

**Hawaii Sister-State Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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### Hawaii Sister State Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held via teleconference as authorized by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation Related to the State's COVID-19 Delta Response dated October 1, 2021.

The public is invited to participate thru Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86828529008>

Materials for this agenda and minutes for this meeting will be available at:  
<https://invest.hawaii.gov/international/sister-states/>

Members of the public may submit written testimony  
via e-mail to: [DBEDT.CBED@hawaii.gov](mailto:DBEDT.CBED@hawaii.gov)  
or via postal mail to:

DBEDT- Business Development & Support Division  
No.1 Capital District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813;  
or via fax to the DBEDT at (808) 586-2589.

Please include the word "testimony" and the subject matter following the address line.  
All written testimony should be received no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, November 15, 2021.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2021 meeting
- III. Old Business
  - A. Review of current Committee members' terms
- IV. New Business:
  - A. Discussion and Recommendation on Sister-State Application for Madeira, Portugal.
  - B. Review of 2021 Sister-States Annual Report to the Legislature (First Draft)

V. Next Meeting

Date, Time to be discussed

VI. Adjournment

**If you require special assistance or auxiliary aid and/or services to participate in the meeting, please call (808) 587-2757 at least 2 business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made.**

## **Approval of March 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

DRAFT  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT DIVISION (BDSD)**

MINUTES OF THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 AT 11:30 A.M. VIA ZOOM

Committee Members Present were:

Kay Matsui (Chair)	-	Hawaii State Association of Counties
Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs	-	Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization
Debra Nakama	-	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Jean E. Rolles	-	East-West Center (Interim Appointment)
Eduardo Topenio, Jr.	-	President of the Senate

Guests were:

Marilyn Higashide	-	Member, Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai
Cheryl Shintani	-	President, Koi Yamaguchi Kenjinkai
Art Kimura	-	President, Big Island Kenjinkai
Deb Thompson	-	Board Member, Kauai Yamaguchi Kenjinkai
Bob Miyake	-	Hawaii Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

Committee Administration:

Margaret Ahn	-	Attorney General
Dennis Ling	-	DBEDT/BDSD
Mark Ritchie	-	DBEDT/BDSD
Leslie Kawamoto	-	DBEDT/BDSD
Timothy Tiu	-	DBEDT/BDSD
Marlene Hiraoka	-	DBEDT/BDSD

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matsui on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., via ZOOM.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Rolles and seconded by Mr. Hannahs to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, unamended.

Roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Kawamoto and the following committee members approved the motion: Ms. Nakama, Mr. Hannahs, Ms. Rolles and Chair Matsui.

The motion was approved with majority votes.

OLD BUSINESS:

▪ Review of Current Committee Members' Terms:

Mr. Ritchie stated that there are two (2) members of the Sister-State Committee that are holdovers - Ms. Nakama and Mr. Topenio. They are eligible to serve another term but will not be able to continue serving after June 30, 2021, unless they are reappointed. Information relating to members' terms is posted on DBEDT's website. Mr. Ritchie then informed the committee that the Boards and Commissions person in the Governor's Office is aware of the holdovers, and that members who are interested in serving another term should advise DBEDT as well as the Boards and Commissions person in the Governor's Office. Holdovers are able to serve for another legislative session or two, provided that they do not exceed the eight (8) years that is allowed by law.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and Recommendation on Sister-State Application from Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai:

Mr. Ling welcomed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting in support of the Yamaguchi Sister-State application and asked that they introduce themselves. The guests met the Sister-State Committee members through the roll-call vote.

Mr. Ling gave an overview of the Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai's application for a sister-state relationship.

Mr. Ling stated that DBEDT received an application from the Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai to establish a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Yamaguchi to foster cultural, economic and government ties between the two (2) jurisdictions. The applicant of the request is the Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai in Honolulu.

Mr. Ling noted that Yamaguchi Prefecture played a pivotal role in the modernization of Japan and since the time of the Kanyakuimin from Japan which is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of immigration from Japan to Hawaii where over 10,000 people from Yamaguchi Prefecture immigrated to Hawaii. Mr. Ling also noted that Yamaguchi and Hawaii have enjoyed exchanges between Honolulu, Kauai, Hawaii Island, Kona and Maui in education, travel and government relations throughout the years.

Also, DBEDT received a letter from Governor Tsugumasa Muraoka stipulating that he would also be applying for a sister-state relationship between Yamaguchi Prefecture and Hawaii. Recently, the Legislature introduced a resolution recommending the sister-state relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi. This relationship has a lot of support, and Yamaguchi has been involved in schools exchanges, it developed a museum in Yamaguchi Prefecture dedicated to immigration to Hawaii, it has participated in Honolulu Festivals and other events here in Hawaii, and it is very active in fostering both the cultural as well as economic relations between Hawaii and Yamaguchi. Mr. Ling also noted that this is now a government related matter with the sister-state relationship and DBEDT hopes that the Sister-State Committee will provide strong support. He then advised that DBEDT supports the sister-state relationship between Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State of Hawaii.

**Testimony in Support of the Application for Sister-State:**

- 1) **Cheryl Shintani, Kauai Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai** advised that the Kauai Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai fully supports the Sister-State relationship between Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State Hawaii. Kauai has always been very close to Yamaguchi Prefecture and there is a Sister-City relationship between Suo-Oshima (located in Yamaguchi Prefecture) and Kauai. Ms. Shintani mentioned that there is a Yamaguchi University Exchange students program with Kauai. The Kauai Matsuri was started by the Chairman of Japan Assembly Mr. Yanai who is part of Yamaguchi Prefecture. Governor Muraoka visited Kauai twice and participated in community activities. Ms. Shintani also mentioned that she met the Minister of Defense from Iwakuni City in Yamaguchi Prefecture and that the Ministry has an agreement with Barking Sands Navy Base in Kauai and there are a lot of State connections as well as Kauai County connection with Yamaguchi Prefecture.
- 2) **Marilyn Higashide** shared that she is a retired teacher from Hokulani Elementary School. She shared her support for the Sister-State relationship between Hawaii and Yamaguchi Prefecture. She advised that on three (3) different occasions, Hokulani Elementary School took a group of students between the ages 9 and 11 (4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders) to Yamaguchi and they were very warmly welcomed. They toured various sites including an elementary school in Iwakuni City which was quite special because many people immigrated from Iwakuni City to Hawaii and it was nice to visit there and to see where some of her ancestors came from. They also met various government officials. She also informed committee members that in February every year, Honolulu Kenjin Kai welcomes Otsu Ryokuyo High School, a prefectural high school in Yamaguchi that conducts fisheries training, tours aboard their ship, receptions, picnics, etc., They have also distributed large numbers of brochures and products from Yamaguchi during the Honolulu Festivals because their Kenjin Kai staffs a booth during the Festival. These brochures and products are sent annually by the Yamaguchi Prefectural

Government to Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai aboard the Otsu Ryokuyo High School fisheries ship, the Kaiyu Maru. She shared other educational activities that the students participated in and enjoyed in Yamaguchi that made their trip very educational and memorable.

Lastly, at their recent Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai board meeting, members shared what they would like to see take place in the future with their clubs as well as with other Yamaguchi Kenjin Kais around the world. She said because we are home with the pandemic, we would like to show some interesting sightseeing areas and spots on our websites and contact Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai in other countries. A relationship that is cemented formally can help facilitate communication and enable programs to be developed that are of interest to the Kenjin Kais and Yamaguchi Prefecture.

