
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM TO DEVELOP A RECOMMENDATION FOR
THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
STATE OF HAWAII AND THE STATE OF GOA, INDIA AND FORWARD ITS
RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE.**

A Report to the Hawaii State
Legislature
in accordance to
SCR20, SD1, HD1 (2016)

Submitted by

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

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) was requested by the State Legislature to develop a recommendation for the initiation of a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the State of Goa, India and forward its recommendation to the legislature.

BACKGROUND

Sister-state relationships serve as a basis to form connections between communities that are mutually beneficial and which address issues that are most relevant for partners. There should be an existing track record of economic and commercial activity to supplement any cultural or educational ties that may have previously existed. Most importantly, there must also be a strong base of support within Hawaii's business community to develop and sustain the relationship.

RECOMMENDATION

DBEDT respectfully recommends approval for the State of Hawaii to enter into a sister-state relationship with the State of Goa, India. This request for approval is based on the following:

- The Hawaii Sister-State Committee met on December 16, 2015, to review an application submitted by the Indian-American Friendship Council-Hawaii Chapter, and recommended that Hawaii enter into a sister-state relationship with the State of Goa.
- Community and business support of the establishment of the sister-state relationship with Goa include the following: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard is a strong supporter of the sister-state relationship and has submitted letters of support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, and to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee meeting held in December 2015.
- Numerous letters from a broad cross-section of the Indian business and religious community were sent to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, Senate Draft 1.

FOLLOW UP

The State Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 on April 28, 2016, establishing a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the State of Goa, India. A draft sister-state agreement between the State of Hawaii and the State of Goa was developed by the Indian-American Friendship Council-Hawaii Chapter and is now with the State of Goa, India for approval. A signing ceremony is anticipated for 2018.