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**REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE  
AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A  
SISTER- STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND  
THE PREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS  
RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, AS REQUESTED IN SENATE  
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 201, SENATE DRAFT 1, SLH 2015.**

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A Report to the Legislature of  
the State of Hawaii

Submitted by

**The Department of Business,  
Economic Development & Tourism**

**December 2015**

## INTRODUCTION:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 201, S.D. 1 requests the Hawaii Sister-State Committee to evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of a sister state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan, and forward its recommendation to the legislature, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for further action.

In the absence of a quorum of members appointed to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee as of October 31, 2015, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) submits this report on behalf of the committee.

## OVERVIEW:

DBEDT identified the following business, community and government activities taking place between Hawaii and Hokkaido:

1. **Hokkaido Jinkai Hawaii:** The community organization was established in 1972 and registered as a nonprofit organization in 2013 and was renamed Hokkaido Club Hawaii. There are 100 active members of the organization.
2. **Hawaiian Airlines:** Hawaiian Airlines inaugurated triangle flights between Honolulu and Sapporo and Sendai in 2012 using the Boeing 767-300ER which seats up to 264 passengers. On September 30, Hawaiian Airlines ended its service to Sendai citing low growth in the market. It currently operates regularly scheduled, nonstop flights between Honolulu and Sapporo, three times per week.
3. **Tokachi Region and the HAPA Group:** The Hawaii Asia Pacific Association (HAPA) was started in 2004, by Walter Dods. The group, numbering 55 CEOs in Hawaii, travels to various Asia-Pacific countries once a year to build cross-cultural relationships and to learn and share knowledge. The Young Leader's version of HAPA was started by Duane Kurisu, in 2012 and the group identified places in Japan that might need assistance with a historic industry. The group chose Tokachi because it is the breadbasket of Japan and in helping Tokachi they would help the whole country. Their Japanese counterparts to Hawaii's HAPA Young Leaders are prepared to lend their expertise in technology to support Hawaii's farming system.
4. **Hawaii Baseball Exchange:** Representative Ken Ito visited Sapporo/Hokkaido, from August 30 - September 1 to meet with Sapporo/Hokkaido Baseball officials to initiate discussions on starting a youth baseball exchange between Hawaii and Sapporo/Hokkaido. Rep. Ito met with Mr. Daisuke Ebina who is the head of the Sapporo Japan Baseball Club and Mr. Hideaki Nishimura who served as a liaison for the baseball league officials and agreed to begin international youth baseball exchange in 2016, with Hawaii visiting Sapporo/Hokkaido and Sapporo/Hokkaido visiting Hawaii, in 2017.

Although the teams will use baseball as the primary vehicle to develop a closer relationship between Sapporo/Hokkaido and Hawaii, the focus of the exchange is to develop friendships and closer ties with Sapporo/Hokkaido that will merge into other relationships in the areas of educational, cultural and business exchanges. The Hawaii players selected will assume an “Ambassador” role, and will be asked to share their culture with the people of Sapporo/Hokkaido.

5. **Memorandum of Understanding between Hawaii and Hokkaido signed by its respective Lt./Vice-Governors:** In January 2014, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Hokkaido Vice Governor Osamu Takai to explore the possibility of expanding economic cooperation and a sister-state/prefecture relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hokkaido.
6. **Legislative Mission to Hokkaido to Establish a Sister-State Relationship:** On August 30-September 1, 2015, a five member delegation from the State House of Representatives participated in a legislative mission to Sapporo, Hokkaido to meet with Hokkaido Prefectural government officials to promote the twinning with Hawaii, and to ascertain the status of Hokkaido’s interest. Representatives who participated in the mission included the following: Representatives Ken Ito, Mark Hashem, Justin Woodson, Jo Jordan and Roy Takumi.
7. **Application for Sister State Relationship completed and submitted for review:** The Hokkaido Club Hawaii submitted a sister-state application to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee for reconsideration of Hokkaido as a sister-state of Hawaii.

These activities served as the basis for DBEDT to dialogue with strategic persons in the Hokkaido government to ascertain the interest of Hokkaido Prefecture to enter into a sister-state relationship with Hawaii.

## **FINDINGS:**

As part of the Legislative Mission to Hokkaido mentioned previously, DBEDT interviewed several individuals of the Hokkaido government identified below. A summary of the meetings with the most influential individuals are as follows.

