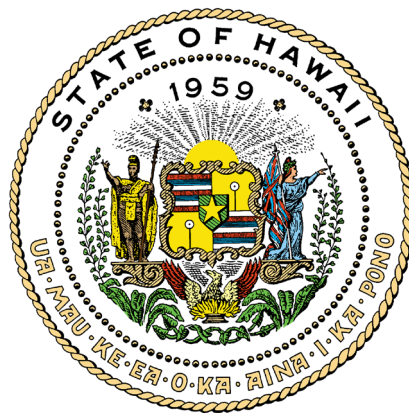


State of Hawaii's Sister-States



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

December 2021

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

Hawaii Sister-State Committee

As of 2021, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee had five active members filling all seats for this committee.

Kay Matsui (Chair)

Representing: Hawaii State Association of Counties

Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs

Representing: Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization

Debra Nakama (Term ended 06/30/2021)

Representing: Speaker of the House of Representatives

Jean E. Rolles (Vice Chair)

Representing: East-West Center

Eduardo Topenio Jr.

Representing: President of the Senate

Dennis T. Ling

DBEDT – Committee Administration

Mark Ritchie

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).

SISTER-STATES (Chronological order)		
COUNTRY	PROVINCE/PREFECTURE	YEAR ESTABLISHED
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
Japan	Yamaguchi	Approved, but not signed yet

SISTER-STATES (Alphabetical order by country and area)		
COUNTRY	PROVINCE/PREFECTURE	YEAR ESTABLISHED
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
	Yamaguchi	Approved, but not signed yet
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)

Due to the pandemic, there has not been any Sister-State activity between Guangdong and Hawai'i in 2021; However, the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB) has maintained relations and discussions with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office and the Office of the Guangdong People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

In 2020 Guangdong and Hawaii celebrated the 35th anniversary of their Sister-State Relationship. Due to the global pandemic, however, Hawaii and Guangdong were unable to plan a commemorative celebration.

In September 2020 at the Guangdong-U.S. Investment Cooperation Conference Governor David Y. Ige provided a video message of aloha and recognized Hawaii's close relationship with Guangdong Province through the years.

In November 2020 DBEDT, together with the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB), hosted a China Market Webinar Series. 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.

Hainan Province (1992)

There were not any Sister-State activities between Hainan and Hawai'i in 2021 due to the pandemic. However, the State of Hawaii Beijing Office (SHOB) maintained relations and discussions with the Investment Officer of Hainan's Department of Commerce and the Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development (IEDB) for possible cooperation in the future.

A 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.

Taiwan (1993)

In December 2021, the State of Hawaii Taipei Office (SHOT), the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council (SHAC), and DBEDT hosted a virtual coffee mart in Kaohsiung to promote Hawaii's coffee industry to Taiwan.

On October 5, 2021, Hawaii was invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to participate the annual U.S. Business Day in Taipei to promote bilateral trade and investment ties between Taiwan and Hawaii. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event in 2021 was a hybrid event.

Starting in September 2021, the State of Hawaii Taipei Office (SHOT) is assisting Hawaii to establish a travel bubble agreement between Taiwan and Hawaii. The process is still on-going.

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 Hawai'i'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. The U.S. encouraged 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 launch 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.

INDIA

Goa (2018)

On October 2, 2020 the Honorable Governor of Goa, Pramod Savant participated in a webinar organized by Honolulu-based Gandhi International Institute for Peace.

In July 2021 face masks, face shields and PPE gowns were donated by the Gandhi International Institute for Peace & the Hawaii Sister State Committee to the Government of Goa to assist them during the COVID-19 crisis.

INDONESIA

Bali, Indonesia (2014)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

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 in 2021. Despite these challenges, three eleven year-old HFKK youth members participated in monthly Japanese language classes that were sponsored by the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation. The Foundation may consider an alternative program for eleven year- old youth who typically are hosted in Fukuoka Prefecture; however, due to the pandemic's challenges during the past two years, an alternative program may be considered for 2022.

Each year, the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Program is implemented by contracting organizations of Japan in cooperation with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Ministry of Internal

Affairs and Communications (MIC). Because of Hawaii's strong ties through its sister-state relationship with Fukuoka Prefecture, seven Hawaii residents participated in JET in Fukuoka in 2021.

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 city of Buzen, ancestral hometown of Governor George Ariyoshi, unveiled a display at their City Hall to honor the former Hawaii governor. The display included a bronze plaque gifted to Fukuoka by the State of Hawaii, photographs, and an informational poster of Governor Ariyoshi's achievements in U.S. and Hawaii politics. Governor Ariyoshi and members of his family are expected to visit Buzen for an official ceremony once international travel is allowed.