- 3) **Debra Nakama from Maui** advised that Maui has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yamaguchi and that they have been in a relationship with them since 2017. There have been many exchanges between the two (2) campuses. She also mentioned that they have a new international director and are currently transitioning from Ms. Amy Wilson to the new director. In the past, the focus was on aging, health and fitness programs and their Center on Maui focused on activities for seniors. Yamaguchi students visited the Maui Language Institute and participated in their non-credit courses. The new focus, moving forward, especially during the pandemic, will be online learning and making sure that innovative ways are considered to keep the relationship active by using technology to further the relationship until travel opens up between Japan and Hawaii. Ms. Nakama stated on behalf of the University of Maui College, that they are looking forward to this sister-state relationship.

Ms. Shintani said she felt that one of the most important things in Yamaguchi Prefecture is the Museum of Japanese Immigration to Hawaii on Suo-Oshima Island. For a fee of US\$4.00, anyone from around the world would be able to find their roots and would not have to be from Yamaguchi Prefecture to do so. They would be able to track their ancestors that would include birthdates, and when they left Japan to emigrate to Hawaii, or to other places, and also provide addresses.

Ms. Shintani recently participated in a virtual tour of the museum and commented that it is a marvelous place.

A question was raised about the process of establishing the sister-state relationship.

Mr. Ling replied that the Legislature is waiting for the Sister-State Committee to make its decision and that a resolution would be drafted that will state that the Sister-State Committee has met and has approved the relationship and that they will then urge the signing of a sister-state agreement.

Ms. Nakama asked if there were any costs involved in the sister-state relationships.  
Mr. Ling replied that there is no cost involved to establish a sister-state relationship.

Mr. Ling said that one of the most important things about the sister-state relationship is the sustainability of the relationship and it is good to know that there are Kenjin Kai in each county of the neighbor islands and that will help sustain the relationship and move it forward.

Ms. Hiraoka said currently, DBEDT has five (5) sister-state relationships with the Prefectures of Okinawa, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Ehime and Hokkaido. All of those relationships have been very active, whether it be via educational exchanges, youth sports exchange or participating in Economic Summits. In 2022 a Hawaii Japan Sister-State Convention is being organized by the Japan America Society of Hawaii. This is an opportunity to bring together all of the sister relationships that DBEDT has with Japan Prefectures as well as cities. The Prefectures are very active and they have developed their own priorities in terms of how they want to continue their interaction with Hawaii.

Ms. Shintani informed the committee members that from October 25-27, 2021, the Yamaguchi Prefecture Kenjinkai World Grand Meeting will be held in Yamaguchi City and about 30 people from Kauai are planning to attend in person. There will be a lot of tours especially to the immigration museum, to ancient Japanese sites and also to Yamaguchi University.

Mr. Kimura testified that he strongly supports the sister-state relationship, not only because there were thousands of migrants from Yamaguchi who immigrated to Hawaii but also because these immigrants greatly impacted Hawaii's economy, education and social fabric. He expressed that he has been fortunate to be able to trace his ancestry back 400 years now. He indicated that he has taken several trips to Yamaguchi and in 2019, guided 58 people on a tour to Yamaguchi. There is a lot of interest in Hawaii residents finding their roots in Yamaguchi. He felt that establishing a formal sister-state relationship would enable formal requests for information, etc. with the Yamaguchi Prefectural government. He said that on the education side, he is a teacher and has been offering virtual activities with Japanese schools and recently offered the same to Yamaguchi Prefecture. He is hoping that through education, they can build relationships between their students and those in Yamaguchi.

Mr. Topenio, Jr. asked about the population base of Yamaguchi Prefecture, the major source of the economy and if there were any affiliations with the University of Hawaii. He also asked what Yamaguchi's expectations were regarding the sister-state relationship with Hawaii.

Mr. Ling said the population of Yamaguchi Prefecture is similar to Hawaii's population with about 1.5 million people.

The main economic activity in Yamaguchi is fishing.

For several years, there have been many exchange activities such as visits and opportunities for student exchange with Yamaguchi University, Community Colleges and the University of Hawaii systems in Kauai. Kauai Community College is planning to bring over high school students from their Sister-City Suo-Shima so that they can eventually enroll in Kauai Community College.

Chair Matsui requested a motion to approve the Sister-State Relationship.

Motion was made by Ms. Rolles and seconded by Mr. Hannahs to approve the Sister-State Relationship between Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State of Hawaii.

Roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Kawamoto and the following committee members approved the motion: Ms. Nakama, Mr. Hannahs, Ms. Rolles, Mr. Topenio and Chair Matsui.

Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Review of 2020 Sister-States Annual Report to the Legislature:

Mr. Ritchie shared the 2020 Sister-State Annual Report with board members.

Mr. Ling reminded the Sister-State Committee members of the following:

- 2022 Japan Hawaii Sister-State Convention in Honolulu
- The Filipino Chamber of Commerce is planning the Hawaii Philippines Summit virtually at the moment, but he will see if they also would like to go live.
- Virtual Sister-State Summit would be in 2021 – will see if they would like to go live sometime in 2022.

Mr. Hannahs commented that now that we will be recommending the establishment of this relationship to the Hawaii State Legislature, he asked about the time-frame for the signing of the agreement given COVID-19 travel restrictions

Mr. Ling explained that the Legislature will pass a resolution regarding the sister-state relationship that will be sent up to the Governor with the Sister-State Committee's recommendations to enter into a relationship. As for the signing, in the interest of time it could be done virtually with Governor Ige signing here in Hawaii and Governor Muraoka signing in Yamaguchi. However, he believes that the Yamaguchi side also needs to approve their authorization to enter into the Sister-State Agreement.

Ms. Higashide will find out from her end, if the approval is in place so that the Governor of Yamaguchi can sign the Sister-State Agreement. She will then provide an update to DBEDT.

NEXT MEETING:

TBA

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm, on a motion by Ms. Nakama and seconded by Mr. Topenio.

Roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Kawamoto and the following committee members approved the motion: Ms. Nakama, Mr. Hannahs, Ms. Rolles, Mr. Topenio and Chair Matsui.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay matsui*

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Kay Matsui  
Chair

Apr 13, 2021

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Date

**Review of current Committee members'  
terms**

## **Discussion and Recommendation on Sister- State Application for Madeira, Portugal**



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

**SISTER-STATE APPLICATION FORM**

(Rev 7/24/2017)

Thank you for your interest in proposing a new Sister-State relationship for the State of Hawaii. In addition to completing this application form, please provide other pertinent information/supporting documentation that would be useful to the Hawaii Sister-State Committee during the decision-making process.

REQUIRED INFORMATION		
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>		
Proposed Sister-State:	Madeira, Portugal	
Name of Person Submitting Application:	Tyler Dos Santos-Tam/Dr. Marlene Hapai	
Title of Person Submitting Application:	President/President, Executive Director	
Organization of Person Submitting Application:	Portuguese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii/HIPCC Cultural & Educational Center	
Complete Address:	PO Box 1381, Honolulu, HI 96807/P.O. Box 1120, Hilo, HI 96721	
Telephone Number:	808-348-8885	FAX Number: 808-966-9894
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:tylerdst@gmail.com">tylerdst@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:mhapai@aol.com">mhapai@aol.com</a>
List existing Sister-State relationships the proposed Sister-State already has:  <b>List to be provided by Madeira Government.</b>		
Explain why a Sister-State relationship with the State of Hawaii is important to the state/province/prefecture. (Attach official government documentation of proof of interest <u>from the provincial, prefecture, or state jurisdiction</u> to establish a Sister-State relationship with the State of Hawaii [legislation, letter(s) of support, etc.]).  <b>Letter to be provided by Madeira Government.</b>		

Explain how the State of Hawaii will benefit from this proposed Sister-State relationship. (Attach official resolution from the State of Hawaii legislature requesting the Sister-State Committee review and consider the establishment of a Sister-State relationship).

