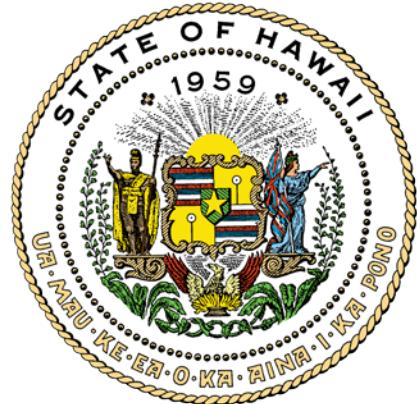


# **State of Hawaii's Sister-States**



**Business Development & Support Division  
Department of Business, Economic  
Development & Tourism**

**December 2017**

A Report to the Legislature of the State of Hawaii  
as Required by Act 150, SLH 2006



## HAWAII'S SISTER-STATE PROGRAM

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) has established close working relationships with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations, federal agencies and national organizations. These relationships serve to raise Hawaii's profile internationally, attract dynamic cooperative programs and stimulate Hawaii's economy. Many of these projects fall under DBEDT's Sister-State program.

In 1993, DBEDT recognized in a report that in establishing sister relationships, economic benefit should be co-equal to the "historic purposes of friendship, cultural ties, and goodwill." Consequently, any Sister-State relationship must provide for clear economic benefits. Hawaii's Sister-State Policy was based on the following criteria:

- Strong evidence of interest by the potential Sister-State.
- Clear prospects for mutual economic advantage.
- Substantial grassroots support for the relationship.
- A strong record of activities.
- Potential for expanded cultural, educational and government exchanges.

The report went on to state that:

- Sister-State relationships are partnerships between governments, but require active and ongoing participation by the private sector to sustain the relationship.
- Because the State's capacity to manage Sister-State relationships is finite, a means of terminating moribund or defunct relationships should be provided.

## SISTER-STATES PROCESS

The following is the process for establishing a Sister-State relationship:

- A detailed application form will be provided after initial consultation with DBEDT regarding a proposed relationship. The form to be filled out by proposer will include questions on such areas of possible linkages such as geography, economic structure, cultural resources, primary industries, foreign trade and business, and sports.
- DBEDT will make a preliminary review and develop a recommendation to the Governor.
- The Governor will review the recommendation and either hold the recommendation or forward it to the Legislature.

- The Legislature will then adopt a concurrent resolution which authorizes the Governor to enter into an agreement with the prospective Sister-State.
- DBEDT and the prospective sister develop the mechanics and language of the agreement and subsequent program of cooperation.

## SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE

The Sister-State Program is governed by Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 229 – Sister-State and Province Relationships. As part of this statute from 2006, a Hawaii Sister-State Committee was created (see Hawaii Revised Statutes 229-2 – Hawaii Sister-State Committee) within DBEDT in order 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 appoints 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.

### *Current Committee Members*

<b>Vacant</b>	Representing: Hawaii State Association of Counties
<b>Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs</b>	Representing: Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization Exp. 6/30/2017 (Holdover)
<b>Debra Nakama</b>	Representing: Speaker of the House of Representatives Exp. 6/30/2019
<b>Jean E. Rolles</b>	Representing: East-West Center Exp. 6/30/2020
<b>Eduardo Topenio Jr.</b>	Representing: President of the Senate Exp. 6/30/2019

The Sister-State Committee periodically meets to consider Sister-State applications and other related business.

As of 2017, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee had four active members and awaits the nomination and appointment of one additional member representing the Hawaii State Association of Counties. With three committee members constituting a quorum, the Committee is still able to meet and continue its focus on the following goals and objectives:

**1. The Committee takes an active role in evaluating prospective and current sister relationships, for both cultural and economic development reasons, with attention to fostering the most productive ties.**

There is agreement that most successful sister relationships occur when:

- a. There is commonality between Hawaii and the sister, primarily from geographical, historical, cultural or economic standpoints.
- b. There are active and interested support groups, such as Chambers of Commerce, cultural and civic associations.
- c. There are economic benefits for both sisters, such as increased numbers of visitors, or enhanced investment or marketing opportunities.
- d. Close ties have been established between educational institutions of the two potential sisters, including both student and faculty exchanges.
- e. There is a clear, strong governmental interest in not only forming, but maintaining the relationship.