1. **Taketo EMOTO, Director, International Affairs Division, Office of the Governor:** In a meeting with Rep. Ken Ito, DBEDT Director Luis Salaveria and DBEDT Division Administrator Dennis Ling, Mr. Emoto inquired about the requirements from the Hawaii side for a sister-state relationship, and the benefits that Hawaii perceives to be realized. In a letter from him to DBEDT Director Luis Salaveria dated December 10, 2015, he stated that his intention for the meeting was to “be sure whether Hawaii seriously intends to enter into the sister-state relationship with Hokkaido.”
2. **Hiro ARAKAWA, Vice-Governor:** In a courtesy call with members of a Hawaii legislative group that included Representatives Ken Ito, Mark Hashem, Justin Woodson, Jo Jordon and Roy Takumi, and DBEDT Director Salaveria and Administrator Ling, the

Vice-Governor identified some specific fields of exchange which might be possible with a sister-state relationship, e.g. agriculture and agricultural technology, and exchanges with Hokkaido University.

3. **Ren ENDO, Speaker of Hokkaido Legislative Assembly:** Speaker Endo, met in a courtesy call with Representatives Ken Ito, Mark Hashem, Justin Woodson, Jo Jordon and Roy Takumi, and DBEDT Director Salaveria and Administrator Ling. Per the December 10, 2015 letter from Taketo Emoto, the meeting is recounted as follows:

*Speaker Endo...meant that both regions will need to be actively committed to mutual visits and business exchange if Hawaii and Hokkaido build and tighten the bond in the name of "sister-states"... (and) has expressed his intention toward the future plan with Hawaii as follows: "Hokkaido Legislative Assembly and Hokkaido Government began arrangement to visit Hawaii in April 2016 or after, in view of expressing gratitude for the Hawaiian delegation's visit to Hokkaido and of seeking further exchanges between Hawaii and Hokkaido. During the meeting, the Hawaiian delegation offered an invitation with an invitation letter to be sent afterwards to the assembly. Now I am looking forward to receiving one."*

4. **Sumio FUJISAWA, Member of the Hokkaido Legislative Assembly:** He is the Assemblyman charged with advising Speaker Endo about the sister state relationship. In the December 10, 2015 letter from Mr. Emoto, he states that Assemblyman Fujisawa views a sister state relationship with Hawaii as significant.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Hokkaido's concern as to whether Hawaii seriously intends to enter into a relationship with Hawaii is valid. And the converse as to whether Hokkaido is likewise seriously interested needs to be addressed. Both sides, however, appear positively inclined to do so.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Hawaii Sister-State Committee voted to approve the establishment of a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hokkaido Prefecture and DBEDT recommends that the Legislature support the establishment of the sister-state relationship.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Memorandum of Cooperation signed by Lieutenant Governor & Vice Governor
2. Sister-State application submitted on behalf of the Hokkaido Club Hawaii
3. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 201, Senate Draft 1

# MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN  
THE HOKKAIDO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT  
IN JAPAN  
AND  
THE HAWAII STATE GOVERNMENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hokkaido Prefectural Government in Japan and The Hawaii State Government in the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as "Both Sides");

Desiring further development of mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two regions;

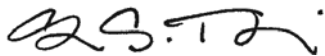
Intending to explore the potential for establishing a sister region partnership in the future; and

Emphasizing the importance in promoting cooperation between Both Sides;

Have reached the following common agreement:

- 1 Both Sides will endeavor to promote reciprocal visits of representatives and exchanges between administration officials.
- 2 Both Sides will endeavor to share information with each other regarding the fields which may bring mutual benefit to the two regions, and to hold meetings to discuss potential cooperation in these fields.
- 3 Recognizing the complementary nature of the two region's economies and their needs, with the participation of organizations, economic entities and education institutions from the private and public sectors of the two regions, Both Sides will work toward the development of mutual cooperation.
- 4 This Memorandum creates no legal or financial obligation.

This Memorandum was signed in duplicate (English and Japanese, 2 copies each) in Sapporo, Japan on January 30, 2014.



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Mr. Shan S. Tsutsui  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Hawaii,  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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Mr. Osamu Takai  
Vice Governor,  
Prefecture of Hokkaido,  
JAPAN



**STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**SISTER-STATE APPLICATION FORM**

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in proposing a new Sister-State Relationship for the State of Hawaii. In addition to completing this application form, please provide other pertinent information/supporting documents that would be useful to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee during the decision-making process.