**See attachment for response.**

Business organizations, academic organizations, civic and/or community organizations, international exchange organizations and affiliations in proposed Sister-State that *would play a significant role in cultivating and sustaining this Sister-State relationship*:

Organizations in Proposed Sister-State

Mission

Nexus with Hawaii

**List to be provided by Madeira Government.**

Business organizations, academic organizations, civic and/or community organizations, international exchange organizations and affiliations in Hawaii that *would play a significant role in cultivating and sustaining this Sister-State relationship*:

**See attachment.**

Please provide a brief description of any applicable historical facts and/or notable historical figures that will contribute to the proposed Sister-State relationship. Also, please explain any previous relationships or nexus with Hawaii that prompted your interest in forming a Sister-State relationship.

**See attachment.**

**Please return completed form to:  
State of Hawaii Sister-State Committee  
Business Development & Support Division  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
PO Box 2359  
Honolulu Hawaii 96804 USA**

## OPTIONAL INFORMATION

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Official Language:	Portuguese	Head of State:	<p>Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal António Costa, Prime Minister Miguel Albuquerque, President of Regional Gov't of Madeira (equivalent of Governor)</p>
Government System:	<p>Constitutional Republic</p> <p>Governed by Constitution, with roots in Roman system. As member of E.U., European law applies.</p>	Governmental Structure:	<p>Portugal: Executive Powers held dually by President and Prime Minister; Legislative Powers held by Parliament.</p> <p>Madeira: Autonomous Region within Portugal, with its own legislature and president (equivalent of Governor).</p>
Legal System:		Transportation System:	<p>Int'l airport at Funchal. Air and ferry service to Porto Santo Island.</p>
Demographic Information:		Population:	289,000 (2016)
Male:	47%	Female:	53%
Average Earnings:	<p>\$27,986 per capita GDP</p> <p>Generally Portuguese, however, has residents from Portuguese colonies and retirees from other European countries.</p>	Religions:	96% Catholic
Ethnic Diversity:		Climate:	Generally temperate and mild, similar to Hawaii.
Educational System:	Public K-12 system and one flagship university	Health/Medical System (hospitals/areas of expertise):	6 private hospitals, and 3 public hospitals supported by Nat'l Health Service.
International Programs & Exchanges:			

The University of Madeira has an intensive Portuguese summer course for foreigners. One goal of the Hawaii-Madeira relationship is to send a student from UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and UH Hilo to participate in the program yearly.

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Major Industries (please list):

Tourism, agriculture (wine, sugar, and fruits), fisheries, artisanal crafts.

Please describe government policies, programs, etc. for the following categories:

Trade (free Trade Zone or Economic Zone):	Madeira is one of Portugal's two free trade zones.	Environment:	Madeira is highly conscious of its environment and is a leader in eco-tourism and sustainable fisheries in Europe.
Labor:	Labor policy is in line with international and European standards.	Health:	Health and wellness travel is an important tourism subsector.
Education (including global education programs):	University of Madeira (bachelor, master, and doctoral programs). Partnership with Carnegie Mellon U. to form Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute on robotics.	Tourism:	Highly developed tourism sector, extremely popular with German, British, and Nordic tourists
Agriculture:	Extensively developed agricultural sector, including wine, sugar, tropical fruits, and cattle. Well known for their unique "levada" irrigation system.	Science & Tech:	STEM-related Institutions: Madeira Science and Technology Park (Madeira Tecnopolo); CEIM - Madeira Business Innovation Centre; AREAM - Regional Agency for Energy and Environment; and ADERAM - Regional Development Agency
Arts & Entertainment:	Traditional arts include embroidery, cork work, etc.	Other Industries:	Madeira hosts a large casino complex.

## MEDIA

Official Website:	<a href="https://www.madeira.gov.pt">https://www.madeira.gov.pt</a>	Major Television Stations:	RTP Madeira – Regional affiliate of state broadcaster
Major Radio Stations:	16 radio stations, including two public broadcast stations.	Trade Publications:	Jornal da Madeira, Diário de Notícias da Madeira, Funchal Notícias, Tribuna da Madeira, Garajau

## OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS

### *Special Attractions and Cultural Diversity (ethnic groups, activities, etc.):*

Museums:	Conservatory/School of Arts, Contemporary Arts Center, Sacred Art Museum.	Symphony:	Orquestra Clássica da Madeira was founded 56 years ago.
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Theatre & Performing Arts:	Baltazar Dias Municipal Theater, and a cultural center in each town.	Folk Arts:	Numerous art galleries.
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Traditional Handicrafts:	Embroidery, cork work, etc.	Zoo:	No zoo.
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Aquarium:	Has large aquarium in Porto Moniz.
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### Other special attractions/examples of cultural diversity:

Large events include: Carnival - February, Flower Festival - May, Atlantic Festival - June, Sugar Festival - July, Wine Festival - August, Nature Festival - October, and various Christmas/Winter celebrations in December. Madeira hosts one of the world's largest fireworks displays for New Year's, as recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records.

### *Sports Teams/Sporting Events:*

Professional:	Cristiano Ronaldo, the most famous soccer player in the world, is from Madeira.  Madeira has three soccer teams in the top-tier Portuguese League. Madeira also has a basketball team which plays in the Portuguese league.	Semi-Professional:	Madeira has two soccer teams in the lower divisions of the Portuguese league.
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Amateur:	Surfing, handball, diving, and running are popular amateur sports.	Official Sport:	Soccer ("Futebol")
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### Sports Clubs:

C.S. Marítimo, Nacional, União (Soccer – 1<sup>st</sup> Division); U.D. Santana and A.D. Pontassolense (Soccer – Lower Divisions); CAB Madeira (Basketball); Madeira Andebol SAD (Handball).

### Major Sporting Events:

Surfing: Hosted Billabong Challenge in 1996 and World Big Wave Championship in 2001.

Auto Racing: Vinho da Madeira Rally is hosted every summer, part of the European Rally Trophy (ERT) championship.

**Business organizations, academic organizations, civic and/or community organizations, international exchange organizations and affiliations in Hawaii that would play a significant role in cultivating and sustaining this Sister-State relationship.**

<u>Organizations in Hawaii</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Nexus with Proposed Sister-State</u>
Portuguese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii	<p>To support education and the arts, and especially inspire persons of Portuguese ancestry to strive for excellence in education, business, and community endeavors;</p> <p>To urge persons of Portuguese ancestry of all ages to understand, appreciate, and further the culture, music, and the arts of their forbearers; and</p> <p>To encourage the preservation of the unique and valuable Portuguese heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.</p>	<p>Works to promote trade, investment, and cultural connections between Hawaii and Portugal.</p> <p>Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.</p>
Hawaii Island Portuguese Chamber of Commerce	<p>To support education and the arts, and especially inspire persons of Portuguese ancestry to strive for excellence in education, business, and community endeavors;</p> <p>To urge persons of Portuguese ancestry of all ages to understand, appreciate, and further the culture, music, and the arts of their forbearers; and</p> <p>To encourage the preservation of the unique and valuable Portuguese heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.</p>	<p>Works to promote trade, investment, and cultural connections between Hawaii and Portugal.</p> <p>Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.</p>
Hawaii Council on Portuguese Heritage	To bring together the various Portuguese organizations in Hawaii.	Will help to facilitate activities that requires participation from multiple Hawaii-based organizations.
Portuguese Genealogical Society	To help Hawaii's Portuguese population to trace their ancestry and document the history of the Portuguese community in Hawaii.	Works with contacts in Madeira to assist Hawaii families in tracing their genealogy and to obtain further genealogical records from Madeira.
Camões Portuguese Club/Camões Players	To perpetuate Portuguese culture in Hawaii, particularly through dance.	Hosts Portuguese language classes every Sunday. Hosts Camões Day celebration (coincides with Portugal's National Day) every June.