**2. To ensure the productivity and viability of a sister relationship, the Committee has further reviewed and revised the sister-state application form. Last year the Committee also reviewed and revised the Policies and Procedures Manual which governs the process of nominating and evaluating prospective and existing sister-states.**

In addition to completing the revised application form, additional requirements include:

- a. A letter from the Governor of the proposed sister.
  - b. A designated point-of-contact person.
  - c. Recent activity reports between Hawaii and the proposed sister.
  - d. Recommendations for future activities.
- 3. The Committee periodically reviews the activities of each sister relation to determine which ties should be strengthened and which should be severed. The State has 17 sister relationships, dating back to 1981.**

**CURRENT SISTER-STATES AND YEAR ESTABLISHED**

<b>SISTER-STATES (Chronological order)</b>		
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROVINCE/PREFECTURE</b>	<b>YEAR ESTABLISHED</b>
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
Japan	Okinawa	1985
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
Korea	Jeju	1986
Greater China	Hainan	1992
Greater China	Taiwan	1993
Philippines	Cebu	1996
Japan	Hiroshima	1997
Philippines	Pangasinan	2002
Japan	Ehime	2003
Philippines	Ilocos Norte	2005
Philippines	Isabela	2006
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Hokkaido	2017

<b>SISTER-STATES (Alphabetical order by country and area)</b>		
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROVINCE/PREFECTURE</b>	<b>YEAR ESTABLISHED</b>
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
	Hainan	1992
	Taiwan	1993
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
	Okinawa	1985
	Hiroshima	1997
	Ehime	2003
	Hokkaido	2017
Korea	Jeju	1986
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
	Cebu	1996
	Pangasinan	2002
	Ilocos Norte	2005
	Isabela	2006
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982

## **SISTER-STATE ACTIVITIES 2016-2017**

### **GREATER CHINA**

#### **Guangdong Province (1985)**

In August 2017, twenty students from Young Sen Yit School, the sister-school relations with Hahaione Elementary School, visited Honolulu and Maui Island to see where Sun Yat-sen lived and studied. DBEDT recognized the students as Study Hawaii Ambassadors.

The Foreign Affairs Office of People's Government of Guangdong Province invited 14 sister-state representatives to attend the Subnational Exchange and Cooperation meeting in Guangdong, China, from June 11-18, 2017. The delegation visited four different cities in Guangdong Province:

Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Dongguan, and Shenzhen. The delegation also met with government offices and private sectors to discuss future cooperation.

DBEDT, in collaboration with Study Hawaii (Educational Consortium) and the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE), led an education exchange and promotion mission to Guangdong, from October 26-28, 2016. DBEDT's State of Hawaii Office in Beijing coordinated the meetings, school visits and presentations together with the U.S. Commercial Service and Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office. Seventeen individuals representing educational institutions and government participated in these activities. Guangdong Province, located in southern China, is China's largest province, with a total population exceeding 107 million people.

### **Hainan Province (1992)**

No activities reported in 2016-2017.

### **Taiwan (1993)**

August 27 – September 2, 2017, DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria visited Taiwan for the 2017 U.S. Business Day, which was hosted by the Economic Division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO). The purpose of this event was to promote bilateral trade and investment ties between Taiwan and the U.S. by encouraging Taiwanese buyers/importers to purchase high-quality products/services from U.S. sellers/exporters, and vice versa. Director Salaveria promoted Hawaii investment attraction, international student attraction, and export promotions during the event.

The State of Hawaii Office in Taipei (SHOT) organized and attended the following events to promote Hawaii as an international student attraction and investment attraction:

- Attended the 2017 APAIE Conference & Exhibition in Kaohsiung city, where global educators and school representatives met in Kaohsiung city to exchange viewpoints and seek cooperation and networking opportunities. More than 250 universities registered, including five school representatives from the University of Hawaii system and Leeward Community College.
- Conducted over 30 school visits to Taipei high schools and universities. Met with principals and international office directors. Delivered speeches to students whenever possible.
- Promoted Hawaii schools at major education fairs and delivered speeches at different Rotary clubs.
- Displayed school collateral at DBEDT Taipei office. Met and discussed study abroad opportunities with students and parents interested in Hawaii schools. Since 2015, over

30 students and parents have visited the Taipei office for education inquiries.

- Assisted, arranged, and accompanied school representatives from Kapiolani, Honolulu, and Leeward Community College to visit more than twenty schools in Taiwan for Future Corporation.
- SHOT staff attended major Taiwan Food shows in 2016 and 2017 promoting made in Hawaii products. SHOT continued working closely with three major Hawaii product importers in Taiwan -- Rainboii International, Babe International and Volcano Hawaii to promote product exports from Hawaii.

