
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE
INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAWAII
AND THE SPANISH PROVINCE OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's relations with sister-states and
2 provinces are governed by chapter 229, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes, the initiation of a sister-state relationship between
7 Hawaii and another state or province follows an evaluation and
8 recommendation by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, which then
9 forwards its recommendation to the Legislature for its
10 consideration; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Legislature, if it so chooses, implements the
13 sister-state or province relationship by either adopting a
14 concurrent resolution or enacting a session law for that
15 purpose; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the province of the Balearic Islands, also known
18 as Baleares, is comparable to Hawaii in many ways, including but
19 not limited to geography, tourism, housing, and climate; and
20

21 WHEREAS, both island chains have long had a reputation as
22 leading visitor industry innovators and beach island visitor
23 destinations in their respective regions--Hawaii in the Pacific
24 and Baleares in the Mediterranean; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Hawaii and Baleares face many of the same issues:
27 an over-reliance on tourism as the main economic driver; a large
28 influx over the last sixty years of new residents, sparking a
29 massive development boom that has impacted local culture;
30 mounting local concerns about over-tourism; a major affordable



1 housing deficit that has led to workforce shortages;
2 environmental degradation and growing threats of devastating
3 wildfires; concerns about water supplies; and a reliance on
4 imports for approximately ninety percent of the food supply,
5 amongst many other similarities; and
6

7 WHEREAS, Baleares has been experimenting in recent years
8 with some of the same policies that have been or are currently
9 being debated in Hawaii, such as emphasizing "quality" tourism
10 to realize higher revenues from fewer visitors; restricting
11 short term visitor rentals; imposing a visitor eco-tax; adopting
12 and promoting an industry sustainability pledge; imposing
13 development restrictions on the principal island's most admired
14 coast, the Costa Nord or North Shore; expanding use of the once-
15 suppressed local language; expanding rail and bus mass transit,
16 bike lanes, pedestrianization, and other tools to reduce
17 reliance on automobiles; and stimulating rebirth of local food-
18 farming, amongst many other similarities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the combination of similar experiences on opposite
21 sides of the world already makes Hawaii and Baleares similar in
22 many ways, affording a valuable opportunity to learn from each
23 other about how to confront the most pressing issues of our
24 times; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-
29 State Committee is urged to:
30

31 (1) Consider the initiation of a sister-state relationship
32 between Hawaii and the Spanish province of Baleares;
33 and
34

35 (2) Conduct exploratory outreach to meet with appropriate
36 leaders representing the Balearic Islands; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sister-state partnership,
39 if established, is urged to focus on key issues impacting both
40 the Balearic Islands and Hawaii; and
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
3 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the
4 Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

