
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 STATE OF DAKHLA OF THE REGION OF OUED ED-DAHAB-LAGOUIRA OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, AS REQUESTED IN HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 158, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, SLH 2015.

A Report to the Legislature of
the State of Hawaii

Submitted by

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

December 2015

INTRODUCTION:

House Concurrent Resolution 158, H.D. 1, 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 State of Dakhla of the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco, and forward its recommendation to the legislature, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for further action.

The Hawaii Sister-State Committee met on December 16, 2015 and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) respectfully submits this report on behalf of the Hawaii Sister State Committee.

OVERVIEW:

Dakhla is located in the Western Sahara area of Morocco. Located on a narrow peninsula in the Atlantic Ocean, Dakhla's main economic activity is fishing and tourism and is well known for kitesurfing, windsurfing and diving. It has a population of 142,955. Per capita income for the State of Dakhla is unknown, however the per capita income for the country of Morocco is \$3,900.

FINDINGS:

While there seems to be some community support for the establishment of this sister-state relationship, as evidenced by a letter of support from the Muslim Association of Hawaii, no formal application has been submitted to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee for its review. Consequently, there is no lead entity supporting this relationship.

It's important to note that a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and another Morocco state already exists. The sister relationship with the Greater Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer was established in 2011, which resulted in the donation of a Moroccan style fountain that was built on the grounds of the Hawaii State Art Museum.

Since the signing of the sister-state agreement between the State of Hawaii and the Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer, DBEDT identified sporadic follow-on business, community or government activities taking place between the State of Hawaii and Dakhla.

CONCLUSION:

Other than a letter of support from the Muslim Association of Hawaii, there is no evidence of interest from the government of the State of Dakhla of the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco to establish a sister-state with Hawaii, nor is there any business, community or government activities of note taking place between the two jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DBEDT recommends that the State of Hawaii hold off on efforts to enter into a sister-state relationship with the State of Dakhla of the Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco until such time that there is some hard evidence of interest on behalf of the Dakhla government that can be substantiated, and a formal and complete sister-state application is submitted by a lead entity to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

DBEDT also recommends that community efforts be concentrated toward making the current relationship with the Greater Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer in Morocco a viable and ongoing one before considering a relationship with another state in Morocco.

ATTACHMENTS

1. House Concurrent Resolution No. 158, H.D. 1, S.D.1

HOUSE 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 STATE OF DAKHLA OF THE REGION OF OUED ED-DAHAB-LAGUIRA OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

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

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains 16 sister-state
11 relationships; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is advantageous to
14 the State to continue to pursue sister-state relationships for
15 cultural and economic development purposes, with attention on
16 fostering the most productive relationships; and

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18 WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla and Hawaii share similar
19 environments that foster an active tourism industry: both offer
20 ideal conditions for surfing, fishing, diving, and other outdoor
21 water sports; and

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23 WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla is in Western Sahara, under
24 the control of the Kingdom of Morocco, and has a very mild
25 Mediterranean climate due to the cool currents of the Atlantic
26 Ocean and has some of the best weather in the world; and



1 WHEREAS, the State of Dakhla has a population of
2 approximately 60,000 people and plans to benefit its people with
3 economic development, education, youth employment, and renewable
4 energy; and

5
6 WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and the Kingdom of
7 Morocco began with the Millennium Young People's Congress in
8 1999; and

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10 WHEREAS, numerous other events and activities have occurred
11 to strengthen ties between Hawaii and the Kingdom of Morocco,
12 including an "Aloha Morocco Week" event held in 2007; and

13
14 WHEREAS, a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the
15 Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer of the Kingdom of Morocco was
16 established in 2012; and

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18 WHEREAS, a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the
19 State of Dakhla will be highly beneficial in expanding economic
20 ties related to tourism and related work and advancing common
21 goals of international peace and brotherhood; now, therefore,

22
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-
26 State Committee is requested to evaluate and develop
27 recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state
28 relationship between Hawaii and the State of Dakhla of the
29 Region of Oued Ed-Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to section 229-3,
32 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee
33 report its findings and recommendation, including proposed
34 legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state relationship
35 between Hawaii and the State of Dakhla of the Region of Oued Ed-
36 Dahab-Lagouira of the Kingdom of Morocco, to the Legislature no
37 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
38 Session of 2016; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
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1 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Morocco in
2 Washington, D.C.; Governor of Dakhla; Consul General of Morocco
3 in Hawaii; Governor of the State of Hawaii; and Chairperson of
4 the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.
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