



# Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

## Business Development & Support Division



## STATE OF HAWAII'S SISTER STATES PROGRAM

### REPORT TO THE 31<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE

**DECEMBER 2020**

A Report to the Legislature of the State of Hawaii  
Prepared pursuant to Act 150, SLH 2006



## Hawaii Sister-State Committee

As of 2020, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee had five active members filling all seats for this committee.

<b>Kay Matsui (Chair)</b>	Representing: Hawaii State Association of Counties
<b>Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs</b>	Representing: Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization
<b>Debra Nakama</b>	Representing: Speaker of the House of Representatives
<b>Jean E. Rolles (Vice Chair)</b>	Representing: East-West Center
<b>Eduardo Topenio Jr.</b>	Representing: President of the Senate
<b>Dennis T. Ling</b>	DBEDT – Committee Administration
<b>Mark Ritchie</b>	DBEDT - Committee Administration

With three committee members constituting a quorum, the Committee has been 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 assure 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 18 sister relationships, dating back to 1981. Some relationships have been very active (e.g. Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Okinawa, Taiwan and Guangdong), while others have shown little or no activity (e.g. Azores Islands).**

<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
India	Goa	2018

<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
India	Goa	2018
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



## **GREATER CHINA**

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

DBEDT, together with the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB), hosted a China Market Webinar Series in November 2020. Ms. Xue Kaifang, Deputy Director of the Guangdong Board of Investment Promotion in Guangdong Province, served as a panelist to introduce opportunities for Hawaii companies interested in doing business in Guangdong.

In August 2020, Guangdong Province offered to donate medical masks that were in compliance with FDA standards to the State of Hawaii.

In July 2019, three students and two teachers from Le Jardin Academy were invited to attend the 2019 Guangdong International Youth Exchange Week. Along with Over 40 participants from the Affiliated Tianhe School of Guangdong Experimental Middle School, a delegation of about 120 foreign students and teachers from different countries including Le Jardin Academy visited the Guangzhou Museum, Guangdong Yueju Opera Theater and Shawan Ancient Town in Guangzhou to learn about the city's history, culture and customs. They also visited the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln in Foshan to experience handcrafts. The foreign students also took part in a two-day homestay program to have an in-depth tour featuring Cantonese cuisine, as well as cultural and historical attractions in the Pearl River Delta region. The activity is designed to enhance global youth's understanding of Guangdong and China, thus promoting the communication between the young people from Guangdong and foreign countries.

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

The China Market Webinar Series that was hosted by DBEDT and SHOB in 2020 included speakers representing Hainan Province. Ms. Han Lili, Investment Officer of Hainan's Department of Commerce and Ms. Fiona Wang, Global Service Hotline Officer of the Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development (IEDB) spoke about opportunities in doing business with Hainan Province. Relevant information on Hainan's tax policies, overview of key industries and introduction to IEDB was presented.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hainan International Education Expo and Conference was held in Sanya City from December 26 to December 28, 2019. The event was hosted by the Sanya City

Department of Business and Sanya City Department of Education. Study Hawaii and the State of Hawaii Beijing Office was invited to attend.

### **Taiwan (1993)**

On November 17, 2020, with the support of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS), the State of Hawaii Taipei Office (SHOT), the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC), and DBEDT, a virtual meeting was held to promote Hawaii's coffee industry to Taiwan. Six coffee growers from Hawaii and 30 buyers from Taiwan participated in the virtual event that facilitated introductions for future collaboration.

On October 22, 2020, the American Chamber of Commerce in Taichung invited SHOT to discuss investment opportunities in Hawaii. This was a great opportunity for SHOT to promote Hawaii. In addition, also in October 2020, AIT, DBEDT and SHOT hosted a virtual pre-briefing with SHAC to discuss the current market situation in Taiwan.

The annual U.S. Business Day in Taipei was held on October 15, 2020. Hawaii was invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to participate in this event which promoted 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. SHOT represented the State and promoted Hawaii during the event.