The City of Yame, ancestral hometown of the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, unveiled a commemorative bronze bust in a community park to honor the former United States Senator from Hawaii. The bust was commissioned by the City of Yame with financial support from the State of Hawaii. Adjacent to the park is a community center and a small local museum honoring Senator Inouye. Members of the Inouye family are expected to visit Yame City once international travel is allowed in Japan.

Every year, the Fukuoka Prefectural Government sends college students to different cities for cultural and educational exchanges as part of their Global Stage Program and the State of Hawaii is selected every two or three years to receive students. The Prefectural Government usually deploys eight students from various Fukuoka universities to Hawaii. Although the 2022 program has not been finalized, the prefectural government is likely to send students to Hawaii in 2022.

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.

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.

The HUOA continued hosting a live broadcast "talk story" and music show known as Yuntaku Live on YouTube and Facebook held every two weeks. This live broadcast featured performances, educational programming, and "talk story" topics with guests from Hawaii, Okinawa, and South America.

In conjunction with the HUOA's 35th Anniversary Sister-State agreement with the Okinawa Prefectural government ("OPG"), the HUOA also celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange Program in coordination with OPG's Department of Education. It was a virtual exchange between 16 students from Hawaii and 20 students from Okinawa that culminated with a video that highlighted similarities and differences in culture and daily life in Hawaii and Okinawa.

Also in 2021, HUOA created a committee of fourth generation (yonsei) volunteers who produced and aired the 2021 virtual Irei No Hi program commemorating the end of the Battle of Okinawa on June 23rd on YouTube and Facebook. HUOA aired the Uchinanchu No Hi Virtual (Worldwide Okinawa Day) Program on October 31, 2021.

Due to the pandemic, the 2nd Virtual Okinawan Festival was held September 4-5, 2021. Highlights included performances by Hawaii Okinawa cultural groups; guest performances from Okinawa and a virtual bon dance. Total viewership was over 60,000 views from around the world.

In 2022, HUOA we will be working closely with Okinawa to conduct virtual meetings and programming to support ongoing governmental relationships and begin preparations for the 7th Worldwide Okinawa Festival that will be held in Okinawa in 2022.

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.

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.

For 2021, due to the threat of the Corona Virus Pandemic and the restrictions/mandates imposed since March 2020, a number of programs/events were postponed or cancelled for the year. However, the HHSSC initiated and participated in the following programs/events with the help of the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai (HHKK):

EDUCATION:

- Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai (HHKK) College Scholarship

The recipient studied Global Studies at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

- Hiroshima International Student Exchange Program

With the threat of the pandemic and continuing travel restrictions to Japan, the Hiroshima International Student Exchange Program was held "virtually" during the weekends of July/August 2021. Five high school students joined in this interesting and informative educational opportunity.

- Development of Video for Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics:

At the request of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government, a video featuring young children in Honolulu promoting peace was developed. The videos selected were shown to athletes of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in July 2021.

The video was filmed at the Makiki Christian Church Pre-School and featured three year-old students promoting "maluhia" which is the Hawaiian word for peace. The video also featured the Makiki Christian Church, which was built in 1931 and has been the only Christian Church in the United States designed to look like a 16th century Japanese castle.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai participated in the Global "Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Bridge" Program
- On October 24, 2021, directors of the HHKK participated in a unique in-person and virtual Conference of the "Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Bridge" program.

This organization worked with the Goto of Hiroshima Foundation and presented a virtual "We Love Hawaii" program. The HHKK participants promoted the State of Hawaii to people in Hiroshima and other regions of Japan.

PEACE INITIATIVES:

- Promoted the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition in Honolulu in 2020 and 2021. Mr. Wayne Miyao, President of the HHSSC was named by then Mayor Kirk Caldwell to promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition. A promotional plan was developed and implemented to encourage attendance to this joint Exhibition. The plan focused on generating attendance to this Exhibition from schools, businesses, and community groups as well as visitors from Japan especially those visiting Hawaii from Hiroshima and Tokyo.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

- HHKK Face Masks to Hiroshima and Tokyo -- Funds were raised for the development and production of HHKK face masks. In late February 2021, the HHKK gifted the following Hiroshima organizations with these face masks:
 - a. 200 masks to the Hiroshima Prefectural Government including the Prefectural Assembly
 - b. 200 to Hiroshima City Government including City Council, and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
 - c. 50 to Tokyo Hiroshima-Ken People's Organization

The response received from the Hiroshima government and "sister" Kenjin Kai were overwhelmingly positive. Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki said, "I was deeply touched by all of your kindhearted thoughtfulness, and it once again reminded me of the deep friendships that we have fostered." Mayor Kazumi Matsui remarked, "The mask is really good because it is light and comfortable to wear. The color black has a strong impact and looks cool." The HHKK face masks were sent to the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and Hiroshima City Government as a token of appreciation for the many programs and activities that they have supported over the years. The face masks served as a reminder of the friendships between Hawaii and Hiroshima. Regarding the face masks sent to the Tokyo Hiroshima-Ken People's Organization, President Miyao elaborated, "We established the "sister" Kenjin Kai relationship in January of 2020. Unfortunately, with the threat of the Corona Virus Pandemic, several programs were postponed.

