
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 101, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 1992, established the office of international
3 relations to play a critical and needed role in fostering,
4 coordinating, and creating international programs and policies
5 that will affect the State's future development. The office was
6 seen of as a success in implementing policies and fostering
7 relationships within the Pacific region but was eventually
8 sunset on June 30, 1995.

9 The legislature further finds that The Matsunaga Institute
10 at the university of Hawaii college of social sciences is
11 dedicated to honoring the memory of United States Senator Spark
12 M. Matsunaga and implementing his hope that "every student
13 enrolled in Hawaii's public university system will be exposed to
14 peace studies." The Institute promotes cross-cultural
15 communication and peacemaking leadership and is committed to
16 building on Hawaii's cultural heritage and island values of



1 aloha, mutual aid and respect, a sense of community, and caring
2 for the land.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Establish the Matsunaga aloha pacific academy within
5 the office of international relations to facilitate
6 international affairs meetings regarding the Pacific
7 region; and

8 (2) Rename the office of international affairs to the
9 office of international relations and expand its
10 functions and duties.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§201- Matsunaga aloha pacific academy. (a) There is
15 established the Matsunaga aloha pacific academy within the
16 office of international relations under section 201-17 for
17 administrative purposes.

18 (b) The academy shall:

19 (1) Collaborate with the Matsunaga Institute of the
20 university of Hawaii college of social sciences;



- 1 (2) Raise funds for operating and administrative expenses
- 2 from private sources, government and non governmental
- 3 entities, nonprofit foundations, and other
- 4 organizations;
- 5 (3) Establish a main facility on the island of Kauai, in
- 6 honor of the home of former United States Senator
- 7 Spark Matsunaga; and
- 8 (4) Facilitate international affairs meetings regarding
- 9 the Pacific region."

10 SECTION 3. Section 201-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "~~+~~\$201-17~~+~~ **Office of international ~~[affairs]~~**

13 **relations; established.** (a) There is established, within the

14 department of business, economic development, and tourism, an

15 office of international ~~[affairs.]~~ relations. The head of the

16 office shall be known as the director of international

17 relations. The director shall have experience in international

18 affairs, business, law, or other related fields. The director

19 shall be appointed by the governor without regard to chapters 76

20 and 89, and shall be paid at a salary level that shall not

21 exceed per cent of the salary of the director of business,



1 economic development, and tourism. The director, may retain
2 staff as necessary without regard to chapters 76 and 89.

3 (b) The office shall[+] serve as the principal resource
4 for the overall analysis, formulation, and coordination of state
5 policies and strategies relating to international matters. The
6 office shall:

7 (1) Develop policies and strategies that promote and
8 strengthen relations with other countries in the areas
9 of international business, economy, culture, and the
10 arts;

11 (2) Develop policies that promote transportation between,
12 and tourism with, other countries;

13 (3) Develop and promote international telecommunications
14 and high technology exchanges;

15 (4) Encourage the development of international sister-city
16 programs, pairing Hawaii cities with cities around the
17 globe for artistic, cultural, economic, educational,
18 and faith-based exchanges;

19 (5) Develop and promote Hawaii as the economic, trade,
20 commerce, transportation, banking, and tourism hub of
21 the Pacific;



- 1 (6) Develop an international affairs and peace education
2 curriculum that includes studies of international
3 affairs and peace initiatives and takes a proactive,
4 strategic approach to the development of policies that
5 promote the prevention of national and international
6 conflict, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful
7 resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of
8 conflict; [~~and~~]
- 9 (7) Provide for exchanges of individuals between Hawaii
10 and other nations to develop international and peace-
11 based initiatives[~~-~~];
- 12 (8) Formulate and articulate comprehensive statewide
13 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities with
14 respect to matters of an international nature;
- 15 (9) Identify and analyze significant issues, problems, and
16 opportunities in the international arena that may
17 confront the State and its citizens;
- 18 (10) Serve as the governor's representative and State's
19 liaison with county, state, and federal agencies, as
20 well as foreign governments and their local
21 consulates, with respect to international matters; and



1 (11) Provide direction and coordination of the
2 international programs, projects, and activities of
3 the various state departments and agencies.

4 (c) The office shall develop a comprehensive state
5 strategic plan for international activities. The plan shall
6 include the establishment of immediate and long-range goals for
7 programs and services relating to international activities in
8 the State and the assignment of goals to appropriate state
9 agencies. The office shall submit the state strategic plan to
10 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
11 of the regular session of 2026.

12 (d) It shall be the duty and responsibility of every state
13 agency with operating programs and services relating to
14 international activities to coordinate with the office in
15 actively working toward the goals and objectives articulated in
16 the state strategic plan. The executive heads of all
17 appropriate departments and agencies shall cooperate with the
18 office in providing information as the office deems necessary
19 for the effective discharge of its duties. Nothing in this
20 section shall be deemed to delegate or detract in any way from



1 the functions, powers, and duties prescribed by law for any
2 other department or agency of the State.

3 [~~e~~] (e) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
4 if any of the responsibilities or duties of the office of
5 international affairs under this section overlap with the
6 responsibilities or duties of another agency or authority under
7 this chapter, the office of international affairs shall have
8 exclusive jurisdiction and authority over those responsibilities
9 and duties."

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
14 year 2026-2027 for the office of international relations.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
17 of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO. 1331

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INTRODUCED BY:

A. Temple

JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1331

Report Title:

DBEDT; Office of International Relations; Matsunaga Aloha Pacific Academy; Appropriation

Description:

Changes the name and expands the functions and duties of the Office of International Relations. Establishes the Matsunaga Aloha Pacific Academy within the Office of International Relations.

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