



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Thursday, April 15, 2021
2:00PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

In consideration of
SCR 241, SD1
**ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF
YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SCR 241, SD1 to establish the Hawaii-Yamaguchi Sister-State Relationship.

Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State of Hawaii have had a strong relationship from the early days of the Kanyaku-Imin when the first immigrants left Japan, with over 10,000 people from Yamaguchi Prefecture, for Hawaii to work as contract laborers. Enabling the official sister-state relationship to be signed will contribute to ongoing people-to-people exchanges in education, culture, business and government between Hawaii and Yamaguchi to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FR: Reyna Kaneko
President
Japan-America Society of Hawai'i

RE: SCR241, SD1 ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PREFECTURE OF YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN.

DT: Thursday, April 15, 2021, 2:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 329

Chair Johanson and Vice Chair Kitagawa:

On behalf of the Japan-America Society of Hawai'i, we strongly support SCR241, SD1 requesting a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai'i and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi, Japan be established.

Sister State relationships play a key role in fostering important relationships between Hawai'i and foreign countries. Since the immigration of the Japanese to Hawai'i in the 1800's, persons from Yamaguchi, Japan have played an integral role as contract laborers in Hawai'i, and then, the overall economic, social and cultural development of modern Hawaii. Over the decades, Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai groups have also upheld the bonds and relationships through cultural and business exchanges between Japan and Hawai'i, including study abroad and academic exchanges and tour groups.

SCR241, SD1 would formalize a Sister state relationship between the State of Hawai'i and Yamaguchi, Japan, and continue the vibrant relationship that has existed over the years. We recommend this committee support SCR241, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

/S/

REYNA KANEKO
President
Japan-America Society of Hawai'i
808-292-0049

SCR-241-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 4:34:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/15/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support. Mahalo