Portuguese Pioneer Civic Association	To perpetuate Portuguese culture in Hawaii.	Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.
Nova Esperança	To perpetuate the Portuguese culture in Hawaii.	Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.
Portuguese Culture & Heritage Center	To raise funds for a Portuguese cultural center on Oahu.	Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.
Punchbowl Holy Ghost	To perpetuate the Portuguese culture, particularly through religion.	Large number of members trace their heritage to Madeira, and their cultural activities derive in part from Madeira.
UH Manoa	To support Hawaii students studying abroad and to support incoming foreign students.	The three UH campuses would like to participate in study abroad programs, particularly the Univ. of Madeira Intensive Summer Course program.
UH Maui College		
UH Hilo		
Paul Neves – Hula Halau	To teach hula and Hawaiian culture.	Has led hula workshops in Madeira. Intends to spend six months in Madeira per year.
Leinaala Pavao Jardine – Hula Halau	To teach hula and Hawaiian culture.	Has led hula workshops in Madeira.
Ka'ū Multicultural Society	To educate, provide, perpetuate, and preserve the history of Ka'ū, then and now, in pictures, stories, legends, language and genealogy through exhibits, displays, arts and crafts of all ethnic groups.	Many members trace their heritage to Madeira and provide and participate in events sharing their Portuguese culture with the community.
Portuguese Heritage Club of Hāmākua	To inform about and to perpetuate the significant contributions to Hawaii's unique heritage made by our ancestors through education, demonstrations, and cultural displays.	Many members trace their heritage to Madeira and participate in events sharing their Portuguese culture with the community. The group has perpetuated the Holy Ghost Feast on the Island of Hawaii.
Big Island Portuguese Cultural Club	To continue to bring the presence of the Portuguese culture to the community of Hawaii.	Many members trace their heritage to Madeira and promote the Portuguese culture through song, dance, language, and food to the people of Hawaii.

<p>Hawaii Island Portuguese Chamber of Commerce Cultural &amp; Educational Center, "Saudades"</p>	<p>To document, preserve, and share the valuable contributions of the Portuguese to Hawaii's history before they are forever lost, including their rich history of exploration, past and present contributions and assimilation into their communities, and using today's technology, provide the opportunity for all Hawaii's immigrants to reunite with families and friends throughout the world.</p>	<p>Through exhibits, programs, classes and ongoing events, the Center will honor the ancestors who came before us and revive the Portuguese culture that has contributed to the Hawaii we know today.</p>
<p>Maui Portuguese Culture Club</p>	<p>To perpetuate the traditions, culture and rich heritage of the Portuguese and to share this with the people of Maui and visitors.</p>	<p>Through fundraising and community service, scholarships are provided to students of Portuguese ancestry, a Portuguese Garden in Kepaniwai Heritage Park is maintained and a new commitment to keep the Portuguese culture on Maui thriving is being focused upon.</p>
<p>Portuguese Association of Maui</p>	<p>The Portuguese community in Hawaii goes back 150 years. The Portuguese Association of Maui creates further awareness of Hawaii's Portuguese heritage since 1984.</p>	<p>Through various presentations, workshops, exhibits and events, PAM brings the Portuguese culture to the Maui community.</p>
<p>Kauai Representation</p>	<p>Former Mayor Bernard Carvalho is convening meetings of the Portuguese community on Kauai with the goal of organizing to support this and other cultural efforts.</p>	

**Explain how the State of Hawaii will benefit from this proposed Sister-State relationship.**

Hawaii and Madeira have a long and storied history, which would be appropriately commemorated and celebrated by the establishment of a sister state relationship.

Beginning in 1878, immigrants from Madeira began arriving on Hawaii's shores to work on our sugar cane plantations. In 1879, Manuel Nunes emigrated from Madeira bringing along with him a small guitar-like instrument which would become the beloved Hawaiian ukulele. Throughout the next 30 years, thousands more Portuguese would arrive, roughly half from Madeira.

Looking ahead, there are many opportunities for mutual collaboration and benefit. Specifically, we hope to focus on the areas of culture and education as the primary means of keeping the relationship active and sustainable over the long term:

**Culture**

A sister state relationship would immediately strengthen the Portuguese culture in Hawaii by creating opportunities for Madeiran performers to visit Hawaii and vice versa. At least two *kumu hula*, Paul Neves and Leinaala Pavao Jardine, have already visited Madeira in the past two years to conduct hula workshops there.

As part of our Sister State relationship, various local Portuguese organizations intend to provide support for the efforts of the *kumu hula* to teach in Madeira, with the intent that a *halau* be established there.

**Education and Research**

Discussions have taken place to send at least one student each from UH Mānoa, UH Maui College, and UH Hilo on an annual basis to participate in the University of Madeira's Intensive Summer Course, starting with the Summer of 2020. Eventually, these campuses would welcome students from the University of Madeira to study. A student from UH Hilo was accepted last year but deferred her participation in the program to the Summer of 2020. UH Maui is committed to participating as well, provided that they are able to identify an interested student. As UH Mānoa already teaches Portuguese, we believe it will not be difficult to find a student from the Portuguese program to participate.

Additionally, a proposal is currently being made to gauge the interest of students of Portuguese descent at Punahou and St. Louis (Oahu); St. Anthony and Seabury Hall (Maui); and St. Joseph (Hilo) to travel to Madeira for intensive language and culture courses in 2021. The Portuguese Government, through the Camões Institute, has programs to provide financial support for Portuguese-language learning in high schools, making Hawaii-based programs eligible to apply for government grants.

While student exchanges and re-establishing the Portuguese language are of great importance to Hawaii's Portuguese, scientific research and collaborations between Madeira and Hawaii can provide valuable opportunities for both locations. The presence of related peoples and plants has established gene pools in two areas with commonalities that can learn from one another. Endangered species in island environments can be studied. Agricultural practices can be shared with Hydrology, Meteorology, Oceanography and Geology and other island-

related sciences focused on for mutual benefit. Human genetics can also be studied comparing related populations in Hawaii and Madeira to determine the effects of different variables on the separation of relatives. The possibilities are many and faculty and researcher relationships and exchanges can be forged to the mutual benefit of all.

Additionally, after the relationship is set up and developed, we would propose building relationships in the tourism and environmental sustainability fields:

### **Tourism**

As a large European tourist destination, Madeira welcomes approximately 1.2 million tourists a year. There are opportunities for Hawaii to learn from Madeira, and vice versa, particularly in the area of eco-tourism and attracting European visitors. Madeira has hosted a number of summits for European tourism organizations, and with Hawaii's attempts to woo European visitors. Hawaii's participation in these summits could pay dividends. An exchange of marketing methods used in Hawaii and Madeira could also benefit both tourist destinations.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

As remote oceanic islands, sustainability is important to Madeira. There are opportunities for Hawaii to learn from Madeira, which currently generates 50% of its electricity from renewable sources. The smaller island of Porto Santo, which is part of the Madeira Autonomous Region, is undertaking an ambitious plan called "Sustainable Porto Santo – Smart Fossil Free Island." Porto Santo has partnered with French automaker Renault to use the island as a test bed for the integration of sustainable and connected technologies. As Hawaii has an ambitious 100% renewable energy goal by 2040, this is a logical point of collaboration.

**Please provide a brief description of any applicable historical facts and/or notable historical figures that will contribute to the proposed Sister-State relationship. Also, please explain any previous relationships or nexus with Hawaii that prompted your interest in forming a Sister-State relationship.**

Information on the longstanding historical relationship between Hawaii and Madeira was provided in a previous response.

In 1982, a sister state relationship was formed between Hawaii and the Azores. As part of establishing a sister state relationship with Madeira, the various organizations supporting the effort would also like to reestablish ties with the Azores as part of strengthening the overall relationship between Hawaii and its Portuguese sisters.