SHOT organized a Study Hawaii mission to Taiwan from October 8-11, 2016. As part of the mission, Hawaii schools participated in the Oh! Study International Education Expo and actively promoted Hawaii as a study location to hundreds of students and parents interested in Hawaii as a study abroad location. During 2016, the Office continued to deliver speeches and make presentations to schools, government agencies, Rotary clubs and other organizations in Taiwan to promote study abroad opportunities in Hawaii.

Also in 2016, SHOT worked closely with the Taiwan Hula Association to promote Hawaiian culture in Taiwan, which included assistance with scheduling performances at the Taipei International Travel Fair, Sogo Department Store and other venues. A group of 54 hula dancers from Taiwan participated in the 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival in Hawaii.

In 2016, the Taiwan Council of Indigenous Peoples delegation, led by Minister Lin Mayaw Dongi and 34 township mayors, traveled to Hawaii to meet with Governor Ige, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha School, Kapiolani Community College, Brigham Young University-Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center to discuss how cultural and economic development initiatives for Native Hawaiians compared to Taiwan's efforts for their indigenous population.

Senator Kalani English visited Taiwan at the invitation of the Taiwan Council of Indigenous Peoples to attend the 2016 International Austronesian Conference. Senator English was one of the featured speakers at the conference.

Honolulu City Councilman Trevor Ozawa visited Taiwan as a member of a U.S. City Council delegation in November 2016.

In August 2016, Senate President Ronald Kouchi lead a legislative delegation made up of Senators Kalani English, Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Gil Riviere. The delegation's official visits included meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Energy, Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Bureau of Taipei Metro.

## **INDONESIA**

### **Bali, Indonesia (2014)**

The watershed village project remains active, and the Hawaii Indonesia Chamber of Commerce (HICHAM) has informally partnered with another organization to seek federal/international funding, which has been diligently pursued throughout 2016. The Bali village project essentially mirrors an Ala Wai watershed cleanup/mitigation project, which is likely to receive funding first as a means of proof of the systems approach concept here on Oahu before it is carried to Bali. HICHAM is looking to transition into the initial assessment work and preliminary feasibility studies for the Bali village watershed project in late 2017.

In addition to the substantial efforts involved in developing the funding sources above, HICHAM coordinated with the Consulate General of Indonesia in Los Angeles to recruit Indonesian firms to participate in the annual Hawaii Lodging, Hospitality and Foodservice Expo. During the expo, HICHAM served as the coordinating organization for a cordial visit. Conversations on the status of the Hawaii-Bali sister-state relationship, as well as the potential for developing other relationships, and business between Hawaii and Indonesia took place with Governor Ige.

In Mid-November 2016, HICHAM's Chairman David Day conducted a lengthy briefing for an economic team from the Indonesia Embassy in Washington, D.C. The Embassy was interested to learn more about Hawaii's potential business with Indonesia and about the sister-state relationship. The Embassy is currently undertaking the development of a white paper to detail how Indonesia might work to improve its 2-way business with the State of Hawaii.

## **JAPAN**

### **Fukuoka Prefecture (1981)**

In January 2017, the State of Hawaii and Fukuoka Prefecture held a celebration of the 35th anniversary of their sister-state relationship with a 100+ delegation led by Governor Hiroshi Ogawa and Assembly Speaker Masayuki Nakao. The group was comprised of the governor, assembly members, and top business and community leaders from Fukuoka.

Starting with official visits with Governor Ige, House Speaker Joseph Souki, Senate President Ronald Kouchi, and Hawaii State Legislators, the Fukuoka delegates also attended the opening day of the State Legislature. Governor Ogawa and Speaker Nakao were recognized in Senate and House Chambers, with other Fukuoka legislators being introduced from the gallery.

The highlight of the week was a reception at Washington Place hosted by Governor and Mrs. Ige and the Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjinkai. Fukuoka is the first sister-state of Hawaii, and vice-versa. To celebrate the effort in creating and maintaining this sister-state relationship, a few key persons from both Fukuoka and Hawaii were recognized by Governors Ige and Ogawa.

### **Okinawa Prefecture (1985)**

In 2016, Governor Ige participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival, which is held every five years in Okinawa and offers a rare opportunity for Uchinanchu from all over the world to return to the islands and reconnect with their heritage and culture.

