

ACT 168

H.B. NO. 2031

A Bill for an Act Relating to International Services.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a major problem facing local small- and medium-sized companies seeking to compete in world markets is the lack of professional, diplomatic, and cultural counseling to potential and existing exporters and other persons wishing to do business in those markets. Similarly, foreign companies and persons who wish to do business in Hawaii cannot now go to a centralized agency to obtain up-to-date information on business, government, politics, resource management, and other concerns of international business persons in Hawaii.

The legislature further finds that the State and counties, if given appropriate

ACT 168

assistance, could do a better job of hosting visiting foreign dignitaries, coordinating and supporting the various international programs in the State, and providing necessary services to foster international trade and relations.

The purpose of this Act is to conduct a study and develop a plan to accomplish these objectives.

SECTION 2. The office of state planning shall conduct a study of methods to strengthen Hawaii's participation in international activities and develop a strategic plan.

The study shall provide specific recommendations to coordinate international activities of the State and to establish a central agency in the State government for international activities in Hawaii including recommendations:

- (1) For trade and exchange programs with sister-states;
- (2) For a protocol services program including:
 - (A) Oversight of sister-state activities;
 - (B) Maintenance of a list of foreign dignitaries visiting this State;
 - (C) A hosting program for visiting dignitaries;
 - (D) Briefings on business, government, politics, resource management, and other general information about Hawaii for visiting dignitaries;
 - (E) Briefings on business, government, politics, resource management, and other topics for Hawaii state and county officials with respect to the foreign countries they will visit;
 - (F) Debriefings of Hawaii state and county officials returning to Hawaii from foreign countries; and
 - (G) Briefings on customs, political and economic systems, and other pertinent matters for outbound business people, educators, students, and others from Hawaii with respect to the foreign countries they will visit;
- (3) For placement of the protocol program and the trade and exchange programs with sister-states in the appropriate agency or agencies;
- (4) Of the appropriate agency in which to establish a clearinghouse for information on international business development work by the University of Hawaii, other institutions of higher learning, and federal agencies located in Hawaii;
- (5) For provision of matching funds to nonprofit organizations in Hawaii promoting internationalism.

The study shall include an analysis of the legislative and financial requirements to implement the recommendations of the study.

The strategic plan for the expansion of international business activity in the state shall include:

- (1) Identification of resources and activities in Hawaii which are of interest and importance to Pacific and Asian countries;
- (2) An assessment of the interest or need for Hawaii's resources in the Pacific region;
- (3) An assessment of the costs and benefits to Hawaii of providing the resources or activities identified in the plan, including an analysis of Hawaii's competitive advantages and disadvantages;
- (4) A review of the effectiveness of publications and other sources of information about Hawaii produced and distributed by the State or counties to foreign investors and prospective business interests; and

- (5) Evaluation of the preparation of information for dignitaries to promote interest in inventing or doing business in Hawaii.

SECTION 3. There is established within the office of state planning an advisory council for international services which shall assist the office in the preparation of the study and the development of the strategic plan. The advisory council shall consist of twelve members. Five members shall be appointed by the governor and two each shall be appointed by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate. At least five of these nine appointees shall be representatives of Hawaii-based businesses or organizations with international interests. Additionally, the director of business and economic development and the president of the University of Hawaii, or their designated representatives, shall be ex officio voting members of the council; and the president of the East-West Center, or the president's designated representative, shall be invited to serve as an ex officio voting member.

Any vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same manner in which the original position was filled. The council shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The council shall cease operations on June 1, 1989.

SECTION 4. The office of state planning and the advisory council in conducting this study shall convene a conference involving interested members of the community. The conference shall be to review and discuss drafts of the strategic plan.

SECTION 5. The office of state planning shall submit its study and strategic plan to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 1989.

SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1988-1989, to carry out the purposes of this Act, to be divided in the following manner:

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| Study | \$25,000 |
| Administrative support | 25,000 |
| Conference | 10,000 |
| Protocol activities, including the development of a program of response to ceremonial exchanges with representatives of foreign nations | 15,000. |

SECTION 7. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of the governor for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1988.

(Approved June 6, 1988.)