Sister city relationships were formed between Honolulu and Funchal in 1979 and Maui and Funchal in 1985. A Twinning Protocol was established between Kauai and the City of Ponta Delgada, Azores on November 14, 2018. The sister state relationship will also help to support, and in turn be supported by, these sister city relationships.



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DA MADEIRA  
GOVERNO REGIONAL  
DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DAS COMUNIDADES E COOPERAÇÃO EXTERNA

Mr. Dennis T. Ling, Director  
Business Development  
& Support Division;  
Department of Business,  
Economic Development, and  
Tourism;  
250 South Hotel Street, 5th  
Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813 USA

Dear Mr. Dennis T. Ling,

Director of Business Development & Support Division of Hawaii State Government.

At the suggestion of the Honorary Consul of Portugal in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, Mr. Tyler dos Santos - Tam, I am writing you to demonstrate our pleasure and our support in establishing a "Sister State Relationship" between the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) and the North American State of Hawaii, given the heritage of our common history and social sharing. This intention is even more pertinent if we measure the value of the centuries-old relations between these two archipelagos. It should be remembered that 140 years ago the portuguese became integrated and passed on traditions to the Hawaiian people, having distinguished themselves in several areas such as the economic, social and political spheres.

We can use many examples of portuguese descendants that are business leaders, politicians or people that play roles in education system.

One can take the example of João Elliot de Castro, that began the adventure that transported so many people to work in the sugar cane plantations. Nowadays, their great-grandchildren are successful businessman but remain proud of their ancestry. We also have the example of Audrey Rocha Reed, which works in the only portuguese cultural center in Hawaii, guiding the younger descendants through the discovery of their history and heritage.

Inescapable is also Robert Kalley's journey, a Scotland born presbyterian pastor, that lived in Madeira for a few years. In this region he built a significant legacy such as schools and a hospital, since he was known to be in favor of the poor and illiterate people. However, he was expelled from the region due to his work of Protestant evangelization, being able to influence two thousand Madeira born people. These Protestants flee Madeira and took refuge in various regions, one of which was Hawaii, where Kalley evangelized the numerous portuguese colony (Madeirans and Azoreans) who had gone to work in the sugar fields.



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DA MADEIRA  
GOVERNO REGIONAL  
DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DAS COMUNIDADES E COOPERAÇÃO EXTERNA

Besides these examples, Madeiran people brought with them many typical things that are nowadays part of the Hawaiian culture, such as “braguinha”, known as “ukulele”, or “linguiça”, known as “Portuguese Sausage”, that is very present in the Hawaiian gastronomy.

It is our knowledge that Director Dennis T. Ling is responsible for transmitting these agreements within the Hawaii State Government, of which we aim to have the legal procedures approved so that we can enshrine the “Sister State Relationship” agreement.

We’re sure that our Atlantic and Pacific Islands would benefit each other with this “Sister State Relationship”, mainly with the increasing of tourism both ways, as well as publicize and exporting our products to new markets.

We have another thing common: sometimes people say that Madeira is the “Atlantic Hawaii”, because of our fab surf spots and big waves.

We also have in common efforts to make our archipelagos environmentally sustainable and energetically independent. In the case of Madeira region with the project *Porto Santo – Free Fossil Island*.

In other way, it would be wonderful if portuguese language and Madeira traditions could be taught in Hawaii, at the same time that we could learn more about your culture.

We believe that nowadays and regarding the future, the best way to honor the history between Madeira and Hawaii is by establishing a relationship between the two regions, because we consider that today, there is still a significative presence of people from Madeira in your archipelago.

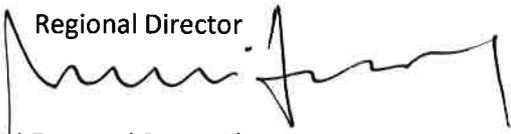
Therefore, we express our desire to gather the communities, starting by giving some products derived from sugar cane, as well as we were happy to know Hawaiian products from sugar cane during the “Regional Sugar Cane Fair”, an event that we use to promote here in Madeira.

We believe that would be very important to start an exchange in order to know the traditions of our peoples, and regarding that, we would like to invite your Governor Mr. David Y. Ige to visit Madeira in order to know a little more about our landscapes, gastronomy activities and sheer nature “poetry”. We would also appreciate, if possible, visiting Hawaii with a view to establishing a better relationship between islands.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Looking forward to hear from you.

Kindest Regards,

Regional Director  
  
Rui Emanuel Sousa Abreu



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DA MADEIRA  
GOVERNO REGIONAL  
SECRETARIA REGIONAL DE TURISMO E CULTURA  
GABINETE DO SECRETÁRIO REGIONAL

Sent by:  
EMAIL

Hawaii Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development  
and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
United States

Secretaria Regional do Turismo e  
Cultura

Direção de Serv. de Apoio à Gestão

**SAÍDA**

N.º : 1 951  
GERAL

24/08/2021  
Proc.: 6.1 4.0

*To Whom It May Concern,*

I am taking the liberty of writing to you, following Mr. Tyler Dos Santos-Tam's visit to Madeira this past July.

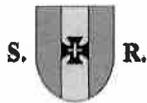
During his visit, I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Dos Santos-Tam and we were able to confer, together, the current situation and the historical ties that unite our Islands.

The cultural bonds between the two archipelagos, particularly the migration of Madeirans to the Hawaiian Islands in the late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries, their establishment there, the cultural transfers occurred and the present interest of their descendants in their Madeiran roots are undeniably realities that can enrich our common future History.

Therefore, it was with great satisfaction that I learned that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism of the Hawaiian government is willing to assess the possibility of a Sister-State agreement between the State of Hawaii and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, as such an agreement would also be an appropriate way to honor Our ancestors by reconnecting Our descendants.

Given the characteristics of the two Archipelagos, reinforced by the aforementioned cultural and migratory bonds, it is my firm belief that there is common ground for fruitful exchange and cooperation to take place in the areas I oversee, namely both tourism and culture.



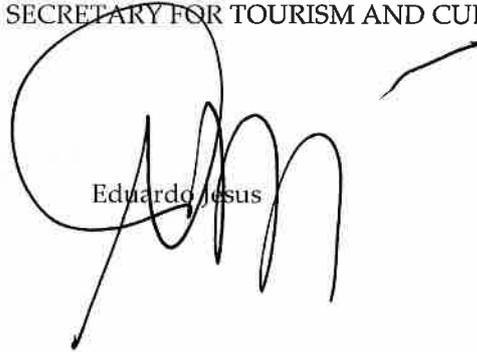


REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DA MADEIRA  
GOVERNO REGIONAL  
SECRETARIA REGIONAL DE TURISMO E CULTURA  
GABINETE DO SECRETÁRIO REGIONAL

Hence, it is with great pleasure that I reaffirm my full support towards the Sister-State initiative between the State of Hawaii, United States of America, and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal, and respectfully reiterate that I am willing to work together, alongside with the State of Hawaii, in all things necessary to achieve this desirous goal.

*Yours faithfully*

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE



Eduardo Jesus





ASSEMBLEIA MUNICIPAL DO FUNCHAL

Hawaii Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic  
Developmente and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
United States

To whom It May Concern

It is with great pleasure that The Municipal Assembly of Funchal supports the twinning intention between the State of Hawaii and the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

The Board of the Municipal Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mário Rodrigues', is written over the printed name.

