
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE STATE 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
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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
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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
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17 WHEREAS, the province of the Balearic Islands, also known
18 as Baleares, is comparable to Hawaii in many ways: with a
19 population of 1,200,000 compared to Hawaii's 1,400,000;
20 inhabiting four islands governed by four island councils, as
21 compared to Hawaii's seven inhabited islands governed by four
22 councils; whose principal economic sector is the visitor
23 industry from which gross annual revenues are approximately
24 \$18,000,000,000 which sum is almost identical to the value of
25 annual visitor activity in Hawaii, and which industry employs
26 roughly 171,000 people in Baleares compared to the two hundred
27 sixteen thousand employed in the industry in Hawaii; and
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29 WHEREAS, both island chains have long had a reputation as
30 the leading beach island visitor destination in their respective
31 non-competing regions--Hawaii in the Pacific, Baleares in the



1 Mediterranean--as well as a reputation as leading visitor
2 industry innovators; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii and Baleares face many of the same issues:
5 an over-reliance on tourism as the main economic driver; a large
6 influx over the last sixty years of new residents from the
7 mainland and elsewhere sparking a massive development boom that
8 has impacted local culture; mounting local concerns about over-
9 tourism; a major affordable housing deficit that has led to
10 workforce shortages; environmental degradation and growing
11 threats of devastating wildfires; concerns about water supplies;
12 and a reliance on imports for approximately ninety percent of
13 the food supply, amongst many other similarities; and
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15 WHEREAS, Baleares has been experimenting in recent years
16 with some of the same policies that have been or are currently
17 being debated in Hawaii including an emphasis on 'quality'
18 tourism to realize higher revenues from fewer visitors;
19 restricting short term visitor rentals; imposing a visitor eco-
20 tax; adopting and promoting an industry sustainability pledge;
21 imposing development restrictions on the principal island's most
22 admired coast, the Costa Nord or North Shore; expanding use of
23 the once-suppressed local language; expanding rail and bus mass
24 transit, bike lanes, pedestrianization, and other tools to
25 reduce reliance on automobiles; and stimulating rebirth of local
26 food-farming, amongst many other similarities; and
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28 WHEREAS, the combination of similar experiences on opposite
29 sides of the world already makes Hawaii and Baleares twins in
30 many ways, affording a valuable opportunity to learn from each
31 other about how to confront the most pressing issues of our
32 times; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to
37 consider the initiation of a sister-state relationship between
38 Hawaii and the Spanish province of Baleares; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is urged to conduct
41 exploratory outreach to meet with appropriate leaders
42 representing the Balearic Islands; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sister-state partnership is
3 urged to focus on key issues impacting both the Balearic Islands
4 and Hawaii; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
8 Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development,
9 and Tourism.