As part of the mission program, in conjunction with the Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival, Governor Ige and DBEDT officials visited the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) facility on Kumejima Island and an on-site company that is utilizing deep seawater.

The Okinawan Festival in Honolulu began in 1981 and is held annually attracting thousands of residents and visitors from Okinawa and around the world to this ethnic cultural event in Hawaii.

The Okinawa Student Exchange program has been conducted annually between Hawaii and Okinawa and celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. To date, over 2,000 students have participated in the exchange program.

### **Hiroshima Prefecture (1997)**

From October 4-6, 2017, the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee organized a visit to Hiroshima of approximately 130 residents from Hawaii. The delegation included 65 individuals (administrators and students) from the Department of Education. First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and State Senator Brian Taniguchi led the visit which included official visits, school visits, two education-related events, the opening of an art exhibit in honor of emigrants from Hiroshima to Hawaii and other parts of the world, and a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary state/prefectural reception with 250 attendees.

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, a dinner event was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hiroshima Prefecture.

Organized by the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee, special guests included Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige; Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki from Hiroshima Prefecture; Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa; Hawaii State Legislators; members from the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly; as well as business and community leaders from both Hawaii and Hiroshima.

Event participants recognized and applauded the long list of cultural and educational exchanges, as well as business activities held both in Hawaii and Hiroshima. The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce took the opportunity to announce the launch of the Hiroshima-Hawaii Emerging Young Business Leaders Program, which aims to "improve leadership competency and commitment" and "build cross-country relationships" for the mutual benefit of both Hawaii and Hiroshima, now and for the future.

The evening was concluded by a lively, and at times emotional, performance by master ukulele musician, Jake Shimabukuro. Jake's finale included "special musical guests" Governor Ige and Consul General Misawa, who played their rendition of "Wipeout!"

From May 9-11, 2017, Governor Yuzaki and select delegation members also attended the Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit, co-hosted by DBEDT and the U.S.-Japan Council.

In 2016, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and members of the Hawaii Education Promotion Mission delegation made courtesy calls on Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Chairman Shin Uda, and Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education Chairman Kuniaki Shimozaki. During the visit to Hiroshima, a Study Hawaii Seminar was held at the ANA Hiroshima Hotel and attended by over 100 educators, travel professionals and government officials including Governor Yuzaki, Assembly Chair Uda and Superintendent Shimozaki.

Also as part of the 2016 education mission to Hiroshima, the Hawaii delegation visited Hawaii's sister-schools including Yasunishi, Inokuchi, Koyo and Kokutaiji High Schools. These schools continue to choose Hawaii as a destination for short-term study and school excursions to the state.

### **Ehime Prefecture (2003)**

In November 2017, Ehime sent 50 baseball youth to participate in the annual Hawaii-Ehime Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange. This annual exchange continues to be a wonderful example of perpetuating the sister-state relationship that fosters international goodwill between youth from Hawaii and Ehime.

In September 2017, four prefectural officials from Ehime met with DBEDT staff to discuss their plans for a bicycling event to be held in Ehime. During the visit, they also participated in the Honolulu Century Ride bicycling event organized by the Hawaii Bicycling League. They promoted the 2018 Ehime bicycling event by distributing flyers and other promotional items.

In May 2017, Ehime Prefecture sent two representatives to attend the Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit held in Kona. They were among other officials representing Hawaii's sister-states at the Summit.

In February 2017, an anniversary ceremony for the Ehime Maru was held with Governor Tokihiro Nakamura leading a delegation to Hawaii. A solemn ceremony was held at the memorial site at Kakaako Waterfront Park.

2016 marked the passing of Dr. Seiji Naya, the founder of the Ehime-Hawaii Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange for the Hawaii-side.

November 18-27, 2016, three teams from Hawaii – two 15 and under teams and a 12 and under team – made up of 41 players traveled in a group of 160 people to Ehime to participate in the Ehime-Hawaii Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange. Traveling with the group was Representative Ken Ito and Senator Glenn Wakai. The group participated in the following activities:

- A homestay for the participants in both Uwajima and Matsuyama.
- A visit to Uwajima Fisheries High School to participate in a memorial service hosted by the principal of the school.
- Played two baseball games in Uwajima.
- A reception was held for the group hosted by Mayor Ishibashi and members of the Uwajima City Council. At the reception, members of the bereaved families attended. Representative Ito and Senator Wakai presented Mayor Ishibashi with a message from Governor Ige.
- The group traveled by train to Imabari. At Imabari, the group went cycling on the Shimanami Kaido road.
- Played two baseball games in Matsuyama.