Mário Rodrigues

President

**Hawai'i Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic  
Development and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
United States**

**Ref.: 2021 / 13043      Data: 2021/09/24**

**Subject: Hawai'i-Madeira Sister State Relationship**

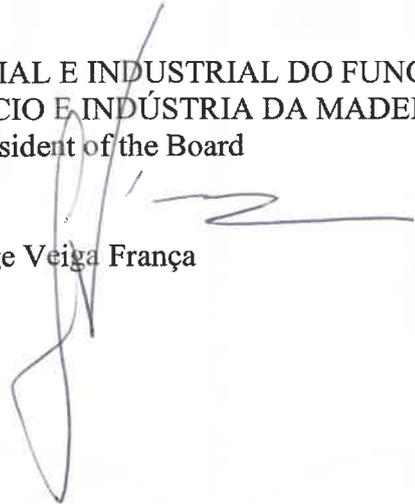
To Whom It May Concern,

With regard to the connection between Hawai'i and Madeira since 1878, when the first immigrants from Madeira arrived in Hawai'i influencing its culture by integrating themselves into the local society and taking their traditions, food and typical objects from their homeland, Funchal Commercial and Industrial Association – Madeira Chamber of Commerce and Industry comes to express its support for the establishment of a Sister State relationship between Madeira and Hawai'i.

Yours sincerely,

**ASSOCIAÇÃO COMERCIAL E INDUSTRIAL DO FUNCHAL  
- CÂMARA DE COMÉRCIO E INDÚSTRIA DA MADEIRA -  
The President of the Board**

**Jorge Veiga França**



IA

Carla Marques  
Pukiki Bar  
Rua das Furnas, n 77  
Estreito da Calheta  
9370-261 Calheta  
Madeira - Portugal

Hawai'i Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu  
Hawai'i 96813 USA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Pukikī Bar regarding the establishment of a sister-state relationship between Madeira and Hawai'i.

We are delighted to hear about the plans that are being made to strengthen the significant cultural ties between the islands. This initiative will greatly compliment our existing efforts, which include: raising awareness of cultural traditions/educational aims/folklore/anthropological studies/music/dance/cookery traditions.

Our organisation has been established for five years, celebrating the cultural connection between Madeira and Hawai'i. We have spent a lot of time researching and collecting items that we have on display to the public at Pukikī. When our Madeiran guests learn about the meaning of Pukikī and the cultural link, they are always surprised and proud of this connection and want to learn more. The interest has been growing a lot since we opened, both with local people but also with tourism.

We have had lots of Hawaiian people of Portuguese ancestry visit our space as well as getting in touch with us for help with finding more about their ancestry. We have, on several occasions, gone to the regional archives, on people's request to find out more about their Madeiran families and got hold of documentation that they would have otherwise not been able to access. We also get many visits from musicians, ukulele players and makers from around the world as we have many original artefacts including an original Manuel Nunes ukulele.

In May 2018 we invited Kumu Paul Neves to host a Hawaiian cultural workshop where people learnt the origins of Hula and Hawaiian culture.

This event was very successful and was a real highlight for us since we opened Pukiki. We hope to build on this events 'success and make it larger and more frequent in order to bring it to more people. We have spoken to the Madeira Tourism entity and they were also very interested.

It is our main goal to establish a permanent link between Madeira and Hawai'i so that more people can learn about this connection and we believe that if both islands work together we would be able to create an annual event and potentially a permanent base for exchanging culture. We strongly believe that this relationship will be positive and beneficial to all those involved.

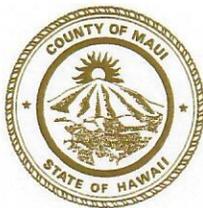
Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Marques". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Carla Marques

**MICHAEL P. VICTORINO**  
Mayor

**SANDY K. BAZ**  
Managing Director



COUNTY OF MAUI  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, HI 96793

September 22, 2021

Hawaii Sister State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Respected Members of the Sister State Committee,

It is my honor to represent the people of Maui County in sharing my strong support for establishing a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal.

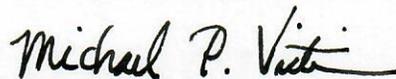
Thousands of Madeirans came to the Kingdom of Hawai'i during the late 1800's to work in sugar and pineapple plantations. Many of them arrived with their families and stayed to become ranchers, farmers, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Maui's first mayor, Elmer Cravalho, was a descendant of immigrants from Madeira like thousands of Maui County residents today.

Even in 2021, the legacy of Madeiran culture remains evident throughout Maui County in a shared discipline of hard work and a love of "talk story." Their homeland recipes for *bolo de caco* were adapted to local ingredients to become *pão doce*, marketed nationally today as "Hawaiian sweet bread." Their devotion to St. Anthony was passed down through generations; many Mauians still call upon him to help find lost objects today. But their most enduring gift was surely the *braginha*, later renamed the 'ukulele, that will be forever linked to Hawaiian music.

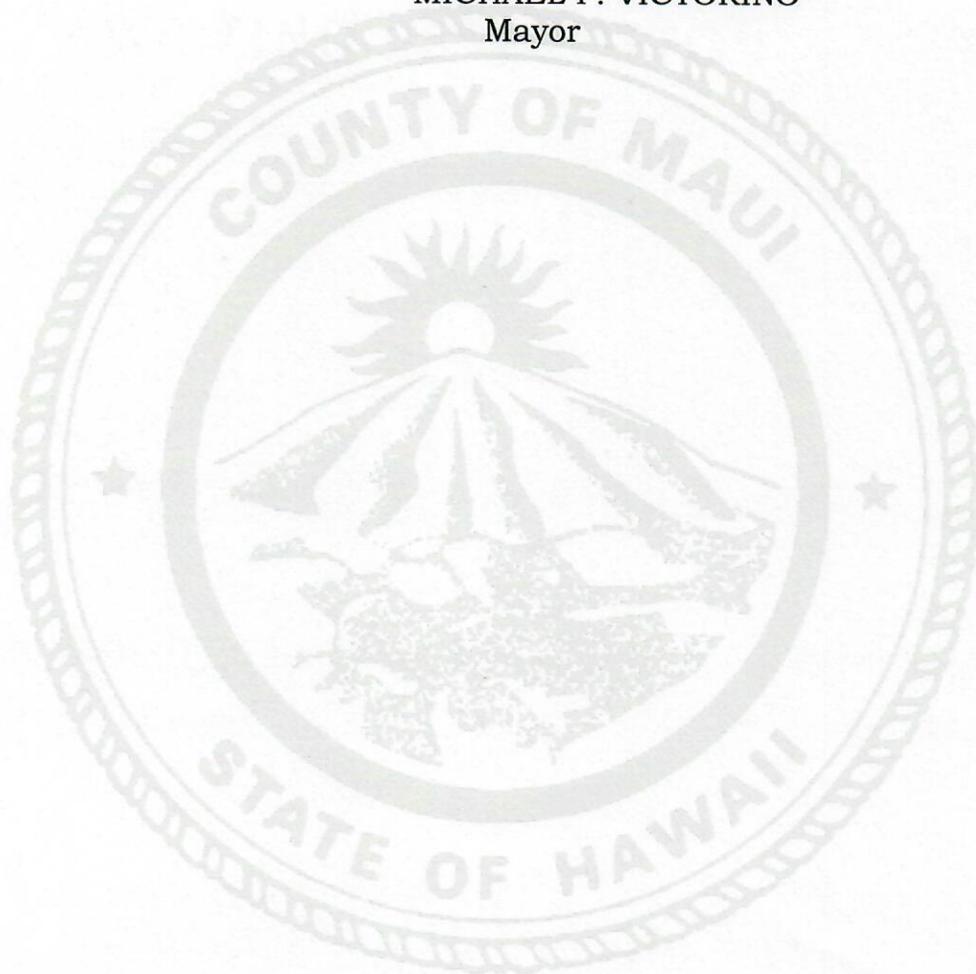
Establishing a Sister State relationship would formalize the cultural ties that have long existed between Hawaii and Madeira. Perhaps more importantly, it would open a door to mutually beneficial educational, cultural, and economic exchange. Such a relationship would shorten the 7,900 miles of distance between both places while connecting Pacific and Atlantic island communities through their shared history.

