

SR-176

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:48:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/1/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

SR-176

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 1:26:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/1/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support this resolution. We can learn a significant amount from the Kingdom of Norway. Norway is ranked as one of the happiest countries to live in and has one of the lowest recidivism rates for crime. Usnews ranked number 4 in quality of life and is one of the highest in the world committed to climate change.

SR-176

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 2:59:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/1/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Nodine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waste of our precious time and resources. DO SOME REAL WORK.



April 1, 2025

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair; Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Support (SCR 196 and SR 176)

Establishing a Sister State Relationship Between the State of Hawai'i and the Kingdom of Norway

My name is William F. Anonsen, Managing Partner and Principal of The Maritime Group, and a member of the Consular Corps of Hawai'i. I respectfully would like to express my strong and enthusiastic support for the establishment of a formal Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai'i and the Kingdom of Norway. Such a partnership would not only be forward-thinking and strategically aligned, it would also honor a shared maritime legacy that began nearly a century and a half ago.

As the Managing Partner and Principal of *The Maritime Group*, an international maritime consulting firm based in Honolulu, and a proud member of the Consular Corps of Hawai'i, I have dedicated a significant portion of my career to building international bridges through maritime partnerships and diplomacy. I also speak from personal experience: I was born in Skien, Norway, and my extended family continues to live throughout the country in Oslo, Drammen, Arendal, Ski, and Fredrikstad. My 92-year-old mother still lives independently in Drammen, and I return to Norway often to maintain strong personal and professional ties to my homeland.

That homeland shares a historic link with Hawai'i that dates back to October 1879, when the sailing bark *BETA* sailed out of Drammen, Norway, carrying approximately 300 Norwegians who had signed contracts to work on Hawai'i's sugar plantations. This marked the first organized recruitment of Norwegians for labor in what was seen by many as the "Promised Land" in the Pacific. It was the beginning of a significant, if modest, chapter in Hawai'i's immigration story, as the Hawaiian Kingdom sought skilled and hardy laborers to support its expanding plantation economy.

These early Norwegian immigrants endured long voyages and challenging work under the tropical sun, but many brought with them not only strength and endurance but also values that still resonate in Hawai'i today: craftsmanship, maritime knowledge, and a deep sense of community. Some remained in the islands after their contracts ended, contributing to Hawai'i's diverse cultural and economic landscape.

Today, Hawai'i and Norway continue to share natural affinities as oceanic societies, champions of sustainability, and leaders in innovation. A Sister State relationship would deepen our cooperation in areas such as:

- **Renewable Energy & Green Innovation:** Norway's global leadership in offshore wind, hydrogen, and electrified maritime systems aligns perfectly with Hawai'i's renewable energy goals.

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- **Maritime & Ocean Stewardship:** As nations with rich maritime traditions, we can collaborate on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, shipbuilding, port innovation, and ocean research.
- **Academic, Indigenous & Cultural Exchange:** A formal agreement can support partnerships between the University of Hawai'i and leading Norwegian institutions while also facilitating indigenous exchange between the Native Hawaiian and Sámi communities.
- **Trade, Tourism & Investment:** Opportunities abound in areas such as green technology, sustainable tourism, seafood products, and marine logistics.
- **Climate Resilience & Global Dialogue:** As climate-vulnerable coastal regions, both Hawai'i and Norway can lead in global conversations on adaptation, clean energy transitions, and cultural sustainability.

This initiative reflects not only practical alignment, it embodies a deep respect for our shared history and cultural kinship. From the sailing bark *BETA*'s departure from Drammen in 1879 to the present-day collaboration between our nations, this relationship has the potential to inspire innovation, foster deeper friendships, and contribute to a more sustainable world.

I respectfully encourage the Hawai'i State Legislature and State administration to move forward with a formal resolution and initiate discussions with the Norwegian government to establish this Sister State relationship. I am fully committed to supporting this effort and look forward to assisting in its advancement.

Mahalo for your dedication to Hawai'i's international partnerships and for embracing a vision that connects our past to a stronger, more resilient future.

With warmest aloha and regards,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal

Consular Corps of Hawaii - Member