Finally, a reception was held in Matsuyama in which Governor Tokihiro Nakamura attended and welcomed the Hawaii delegation. Representative Ito and Senator Wakai presented a special message to Governor Nakamura from Governor Ige. Also at the reception, a moment of silence was held to remember Dr. Seiji Naya.

On July 31, 2016, Consul General Yasushi Misawa hosted a culture and language training event at the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, for the baseball exchange participants and their families. At this event, Representative Ken Ito and Senator Will Espero were recognized by Consul General Misawa for their support of the exchange and the positive contributions the exchange has made to Japan-American relations.

### **Hokkaido (2017)**

On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, DBEDT assisted a delegation of seven legislative members and administrators from the Tomakomai (Hokkaido) Port Authority with arranging a courtesy visit with Hawaii state legislators and port administrators. This delegation, led by Noriomi Kambe, speaker of the Tomakomai Port Authority Assembly, is a result of the recent Hawaii-Hokkaido sister-state agreement signed May 8, 2017, and a follow-up to the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) sponsored Hawaii Investment Seminar held on September, 11, 2017, in Sapporo.

Driven by the desire of Hokkaido to increase trade activity with Hawaii, the focus of the discussion was about increasing the amount of shipping from Tomakomai Port to Honolulu and other ports, thereby increasing the trade of products. An outline presentation was given by Port Authority Executive Vice President Hideo Sasaki, explaining the volume of traffic, containers, and trade conducted through the port. A lively question and answer session followed where Hawaii and Tomakomai shared information about their respective areas to compare and contrast their respective positions.

The delegation was later hosted by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) Harbors Division, who delivered a presentation on the current initiatives of renovating and expanding Honolulu Harbor as well as other key harbors around the state. The visit concluded with a tour from the vantage point high up Aloha Tower, where the delegation could view the entire Honolulu Harbor operations, as well as planned areas of expansion.

The evening of Monday, May 8, 2017, marked the culmination of several months of long discussions, meetings and planning, when the sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hokkaido Prefecture was officially realized.

Over 400 guests were greeted by the extremely energetic Hokkaido Intercultural and Technology High School Brass Band performing Bruno Mars, then the Star-Spangled Banner, and finally Kimi Ga Yo, the Japanese national anthem.

Agreements in English and Japanese were signed by Hawaii Governor David Ige, Hokkaido Governor Harumi Takahashi, House Speaker Scott Saiki, Senate President Ronald Kouchi, and Hokkaido Assembly Speaker Ren Endou.

In addition to a buffet of delicious Hawaiian food, guests were treated to samples of Hokkaido specialties supplied by various restaurants in Honolulu that offer Hokkaido tastes.

The evening was concluded with performances by a number of Hokkaido bands including a group performing the music and dance of the indigenous Ainu people.

### **KOREA**

#### **Jeju Province (1986)**

DBEDT, in collaboration with the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce, organized a legislative mission from May 7-15, 2016, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Hawaii's sister-state relationship with Jeju. During the mission, Hawaii participants met with the Jeju Energy Department and learned about the Carbon Free Island Jeju initiative where plans are aimed to make the island carbon free and self-sustainable through renewable energy resources by 2030. The delegation also met with Governor Won Heeryong and members of his cabinet to discuss future events and activities throughout 2016. One of the highlights of the mission was the Jeju-Hawaii Food & Wine Festival which is modeled after the Hawaii Food & Wine Festival and promotes chefs and products from Hawaii.

In September 2016, Jeju Governor Won led a delegation to Hawaii to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister relationship between the State of Hawaii and Jeju. A commemorative reception was held, hosted by DBEDT and the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce, on the grounds of Iolani Palace.

DBEDT, partnering with the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce also planned and organized a Hawaii Education Promotion Mission to South Korea from October 1-7, 2016. As part of the mission program, the Hawaii Department of Education was represented in numerous school visits in Jeju.

In November 2016, the Jeju Provincial Development Corporation (JPDC) invited people from Hawaii to speak at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Jeju Water World Forum. The four invited speakers from Hawaii were a representative from the University of Hawaii at Hilo; a representative from the Natural Energy lab of Hawaii; the Deputy Director of DLNR's Commission on Water Resource Management and one staff member. Discussions are ongoing for a possible international water forum in 2018 to include other Hawaii sister-states, which will be held in either Jeju or Hawaii.