On August 13, 2020, The Taiwan-U.S. Business Alliance held a launching ceremony where SHOT and the State of Hawaii were represented. The Alliance was officially founded in December 2019 by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) in partnership with AIT, the American State Offices Association (ASOA) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham Taipei) to provide a platform to connect and share values, ideas and promote networking opportunities between businesses in Taiwan and the U.S.

In June 2020, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered to donate medical masks that were in compliance with FDA standards to the State of Hawaii.

From October 21 to October 27, 2019, Hawaii State Senate delegation visited Taiwan. The delegation included Senator Kalani English, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Senator Lorraine Inouye, and Senator Maile Shimabukuro. The delegation visited the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Environmental Protection



Agency (EPA), Bureau of Energy (BOE), American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), Tea Research Center/Council of Agriculture (COA), Wastes Management Center, a recycle factory of Tao-Yuan County, and the State of Hawaii office in Taipei.

On September 4, 2019 the Taipei office was invited by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), to attend the annual appreciation banquet, where AIT also invited Taiwan Government officials, business and community leaders to the banquet. Director of AIT, Mr. Brent Christensen stated that the business and political relationships between U.S. and Taiwan have become stronger than ever.

On July 8, 2019 the Taipei office was invited by the Council of Indigenous Peoples to deliver a speech to 60 indigenous students who came from 10 different countries.

On March 14, 2019, along with the members of America State Offices Association (ASOA), State of Hawaii Taipei office Director Alex Lei made a courtesy call to Deputy Mayor Lin-Hu at Taichung City Government office, to express the gratitude to enhance economic and education relations with Taichung city. Taichung city signed a MOU with the State of Hawaii in 2014, to promote economic, education, travel and tourism, and clean energy.

### **INDIA**

#### **Goa (2018)**

On October 7, 2019, a delegation from Goa visited Hawaii and met with DBEDT and Governor Ige. In the discussions, it was agreed that the first exchanges and areas of cooperation should be in the education sphere. The official delegation included Mr. Govind S. Gaude - Honorable Minister for Art and Culture; Mr. Chokha Ram Garg - Secretary (IAS) Art and Culture; Mr. Ashwin Gomes - Officer on Special Duty II to Honorable Minister.

### **INDONESIA**

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

No reported activities for 2019-2020.

## **JAPAN**

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

The Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai (HFKK) is the point-of-contact for many activities together with the Fukuoka Prefectural Government.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, many sister-state initiatives with Fukuoka Prefecture were postponed. However, during the opening of the 2020 Hawaii State Legislature, Fukuoka Prefecture was well represented. 26 individuals participated in the Opening Day program at the Hawaii State Capitol. In addition, Governor and Mrs. David Ige hosted a reception at Washington Place in honor of the visiting elected officials and other individuals from Fukuoka.

The Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu also welcomed the Fukuoka delegation and co-hosted a luncheon in their honor together with HFKK.

In early 2020, seven mayors from the Tagawa region of Fukuoka traveled to Hawaii. In appreciation of their visit, the HFKK hosted a luncheon for the visiting officials.

During an annual HFKK event, elderly members who reached specific milestones in age were presented with gifts on behalf of the Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture. This annual tradition recognizes the contributions of these individuals who have continued to nurture the sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Fukuoka.

To promote Fukuoka Prefecture, the HFKK hosted a booth at the Consulate General of Japan during an annual event in honor of the Emperor of Japan. Informational literature and other commemorative items were shared with event attendees.

In 2019, representatives of the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly traveled to Hawaii to participate in the Hawaii State Legislature's Opening Day festivities. Eleven delegates from Fukuoka were recognized during Opening Day at the Hawaii State Capitol. The HFKK also hosted a dinner for the visiting delegation and the Consulate General of Japan welcomed the delegation during a luncheon.

During the annual HFKK New Year's event, keiro gifts were presented to HFKK members who reached specific age milestones. The gifts were provided by the Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture.

During the Honolulu Festival, the HFKK hosted a booth promoting Fukuoka Prefecture.