Please approve the application to establish a Sister State relationship between the Autonomous Region of Madeira and the State of Hawaii. The County of Maui stands ready and willing to advance the programs that would naturally flow from such an international friendship.

Mahalo and *agradeço desde já,*



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor





## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 15, 2021

Hawai'i Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

To the Members of the Hawai'i Sister-State Committee,

I strongly support the establishment of a sister-state relationship between Hawai'i and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal. Madeira meets all the criteria for such an intergovernmental relationship.

Madeira is an island region off the coast of Africa. Like Hawai'i, it is home to several endangered species and struggles with the common island issues such as importation of food and power. A collaboration with Madeira means greater resources to fight these problems.

There is strong evidence of interest in this effort. Previous efforts to establish this relationship began in 2019 but stalled due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite this, in July 2021 key stakeholders in Portugal repeated their support for a sister-state relationship because of the economic advantages such a partnership would bring.

Since 1878, the Portuguese community has been a pillar of Hawaii's economy. About half the sugar plantation workers from Portugal who immigrated to Hawaii were from Madeira. Today, while we do not need plantation workers, we do need investments in science, infrastructure and managing our tourism industry.

The University of Madeira and UH-Manoa have both conducted scientific research into common fields such as agricultural practices, hydrology, meteorology, and other island related sciences. A sister-state relationship would facilitate more talks between the universities and produce more advances in the aforementioned fields.

Furthermore, like Hawai'i, Madeira is a popular tourist destination. The region attracts 1.2 million people annually, more than five times its population. And like Hawai'i, Madeira is transitioning its tourism industry into a more sustainable one. The Madeiran transition is going well, with 50% of their power now generated by renewable sources. A partnership with Madeira

would yield insights into best practices for green infrastructure as well as sustainable tourism. Additionally, Madeira's annual European tourism summits would generate great benefits to Hawai'i in the form of attracting more European tourists to our islands and giving Hawai'i another platform to promote our islands as a destination.

I strongly support this effort to establish a Hawai'i-Madeira sister-state relationship. It will provide our students with more opportunities to learn and our businesses more opportunities to earn. Madeira has been our friend for more than a century. It is time we renew and advance this relationship.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley Chang', written in a cursive style.

Stanley Chang  
Senator, District 9



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 11, 2021

Hawai'i Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Committee Members,

As State House Representative for District 50 (Kailua- Kāne'ohe Bay) and a member of Hawai'i's Portuguese community, I am writing to express my strong support for establishing a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai'i and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal.

The connection between Hawai'i and Madeira dates back to 1878, when the first immigrants from Madeira arrived on our shores to work in the sugar cane plantations. Over the next 30 years, thousands more Portuguese would arrive, of whom approximately half came from Madeira.

Along with their honest, hardworking, and family-oriented attitude, the Portuguese immigrants to Hawai'i brought many reminders of their homeland which would eventually become integral parts of local culture: the braguinha which became the 'ukulele, linguça which became better known as Portuguese sausage, and the cattlemen whose traditions shaped our local paniolo, among others.

Over the past 140 years, the Portuguese in Hawai'i integrated themselves into the fabric of local society, becoming leaders in business, politics, education, and many other fields. We strongly believe that a proper way to honor their contributions now and in the future is to establish a Sister State relationship with the islands of their homeland.

I respectfully request your favorable action on the application to establish a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai'i and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal, and look forward to sustaining the relationship long into the future.

Māhalo,



Representative Patrick Branco  
District 50 (Kailua- Kāne'ohe Bay)

Representative Patrick Branco, District 50 (Kailua-Kāne'ohe Bay)  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 586-6480

Hawaii Sister-State Committee

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

250 South Hotel Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 6, 2021

Re: A letter of support with an added historical context for a Hawaii-Sister State Relationship with Madeira

Dear Members of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee,

My name is Gerald De Mello, born on Hawaii Island. And also raised on this island and part of a 6-generation family living in Hilo and throughout Hawaii Island. Initially our family began with patriarch Lucio Ferreira, great grandfather, and his wife Maria Ferreira, my great grandmother, who came to Hawaii (then the Sandwich Islands) from Madeira on the ship, the Hankow in 1883, to work in the sugar industry. From this marriage they had 12 children that brought about the many generations of our family in Hawaii. We make up a single family. There were thousands of families that sailed on one of the 24 ships that over a period of 31 years that brought families to Hawaii. To this past, Hawaii having a Sister-State relationship with Madeira is one way to recognize the significant past contributions of the early pioneer families. And now with the establishment of the proposed Sister-State relationship with Madeira, it is a move forward that will put in place a future for sharing between Hawaii and Madeira.

Historical census data evidences that as early as 1794 there were Portuguese residents in Honolulu. They were sailors that came to Hawaii as crews in the whaling industry. Some chose to stay in Hawaii and married Hawaiian women. Fast forward 80+ years others from Madeira and the Azores came because of abject poverty. In short, historical oral histories affirm that they came to Hawaii seek to seek providence and prosperity. They were part of a major immigration of roughly 16,000 Portuguese who came to Hawaii to work in the sugar industry. This took place was from 1878 to 1909. Crossing two oceans and over 20,000 miles. For some it was a long 5 months and 3 days voyage. What did they find after such long voyages? They found that Hawaii 's geography and weather was very much like Madeira—hilly, mountainous, lush and green, high cliffs (i.e., Hamakua Coast) sub-topical weather and the surround of the ocean. To this point, having traveled to Madeira, I saw the likeness of Hawaii's geographic and climate likeness to Madeira, in my mind, this was appealing to them and historically another reason that made Hawaii their home. This said, today, given the likeness of both environments and the probability of similar challenges as Islands, a Sister State relationship, will position an exchange of perspectives along with research initiatives and over time on sustainability challenges. Accordingly, to begin a Sister-State with Madeira is potentially timely and beneficial to both Hawaii and Madeira.

Added historical messaging that profile the times during the period of Portuguese immigration to Hawaii is by "His Majesty's (King Kalakaua) Speech At The Opening of the Legislative Assembly (House of Nobles and Representative) Assembly, April 29<sup>TH</sup>, 1882" The King says, "What this Kingdom seems most to require to ensure a continuance of its present prosperity is a thoroughly organized system of Immigration of families from some Country whose inhabitants will be congenial to our soil, to our sub-tropical climate, to our institutions, and above all to our own people. Whilst we welcome industrious

families for all parts of the world, experience so far seems to point to the Portuguese...as those most readily available and likely to meet our requirements..." the King's statements provide a context that is equally relevant to our time, a continuum of sentiment that captures the dynamic contributions of the Portuguese to Hawaii, its history and culture.

Since 1878, the Portuguese have made many contributions to Hawaii. It has been a shared history of integration, assimilation and amalgamation. Historically and sociologically the Portuguese has contributed much to the fabric of Hawaii becoming leaders in business, politics, education, construction, masonry (stone work), ranching and agricultural practices, music, culture, humor and other fields. Thus, with a Sister-State relationship there are opportunities to establish relationships to foster educational, economic, cultural and scientific exchange, we are both islands, therefore, ocean sciences and research on fisheries are areas of collaboration. And finally, the long-term value of student exchange. In effect, the framework of opportunities for having Madeiran students do student exchange in our University System and vice versa the possibilities of arrangement for Hawaii students to have a semester studying abroad at their University in Madeira.

To reiterate, geographically, Madeira and Hawaii have the shared likeness in that together both are islands. Also, Madeira and Hawaii both have tourism as the basic driver of their economies. For comparison Madeira is 286 square miles and Oahu is 597 square miles. In effect, Madeira is half the size of Oahu. And yet, Madeira manages (or copes with) 1.2 million visitors each year. We in Hawaii via the Hawaii Tourism Authority are seeking different ways to reset our visitor industry. With a Sister-State arrangement it will present an opportunity to learn how Madeira manages their tourism. This said, Hawaii and Madeira vice versa could benefit and learn valuable insights, on how each of us can better balance our respective visitor economies.

