including cross-
3 cultural tourism, in addition to an historic friendship,
4 significant cultural ties, and general goodwill.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
6 department of business, economic development, and tourism to
7 establish a sister-state relationship with the Department of
8 Vosges, France.

9 SECTION 2. The department of business, economic
10 development, and tourism shall evaluate, make recommendations,
11 and establish, exempt from section 229-3, Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes, a sister-state relationship between the State and the
13 Department of Vosges in France.

14 The department of business, economic development, and
15 tourism shall submit a report to the legislature no later than
16 twenty days prior to the regular session of 2020, and each
17 subsequent legislative session until the sister-state
18 relationship is fully established. The report shall detail the
19 department's progress, findings, and recommendations, including
20 any proposed legislation, relating to the evaluation and



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1 establishment of a sister-state relationship with the Department
2 of Vosges, France.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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Report Title:

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
Sister-State Relationship; Establishment; Biffontaine; Bruyeres;
Department of Vosges; France

Description:

Requires the Hawaii sister-state committee to evaluate, develop recommendations, and establish a sister-state relationship with the Department of Vosges, France.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