The gift of the HHKK face masks helped to re-establish HHKK's budding relationship with this organization."

PROPOSED/PENDING PROGRAM/INITIATIVES:

- Hiroshima Peace Garden: Working with the City and County of Honolulu to propose the creation of a Hiroshima Peace Garden in Honolulu.
- Establishment of "Sister" Park relationship between Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum: In Process

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 75th 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 75th 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.

The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2021. In honor of this occasion, Hiroshima Prefecture Governor Yuzaki, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima City and the Chairman of the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry sent congratulatory messages to the HJCC. The HJCC members have plans to visit Hiroshima along with the delegates of the Emerging Young Business Leaders program in 2022. The HJCC has plans underway to commemorate its 40th Sister Chamber relationship with Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ehime Prefecture (2003)

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii reported that on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a private remembrance ceremony for the 20th anniversary of the sinking of the Uwajima Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru at the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kakaako Waterfront Park.

Due to travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, Hawaii and Ehime did not engage in any other activities in 2021.

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.

Hokkaido Prefecture (2017)

In 2021, the Hokkaido Club Hawaii (DBA: Hokkaido Jinkai) reported that all physical in-person events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, the 73rd Japan-America Student Conference was held virtually and Hokkaido Club's President, Kanzo Nara was a guest speaker. The event attracted 80 participants from the U.S. and Japan. One of the topics discussed during the forum pertained to Hokkaido's culture and immigration.

In 2022, the Hokkaido Club is planning the 5th anniversary of the Hawaii-Hokkaido Sister-State relationship. Also, in 2022, the Chitose-Honolulu direct flight between Hawaii and Hokkaido will be celebrating its 10th anniversary although the flight was temporarily suspended due to travel restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic.

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.

Yamaguchi Prefecture (Approved, but not signed yet)

The State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi will be officially signing its sister-state agreement in 2022.

KOREA

Jeju Province (1986)

This year marked the 35th anniversary of Hawaii's sister-state relationship with Jeju. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, a virtual conference was held in celebration of this milestone. "Carbon Neutralization for the Next Generation: Local Cooperation to Achieve Carbon Net-Zero and Climate Action" was the theme of the conference which included speakers from Hawaii and Jeju. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and Jeju Lieutenant Governor Manseop Koo gave opening remarks. Maria Tome, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program Manager from the Hawaii State Energy Office was a featured speaker giving an update on the State's renewable energy efforts. The conference also included a panel of student speakers to talk about their vision for the future. Hawaii was represented by Stacie Bae, a Kalani High School senior.

Government officials from Hawaii and Jeju attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow, Scotland. The delegations from Hawaii and Jeju also met separately to discuss matters related to Hawaii and Korea on November 7, 2021. The delegation from Hawaii included Governor David Ige, Ms. Suzanne Case, Mr. Scott Glen and Ms. Anukriti Hittle. From Korea, Acting Jeju Governor Maseop Koo and other officials met with the Hawaii delegation.

One of the ongoing education exchanges between Hawaii and Jeju Province is the annual Jeju Youth Forum that has been co-organized since 2010 by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education with a goal of building a youth network of future global leaders. The Hawaii Department of Education has been instrumental in providing opportunities for Hawaii students from various high schools to participate in this annual event but due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually in 2021.

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.

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 was initially planned for 2021. Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, the event will be held in 2022 at the Hawaii Convention Center and is expected to attract attendees from Hawaii's sister-provinces in the Philippines.

In 2021, the Hawaii Philippines Business and Economic Council (HPBEC) held a virtual event between businesses in Hawaii and the Philippines. Thought leaders from Hawaii and the Philippines were invited to participate as speakers, panelists, moderators and artists to discuss issues and share best practices or showcase their art works that were relevant and timely to the five pillars of Hawaii-Philippines diplomatic relations: political governance; economic cooperation; cultural exchanges; people-to-people ties; and social responsibility.

The virtual event was a project of the HPBEC, a non-profit organization incorporated in 2011 whose primary mission was to create a forum for the exchange of information and direction between Hawaii and the Philippines; promote business and economic development; and advocate for Hawaii residents who consider both the Philippines and Hawaii as home.

2021 was a landmark year—a time of recovery from the pandemic that changed the world, where technology allowed participants to dialogue and share experiences despite the restrictions imposed by COVID 19.

Ilocos Sur Province (1985)

No activities reported for 2021.

Cebu Province, Philippines (1996)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

Pangasinan Province (2002)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

Ilocos Norte Province (2005)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

Isabela Province (2006)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.

PORTUGAL

Azores Islands (1982)

No activities reported for 2020-2021.