The Hawaii Global Education Foundation, in collaboration with HFKK, received a grant-in-aid to develop memorial plaques for Governor George Ariyoshi, former U.S. Senator

Daniel Inouye, and former astronaut Ellison Onizuka. The plaques will be placed permanently in each honoree's ancestral home town in Fukuoka.

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

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) used its creativity in pivoting to new activities as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

In March, 2020, HUOA provided on-line support of the Shuri Jo Restoration project and presented a check to Governor Denny Tamaki. The financial support and generosity of the HUOA will help to reconstruct and restore the historic monument.

One of the first virtual activities that HUOA produced in 2020 was the Yuntaku Live show which was launched in April 2020. The show continued weekly and included interviews with Okinawa Prefectural government officials and live performances by Okinawa entertainers. This new platform was a great way for HUOA to connect with people within Hawaii and in Okinawa.

HUOA held a virtual Irei No Hi event in commemoration of the end of the Battle of Okinawa, Day of Peace. It is known as Okinawa's Memorial Day to remember and honor over 240,000 people, both military and civilians, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. The event was held virtually on June 22, 2020 in Hawaii with a theme, "Ukaji Deebiru," which means, with deep gratitude, I am what I am because of you.

Following the success of the Yuntaku Live shows, HUOA, launched a virtual Okinawan Festival, "Virtual Okinawan Experience" from September 4-6, 2020. The virtual event attracted 60,000 people from all over the world and demonstrated the resilience and adaptability of the community. The successful event included speeches by Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki and live performances from Okinawa and Hawaii.

On October 29, 2020, HUOA celebrated Uchinanchu no Hi or Worldwide Uchinanchu Day with a virtual event to celebrate with other Uchinanchu from around the world. The event included a video presentation of former Okinawa Governor Onaga's speech from 2016.

Also in 2020, the HUOA and the University of the Ryukyus agreed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding in order to promote human resource cultivation and make contributions to development of Okinawa Prefecture and to Okinawan communities in Hawaii through cooperation between the two organizations.

The two organizations agreed to promote exchange activities in areas such as support for Okinawan descendants to study at the University of the Ryukyus; support and

cooperation for education and human resource cultivation; cultural exchange and support and cooperation for university-industry collaboration.

In 2019, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) members actively engaged in numerous programs and activities with Okinawa with a theme of "Look to Create the Future."

Each year, newly elected HUOA officers travel to Okinawa to meet with government officials and business leaders to support, encourage and promote ongoing relationships between Hawaii and Okinawa. Programs such as high school educational exchanges, economic development and product promotion opportunities and supporting travel between Hawaii and Okinawa were highlighted during the visit.

In 2019, the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Exchange program was held in Hawaii where 25 high school students from Okinawa traveled to Hawaii to participate in this program.

With a goal to promote Okinawa culture among youth in Hawaii, a five-day Children's Day Camp was organized by the HUOA. Children from grades three to six were invited to participate in the program which included cooking, performing arts and language instruction. Older students in middle school and high school were also involved and allowed students to gain leadership experience.

During the 2019 summer, 15 Hawaii students participated in a Student Exchange to Okinawa program that included a school immersion program and homestay in Okinawa. Also during the summer of 2019, *Irei no Hi*, an event that honored the final day of the battle of Okinawa was held. Activities included a program of oral histories from civilian survivors from the battle of Okinawa.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Okinawan Festival was held at the Hawaii Convention Center. Over 4,000 volunteers and 50,000 attendees attended the annual Hawaii event. This popular community event celebrates the Okinawan heritage and culture.

*Uchinanchu no Hi* was held in celebration of the spirit of Uchinanchu immigrants all over the world. The event attracted over 100 participants and included music to celebrate Okinawan immigration to Hawaii.

During the Fall of 2019, a Study Tour in Okinawa was conducted and attended by over 60 people from Hawaii. This annual heritage tour to Okinawa included meetings with government officials and visits to historic cultural sites in Okinawa.

Also in the Fall of 2019, the tragic Shuri Castle Fire devastated the iconic castle one day after Uchinanchu Day in 2019. Hawaii HUOA members established the Shuri Castle

Fundraising Drive to raise funds that could help reconstruct and restore the historic monument.