Mahalo.

Office of International Affairs/Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

<b>REQUIRED INFORMATION</b>		
Name of Proposed Sister-State:	HOKKAIDO	
Governing Agency of Sister-State:	HOKKAIDO CLUB HAWAII	
Liaison: HOKKAIDO CLUB HAWAII	Last Name: NARA	First Name: KANZO
	Address (complete): 1785 S.KING ST SUITE7,HONOLULU, HI, 96826	
	Telephone: ( ) 808-343-4040	Fax: ( )
	E-mail: nara@qpwanted.com	
List Existing Sister-State Relationships:	1. Alberta, Canada	6. Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea
	2. Heilongjiang, China	7. Seoul, South Korea
	3. Massachusetts, USA	8.
	4. Sakhalin Oblast, Russia	9.
	5. Busan, South Korea	10.
Please attach official documentation of proof of interest to establish a Sister-State Relationship with the State of Hawaii (legislation, cover letter of request, etc.).		
Please provide any additional information and/or requirements pertaining to your Sister-State policy.		

*\* Please attach additional sheets to expand on your responses.*

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

<b>Major Industries</b> (please list):	Paper Milling, Beer Brewing, Coal Mining, Agriculture, Fishery industry, Tourism, Information Technology
<i>Please describe government policies, programs, etc. for the following categories.</i>	
<b>Trade:</b> <small>(Free Trade Zone or Economic Zone)</small>	1. Central, 2. South, 3. Tokachi, 4. North, 5. Okhotsk, 6. Kushiro-Nemuro
<b>Environment:</b>	Humid continental climate & Taiga biome
<b>Labor:</b>	Service 36.3%, Retail 16.7%, Infrastructure and Transport 15.5% Manufacturing 8.1% Agriculture 5.6%
<b>Health:</b>	
<b>Education:</b> <small>(including global education programs)</small>	Hokkaido Prefectural Board of Education, Hokkaido University, Muroran Institute of Technology, Otaru University
<b>Tourism:</b>	Snow Festival, Shiretoko National Park, Shikotsu-Tōya National Park, Kushiro Wetland, Niseko Ski Resort
<b>Agriculture:</b>	Forage and manure crop 57%, Grain 10.6%, Vegetable 9.7% Rice Plant 9.8%
<b>Science and Technology:</b>	Sakura Internet Server, Fujitsu, Japan IBM, Nihon Unisys, Hudson, Amazon Japan
<b>Arts and Entertainment:</b>	Ainu Sculpture, Yosakoi Dance Festival,
<b>Other Industries:</b>	

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

<b>Official Language:</b> Japanese	<b>Head of State:</b> Governor	<b>Government System:</b> Constitutional monarchy
<b>Governmental Structure:</b> Parliamentary system	<b>Legal System:</b> Civil law	<b>Transportation Systems:</b> Rail, Auto, Ship, Air
<b>Demographic Information</b> Boundary between northwestern Pacific Ocean, Sea of Japan, and Sea of Okhotsk Coordinates 43°N 142°E		
<b>Population:</b> 5,506,419	<b>Male:</b> 2,603,345	<b>Female:</b> 2,903,074
<b>Average Earnings:</b> \$40,000		
<b>Religions:</b> Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity	<b>Ethnic Diversity:</b> Japanese, Ainu	<b>Climate:</b> Taiga biome
<b>Educational System:</b> k-9 Public Education.	<b>Health/Medical System (hospitals; areas of expertise):</b> Asahikawa Medical University	<b>International Programs &amp; Exchanges:</b> Hokkaido International Foundation, Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center

### *Business, Independent Research Organizations, Think Tanks, Civic and/or Community Organizations, International Exchange Organizations and Affiliations (list along with major events):*

Organization Name	Events	Dates
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