### **MOROCCO**

#### **Greater Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011)**

A group of ten college students from Hawaii traveled to Morocco in July 2016, to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Youth Congress in Rabat and Dakhla. During the Congress, the students participated in planning sessions to prepare for the 2017 World Youth Congress which will take place in Hawaii and be hosted by the Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawaii and Peace Child International Hawaii. The recommendations that the group developed were presented at the Congress. The itinerary also included events in Rabat and the Dakhla area. In addition, the group was also able to present their summary of recommendations at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties and UN Climate Change Conference held in Marrakech, in November 2016.

### **PHILIPPINES**

#### **Ilocos Sur Province (1985)**

Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, and DBEDT Director Luis Salaveria participated in a goodwill and trade mission with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce from October 14-22, 2017. The governor traveled with about 50 Hawaii business and community leaders who toured several provinces including Manila, Ilocos Norte, **Ilocos Sur** and Cebu.

While in the Philippines, Governor Ige lead a variety of meetings with local government, business and community members, as well as participated in cultural events, tours, activities and ceremonies. Among the significant events — the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the State of Hawaii and the League of Provinces, establishing sister-state relationships with several provinces in the Philippines. The governor also took part in a wreath laying ceremony at Rizal Park and visited the University of the Philippines.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. stopped by the Honolulu International Airport on February 16, 2017, to offer his best wishes and to personally send off the delegates of

the 26th trade mission to the Philippines. Led by Kauai Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., and organized by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH), in coordination with the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, the trade mission was held from February 16-26, 2017, and took the 32-member delegation to various cities and provinces in the Philippines including Manila, Davao, Candon and Vigan in Ilocos Sur, Baguio and Marilao, Bulacan.

In line with the FCCH's motto for the year, "Catch the Wave," the goals of the trade mission were to: (1) increase business activities by promoting Hawaii and the Philippines as investment and tourism destinations; (2) encourage trade and economic activities across the Pacific region; and (3) encourage the development of renewable and green technology.

The delegation paid courtesy calls on Philippine government officials, officers from the private sector, counterparts in the business, tourism and travel industries, and signed agreements that will foster linkages between the Philippines and Hawaii, with the end goal of advancing trade relations and renewing people-to-people ties between the Philippines and Hawaii.

Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis Singson visited Hawaii in September 2016, to attend the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, the umbrella organization of all Filipino-American organizations in Hawaii affiliated with Ilocos Sur. While in Honolulu, Governor Singson paid a courtesy visit to Governor Ige.

### **Cebu Province, Philippines (1996)**

Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, and DBEDT Director Luis Salaveria participated in a goodwill and trade mission with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce from October 14-22, 2017. The governor traveled with about 50 Hawaii business and community leaders who toured several provinces including Manila, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and **Cebu**.

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The Cebuano Association of Hawaii, whose membership is made up of Hawaii residents who originally came from Cebu, is planning to launch its "Educational Assistance Program" in 2017, to extend financial and/or material assistance to needy public schools in Cebu and other Visayan provinces in the Philippines. The goal of the program is to help public and private schools in economically depressed areas initiate or complete needed repairs or improvements of their school facilities.

The Cebuano Association of Hawaii will be co-sponsoring a medical mission to Cebu for poor and needy patients in partnership with the Ohana Medical Missions Inc. The delegation will be

composed of 15 to 20 doctors and 5 to 10 nurses. The Association is coordinating the medical mission with Governor Davide to select the target areas and to identify medical volunteers from Cebu who will supplement the contingent from Hawaii.

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has organized annual trade missions to the Philippines attended by state and county government officials and local business executives. The Chamber visited Cebu in 2016, and paid a courtesy call on Cebu Governor Hilario Davide III.

### **Pangasinan Province (2002)**

The Ohana Medical Mission, with Hawaii-based medical professionals, planned to visit Pangasinan in 2017, as part of their semi-annual mission to the Philippines.

### **Ilocos Norte Province (2005)**

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### **Isabela Province (2006)**

Isabela Governor Bojie Dy met with Governor Ige on July 19, 2017. Governor Dy invited Governor Ige to visit Isabela on a future trade mission.

## **PORUGAL**

### **Azores Islands (1982)**

No reported activities for 2016-2017.