

ACT 150

S.B. NO. 3192

A Bill for an Act Relating to Sister State and Province Relationships.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to statutorily reestablish the process for initiating and maintaining sister state and sister province relationships as outlined by the former state office of international relations in 1993.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER
SISTER STATE AND PROVINCE RELATIONSHIPS**

§ -1 **Definition.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, “sister state or province relationship” means a relationship

between the State of Hawaii and the state or province or similar governmental or political subdivision of a foreign nation.

§ **-2 Hawaii sister state committee.** There shall be established the Hawaii sister state committee, to be placed within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes only, consisting of five members appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34.

The purpose of the committee shall be to advise the governor and the legislature on matters relating to sister state or province relations and relations, in general, between the State and the states or provinces of foreign countries. The governor shall appoint five members, one member from each of five lists of nominees submitted respectively by the following:

- (1) Speaker of the house of representatives;
- (2) President of the senate;
- (3) Native Hawaiian cultural organization;
- (4) East-West Center; and
- (5) Hawaii State Association of Counties.

A chair and vice chair of the committee shall be appointed by the committee members from among themselves. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

§ **-3 Initiating sister-state relationships.** The Hawaii sister state committee shall evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of all sister state or province relationships and forward its recommendation to the legislature. The legislature, if it so chooses, shall implement the recommendation to initiate a sister state or province relationship by either adopting a concurrent resolution or by enacting session law to that effect.

§ **-4 Maintaining sister state relationships.** The Hawaii sister state committee shall periodically evaluate established sister state relationships and forward its recommendations on maintaining sister state relationships to the governor and to the legislature.

§ **-5 Dissolving sister state relationships.** The Hawaii sister state committee may make a recommendation to terminate a sister state relationship it deems to be defunct, moribund, or not beneficial and forward its recommendation to the legislature. The legislature, if it so chooses, shall implement the recommendation to terminate a sister state relationship either by adopting a concurrent resolution or by enacting session law to that effect.”

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 30, 2006.)