



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
10:50 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HCR 14
**ESTABLISHING A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF
HAWAII, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF
MADEIRA, PORTUGAL.**

Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports HCR 14**, which establishes a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii, United States of America, and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal.

In 2006, the Legislature established the Hawaii Sister-State Committee. Its responsibility includes providing recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on proposed sister-state relationships. Accordingly, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee has developed an application and process for entities seeking to establish a sister-state relationship with the State of Hawaii. After submitting a very comprehensive application for this new sister-state relationship which included extensive community support in both counties, the Sister-State Committee met on November 16, 2021 and recommended approval to the Legislature and the Governor.

The State of Hawaii already has one sister-state relationship with the Azores Islands, Portugal signed in 1982, which has not been very active in recent years. It is hoped that this Azores Islands sister-state relationship will be re-invigorated as a result of this new relationship with the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.