9.		
10.		
<b>MEDIA</b>		
Official Website: http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/		
Major Television Stations: Hokkaido TV, Sapporo TV Station	Major Radio Stations: FM North Wave 82.5	
Trade Publications:	Other Internet-based Media:	
<b>OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<i>Special Attractions and Cultural Diversity (ethnic groups, activities, etc.):</i>		
Museums:	Sapporo Beer Museum, Hokkaido Kaitaku Kinenkan	Asahikawa Museum, Mikaza City Museum
Symphony:	Sapporo Symphony Orchestra	Kushiro Symphony Orchestra
Theatre and Performing Arts:	Yosakoi Soran Matsuri	
Folk Arts:	Nibutani Ainu Craft, Attus Ainu Aclotthing	
Festivals:	Sapporo Snow Festival, Ainu Bunka	
Traditional Handicrafts:	Nibutani Ainu Craft, Attus Ainu Aclotthing	
Zoo:	Maruyama Zoo, Asahiyama Zoo	
Aquarium:	Otaru Aquarium, Sun Plaza Aquarium, Muroran City Noboribetsu Marine Park,	
Other special attractions/examples of cultural diversity:	Sapporo Factory, MyCal Otaru, Chitose Airport Rusutsu Resort, Green Land Amusement park Sapporo Geijitsuno Mori, Nikka whiskey distillery	
<b>Sports Teams/Sporting Events</b>		
Professional:	Consadole Sapporo Soccer Nihon Ham Figthers	
Semi-professional:	Levanga Hokkaido Japan Pulp Crains	
Amateur:	Hokuren Women Track Team Yukijirushi Sky Club	
Official Sport:		
Sports Clubs:		
Major Sporting Events:		
<b>HISTORICAL INFORMATION</b>		
<p>Hokkaido was known as Ezochi until the Meiji Restoration. Shortly after the Boshin War in 1868, a group of Tokugawa loyalists led by Enomoto Takeaki temporarily occupied the island (the polity is commonly but mistakenly known as the Republic of Ezo), but the rebellion was crushed in May 1869. Ezochi was subsequently put under control of Hakodate-fu , (Hakodate Prefectural Government)</p> <p>When establishing the Development Commission (箱箱箱 Kaitakushi?), the Meiji Government introduced a new name. After 1869, the northern Japanese island was known as Hokkaido:[2] and regional subdivisions were established, including the provinces of Oshima, Shiribeshi, Iburi, Ishikari, Teshio, Kitami, Hidaka, Tokachi, Kushiro, Nemuro and Chishima.</p>		



**JUSTIFICATION IN ESTABLISHING SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF HAWAII**

1. Please explain why a Sister-State Relationship with the State of Hawaii is important to your state/province/prefecture.  
Hokkaido like Hawaii, is isolated from the central government in many ways, and tend to depend on external factors for both economic growth and culture development. With a sister state relationship with Hawaii, Hokkaido will be enriched by culture exchange, and trade on a international scale.

2. Please describe what your state envisions with a Sister-State Relationship with the State of Hawaii.

- 1. Increase travelers from and to Hokkaido and Hawaii
- 2. Promote Business expansions between Hawaii and Hokkaido
- 3. Promote product trade with Hokkaido and Hawaii
- 4. Increase culture events of both Hawaii and Hokkaido
- 5. Promote Educational exchange for young children

3. Please prioritize the reasons for a sister relationship with Hawaii.

**Please return completed form to:  
State of Hawaii Sister-State Committee  
Office of International Affairs  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
USA**

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

1           WHEREAS, due to its multicultural population since the days  
2 of the Hawaiian monarchy in the early 20th century, Hawaii  
3 maintains a heritage of international participation and cultural  
4 sensitivity unparalleled in other states; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, since 1981, the Legislature has instituted sister  
7 state relationships as a means of asserting the State's active  
8 participation in international matters; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains sixteen sister state  
11 relationships, including relationships with four Japan  
12 prefectures; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, Hokkaido is Japan's largest and northernmost  
15 prefecture and an important generator of tourism in Hawaii; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, Hokkaido's well-known wintertime and year-round  
18 recreational activities, along with cultural ties, attract many  
19 travelers from Hawaii; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and Hokkaido will be  
22 highly beneficial in expanding tourism, strengthening cultural  
23 bonds, and advancing common goals of international peace and  
24 brotherhood; now, therefore,

25  
26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-



2 State Committee is requested to evaluate and develop  
 3 recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state  
 4 relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of  
 5 Hokkaido, Japan; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State  
 7 Committee report its findings and recommendation, including  
 8 proposed legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state  
 9 relationship between Hawaii and the Prefecture of Hokkaido,  
 10 Japan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 11 convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

12  
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
 15 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in  
 16 Washington, D.C.; Governor of the Prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan;  
 17 Consul General of Japan in Hawaii; Governor of the State of  
 18 Hawaii; and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State  
 19 Committee.  
 20