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

Since the establishment of the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Relationship, the Hiroshima Hawaii Sister State Committee (HHSSC) has worked together with the Hiroshima Prefectural Government on mutually beneficial programs and causes in the spirit of building a partnership of friendship, cooperation and aloha between the people of both regions. It has been the committee's goal to concentrate their collective efforts on programs focused on education; business and economic development; culture and the arts; athletics; and peace initiatives.

During 2020, due to the threat of the Covid 19 pandemic and the restrictions and mandates that were imposed, a number of programs and events were postponed or cancelled for 2020. Despite the challenges, the HHSSC initiated and participated in the following programs and events:

Following two years of meetings and negotiations, a sister kenjin kai between the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai (HHKK) and the Tokyo Hiroshima People's Association was established on January 22, 2020, at an event held at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel in Tokyo. This relationship is envisioned to help promote programs, causes and events of mutual interest, and relations between Hiroshima, Tokyo and Honolulu. The Tokyo Hiroshima People's Association's membership of 1200 businesses is considered to be the largest Hiroshima-related business organization outside of Hiroshima in Japan.

On October 10, 2020, officers and directors of the HHKK participated in a unique in-person and virtual conference of the Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Bridge program honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Working with the Goto of Hiroshima Foundation, the "We Love Hawaii" program was presented and promoted the strong relationship between Hiroshima and Hawaii.

The HHSSC and the HHKK worked with the City and County of Honolulu to unveil the *pohaku* stone and plaque at the Hiroshima Torii gate in Moiliili to recognize the victims of the bombing of Hiroshima on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The dedication was held on August 6, 2020 at the Moiliili site. It is envisioned that the addition of the *pohaku* stone and plaque will attract Hawaii residents as well as visitors to visit and view the Hiroshima Torii gate.

On August 13, 2020, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition "Of Silhouettes and Ash: The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," opened at the Battleship Missouri Memorial located at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. The Exhibition showcases

artifacts from the atomic bombings of August 1945. One of the many special artifacts on display included an original origami crane folded by Sadako Sasaki, a victim of the Hiroshima bombing.

The objectives of the exhibit focused on generating attendance from schools, businesses and community groups as well as visitors from Japan. Although the Exhibition has been closed due to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, it is hopeful that the Exhibition can be opened later in Hilo and Kona on Hawaii Island.

During 2019, the HHSSC participated in the following activities:

- Sera Town Board of Education: During the past eight years, in collaboration with the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai, a workshop to promote English language was conducted for 12 middle school students, teachers and administrators.
- Hiroshima City University: A workshop on immigration from Hiroshima to Hawaii was conducted for 15 students from Hiroshima City University. The visit included a tour of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.
- Film Features: Promoted two films featuring Hiroshima that were shown at the 2018 Fall Hawaii International Film Festival – (1) “For Love’s Sake” or “Koi no Shizuku” filmed in Saijo, Hiroshima and featured the Kamoizumi Sake Brewery; (2) “The Blood of Wolves” or “Koru no Chi” depicted Kure, Hiroshima in the 1990s.
- Celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honolulu-Hiroshima sister city relationship in July 2019. A commemoration was held in Honolulu including a delegation from Hiroshima City led by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsumi. The event included the reaffirmation of the relationship during a signing ceremony; a tree planting at Foster Botanical Gardens; and a reception held at the Consulate of Japan in Honolulu which included a Hiroshima products fair. In addition, meetings with Hawaii companies with Hiroshima ties including Kobayashi Travel, Yohei Sushi, Carp Dori and MW Restaurant was held.

The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) and the Hiroshima Prefectural Government selected next generation leaders from Hawaii who participated in the 2019 Emerging Young Business Leaders program. They also hosted representatives from Hiroshima who participated in the Hawaii program. This exchange program has provided personal development skills, supports and encourages young leaders to continue developing cross-cultural skills within their communities and organizations in Hawaii and Hiroshima according to the HJCC.



## **Ehime Prefecture (2003)**

In February 2020, a ceremony at the Ehime Maru memorial in Kakaako included the presentation of wreaths and lei to honor the nine lives lost 19 years ago when a U.S. submarine collided with a Japanese fishing vessel from Uwajima Fisheries High School in Ehime Prefecture off Oahu.

As a result of the sister-city relationship between Honolulu and Uwajima City in Ehime, a medical cultural exchange program was established with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The doctors from Uwajima City Hospital have been preparing for emergencies in the patient simulation laboratory at JABSOM.

Although youth baseball exchanges have taken place annually in Hawaii or Ehime, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, these activities were postponed.

Previously, in November 2019, over 70 baseball youth and their families traveled to Hawaii for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii-Ehime Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange. In addition to participating in the baseball games, the delegation, which also included representatives of the Ehime Assembly, attended a luncheon in their honor at Washington Place. First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige hosted the luncheon and represented Governor David Ige during the event. The First Lady welcomed the delegation and provided inspirational remarks on the importance of international youth exchanges and the Ehime-Hawaii relationship.

In 2019, the inaugural Hawaii-Ehime Goodwill Judo Exchange also was held in Honolulu during the same weekend as the baseball tournaments. The judo exchange is between the 50<sup>th</sup> State Judo Association and the Ehime Prefecture Judo Association.

The November 2019 delegation was led by Assembly Member Junnosuke Kaino, Assembly Member Kazuhisa Matsuo, Assembly Member Makoto Onishi, and Matsuyama Council Member Yuji Shiraishi. Upon arrival of the delegation, Hawaii officials, parents, and coaches welcomed the Ehime group at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The delegation paid respects at the Ehime Maru Memorial and Kakaako Waterfront Park. Reverend Yoshida from Soto Mission conducted a memorial service at that time.

The delegation met with Mayor Kirk Caldwell followed by a tour of the Hawaii State Capitol.

The weekend ended with a formal reception at Natsunoya Tea House. The highlight of the evening was the speeches delivered in Japanese and English by Ehime youth

participants. The Ehime youth also participated in a homestay during their visit to Hawaii.

In September 2019, staff of Ehime Prefectural Government's International Affairs Division traveled to Hawaii to meet with DBEDT representatives. The visit to Hawaii included their participation in the Honolulu Century Ride. The purpose of their visit was also to promote the Cycling Shimanami 2020 event that will be held in Ehime. The prefecture hopes that Hawaii will be represented during the 2020 cycling event in Ehime.

### **Hokkaido (2017)**

The Hawaii-Hokkaido relationship has shown much promise with the numerous activities and exchanges that have occurred through efforts of the Hokkaido Club of Hawaii.

In January 2020, the Hawaii Department of Education (HDOE) signed an agreement with the Hokkaido Board of Education to establish a partnership that will hopefully grow over time. Of particular interest between both jurisdictions are global education, biliteracy and establishing strong partnerships in other areas as well.

In early 2020, the Hawaii-Hokkaido Club participated in the Emperor of Japan's celebration at the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu. The Club shared *anpan* (Japanese pastry) to guests which was a donation from BRUG bakery. BRUG began its business in Hokkaido and has several stores in Hawaii.

The Hawaii-Hokkaido Club continued to promote cultural and economic exchange activities which they feel are important to fostering a strong sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Hokkaido.

In February 2019, a Hokkaido Product Exhibition and Hokkaido Ainu Culture exhibit was on display at the International Market Place. During the Honolulu Festival held in March, the Hokkaido government funded a mini exhibition with similar themes. Each year, Hawaii fans in Hokkaido participate in the Honolulu Festival. Since 2017, 150 people from Hokkaido participated in the festival, many who used the direct Hawaiian Airlines flight between Sapporo and Honolulu. In 2019, the Hokkaido Hawaii Club sponsored six booths in collaboration with BRUG and the Rice Factory in Hawaii. The relationship is further strengthened by involving Hawaii companies with Hokkaido ties in activities such as these.

The Honolulu Marathon is an event that attracts many runners from Japan and, specifically, from Hokkaido. Approximately 750 participants will be from Hokkaido in 2019.

In support of building educational exchanges with Hawaii, Hokkaido Obihiro Hakuyo High School and Kalani High School in Hawaii entered into a sister-school agreement. In December 2019, Hokkaido government officials, educators, school principals, etc. will be visiting Hawaii. The Hokkaido Hawaii Club has been instrumental in facilitating educational exchanges between the regions.

### **KOREA**

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

The Jeju Special Self-Governing Province hosted the 2020 Jeju Virtual Forum where representatives of local governments of the world, tourism experts and business representatives met with hundreds of online participants in October 2020.

Hawaii Governor David Y. Ige participated in a roundtable discussion and discussed Hawaii's progress in mitigating the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Governor Ige also reported on the Hawaii Safe Travels pre-testing program for trans-Pacific passengers. Future plans will include establishing trusted travel testing partners in Korea so that Hawaii can welcome back visitors from Korea to Hawaii.

As a result of the Hawaii Department of Education's (HDOE) Memorandum of Understanding with the Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education to promote friendship, cultural and educational ties, and to encourage the exchange of ideas and information between staff, teachers and students, the HDOE again participated in a virtual 2020 Jeju Youth Forum. Hawaii was represented by four "city" teams of 14 students and five high schools in 2020. Hawaii students and teacher advisors worked very hard in preparation of the November 2020 event which focused on issues from a global perspective.

In 2019, DBEDT was invited to participate in the Jeju International Week – Sister and Friendship City Exchange sponsored by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (JSSGP), June 17 to June 20, 2019. Hawaii was one of 15 participants. This event was held concurrently with the 2019 Sustainable Development Jeju International Conference, sponsored by the JSSGP Council. The primary outcome of this exchange was a continued strengthening of Hawaii's relationship with Jeju, as well as other Asian

provinces, prefectures and cities who participated in the areas of business, sustainability, tourism and energy.

The State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control/DOH and the Commission on Water Resource Management/DLNR are working with counterparts in Jeju Province to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding sharing information and best practices on water resource management, conservation and water quality. The MOU has been drafted but is still pending.

### **MOROCCO**

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

No activities reported in 2019-2020.

### **PHILIPPINES**

In collaboration with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, DBEDT is co-sponsoring the MabuHI Expo and Summit that will be held in 2021. The event will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center and is expected to attract attendees from Hawaii's sister-provinces in the Philippines.

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

From October 12 to October 22, 2019, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) led a mission to Manila, Clark, Tarlac, Candon, Vigan and Laoag. DBEDT Administrator Dennis Ling participated in the mission to Manila and Clark. The mission focused on the promotion of the 2020 Hawaii-Philippines Sister States, Provinces and Cities Expo and Summit to take place in Honolulu in July of 2020. The FCCH received a grant-in-aid from the 2019 Legislature to produce the Expo and Summit, along with DBEDT. The event will also tie in with the MOU that Gov. Ige and Gov. Ryan Singson of Ilocos Sur signed in 2017 to further Hawaii and Philippines Provinces relations, especially as it relates to economic development. This October mission included site visits and meetings with several potential participants and attendees to the Expo and Summit in 2020, including meetings with Candon City Mayor Ericson Singson and Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson.

**Cebu Province, Philippines (1996)**

No activities reported in 2019-2020.

**Pangasinan Province (2002)**

No activities reported in 2019-2020.

**Ilocos Norte Province (2005)**

As part of the October 2019 mission to the Philippines undertaken by the FCCH, the mission visited Laoag, Ilocos Norte to promote the Hawaii-Philippines Sister States, Provinces and Cities Expo and Summit in 2020. Meetings were held with the Ilocos Norte Gov. Matthew Manotoc and Laoag Mayor Valdez.

**Isabela Province (2006)**

No reported activities for 2019-2020.

**PORTUGAL**

**Azores Islands (1982)**

No reported activities for 2019-2020.