Although the sugar industry spurred the immigration of Portuguese labor and their families to Hawaii, there were those that upon completion of their labor contract; that knew carpentry, stone masonry and other kinds of backgrounds; they often opted go into business for themselves. Like Hawaii-Madeira and the Azores are volcanically formed islands. In effect, in Madeira and in the Azores, they had a history of constructing buildings with lava rock shaped into blocks. Historically, from about 1888-1924 a number of buildings were built by skilled Portuguese stone-masons that may have left the plantation. Some of these still stand today and are cultural vestiges. For example, buildings on Oahu, Lilikona School, Mid-Pacific Institute Rock Structure, Pauahi Hall Punahou School, Bishop Museum and the backyard Portuguese stone ovens (furnos) on the neighbor islands (Maui/Hawaii Island, Kauai). Unfortunately, many of these stone buildings and structures have been demolished. I am "out of my league" meaning I don't know the realities of building and construction with lava and stone nor the economics of the field, but perhaps with a Sister-State relationship; Hawaii could explore traditional Madeiran construction techniques to learn how to use our Hawaii lava and blue rock to build. We in Hawaii are being challenged more and more to get quality materials to build. Also, materials are shipped in from the mainland are becoming more costly. Our State could contract expertise to determine the feasibility of using lava for Hawaii building construction. Conceivably, if this were feasible, it will be a boon to the economy, industry and work force.

On a smaller scale related to stone masonry on Hawaii Island. Jose Gomes Serrao who was born in Funchal, Madeira; and came to Hawaii in 1883 and made famous the "Serrao's Kaumana Wines Winery, Hilo Hawaii." His wine was being made in Hilo, and was a favorite on Hawaii Island and was met with great success to the extent that it was exported to New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel as a specialty wine. This was the only winery to be found in the Territory of Hawaii at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Being from Madeira, Jose knew the potential for grapes and wine industry. He grew the Isabella grapes for his Hawaii wine and cultivated a vineyard of 80 acres of homestead land in Kaumana. Prohibition killed his business. However, after prohibition was repealed, the business resumed and was operated by other family members until 1942.

To add another feature to the story of Jose Serrao and stone masonry on Hawaii Island. In 1891, Jose built a stone building on Kukuau St, in Hilo that housed his distilling equipment. It was not as ornate and decorative as the buildings in Honolulu. Nonetheless, it was built by Portuguese stone builders and still stands. However, today it is no longer Serrao property, it is privately owned by another family yet one can drive by on Kukuau St. and appreciate the building as historical benchmark and thread that links Hawaii with Madeira.

Earlier in this narrative, I noted that a number of Portuguese immigrants, who upon completing their labor contracts began small business start-ups in Hawaii. They established farms and small homestead ranching. Today, on Hawaii Island there are small coffee farms and small ranches on Hawaii Island (Hamakua Coast) that can trace their roots to Madeira. To the point of doing business start-ups and developing a small business. A well-respected family on Hawaii Island transitioned from the sugar plantation era into small ranching then segued to business to become one of the most successful automotive dealerships on Hawaii Island today. Notably, it is a generational business and the family has a genealogical link back to Madeira.

Not as dynamic a story, as the highly successful dealership but on a smaller business scale. On Hawaii Island there are the Andrade, Ferreira, Souza and Botelho family buildings that are still in business and extant today. Their respective family names are on their buildings in Honokaa Town. Today, the families are assimilated and part of Hawaii's ethnic mix and melting pot but their family names are indicative of their generational roots going back generations to Madeira.

In terms of the Portuguese contribution that is best known to Hawaii and internationally is the ukulele. Three Madeirans (Augusto Dias, Jose de Espirito Santos and Manuel Nunes) set up shop in Honolulu to produce the ukulele. King Kalakaua liked the sound of the strum of the uke. Notably, King Kalakaua was instrumental in popularizing the Madeiran braguinha that became the ukulele, an instrument that has been incorporated and assimilated and become an integral part of Hawaiian music. Going forward a Hawaii Sister-State relationship with Madeira will further opportunities to collaborate in blending music and also participate in ukulele and music festivals in Hawaii and Madeira. The late Sonny Chillingworth, one of Hawaii's preeminent slack key guitarists, would at times add international flavor to his music, a traditional Filipino or a contemporary Portuguese tempo to his music. In effect, the templates are here. Through a Hawaii-Sister State arrangement encouraging music grants that exchange innovation, a special music blend could be introduced in Hawaiian music and, of course, congruently, the introduction and composition of Hawaiian tempo with the musicians and performers of Madeira.

In the area of food culture, the foods or dishes brought by the Portuguese from Madeira and the Azores are assimilated and part of Hawaii's culinary delights. The following is a listing of a number of the popular foods-- sweet bread (pao doce), milk bread (pao leche), malasadas, pickled onions, Portuguese sausage, Portuguese bean soup, (Piri-Piri-chili water in a bottle used in Portugal) perhaps, this is how Hawaii got chili pepper water. They are all part of Hawaii's menu that is enjoyed by Hawaii's people. These are examples of the food or dishes that had its genesis in the Hawaii's Plantation lifestyle and culture. That has been assimilated into Hawaii's culture.

It is a reality that nowhere else in the United States can we go to McDonald's and get Portuguese sausage and eggs. Clearly, indicative of how foods brought over to Hawaii that have been assimilated into Hawaii's contemporary palate has also reached out to influence the menu of this mainland fast food chain.

Today, in Hawaii we have moved forward and fostered an even greater range of cultural exchange to our foods. In essence, Hawaii's regional cuisine has become a movement that has great impact on the way Hawaii eats. It has great significance in that through our visitor industry we are sharing our culinary delights with the world. The movement in food culture in Hawaii has been guided by chefs like Allan Wong, Roy Yamaguchi, Peter Merriman etc. These 3 represent a long litany of chefs in Hawaii that have created a new culinary industry and a redefinition of "good food." Clearly, their approach has impacted our restaurants and our farming-specifically "from farm to table." The innovations of our chefs have brought Hawaii a celebrated food culture.

Modern Madeira and Portugal also have a rich history of food culture. Traveling to Madeira is a trip that often requires a flight to Lisbon. Then scheduling a connector flight to Madeira. In effect, this flight pattern through Lisbon is opportunity to experience serendipity and learn about Portugal and Madeira's modern cuisine. It is said, that they know how to make bacalhau (salted codfish) 365 different ways. In short, a different style for each day of the year. Personally, as an aside this would make a great add to our meal of poi and lomi salmon. Thus, the Hawaii Sister-State relationship between Hawaii and Madeira is yet another opportunity to further develop and expand our Hawaii regional cuisine into new horizons that made it possible for our chefs to win national culinary awards and appear of national network (T.V.) cooking shows on the mainland. A Hawaii-Madeira relationship exploring Madeiran culinary delights and flavors has the potential to further our celebrated regional cuisine and may also be a "menu" for economic development.

Throughout Hawaii's history with the arrival of many different ethnic groups we have been able to enjoy all kinds of food diversity. Through our Sister-State relationship with Madeira we could add and offer even more distinction and delight to our menus and meals. For they, too, have many flavors that are tasty and interesting. One very small example of food distinction and diversity is the preparation of Hawaii's treasured limpet, the ophii. Being raised in Hawaii. I enjoy my ophii with limu kohu, chili pepper and poi. Madeira also has the limpet. They call it lapas. In effect, an Atlantic ophii. Clearly, Hawaii and Madeira prepare them differently. Both ways of preparing them are delightful. Today's Hawaii's chefs through our Sister-State relationship could blend this and other Madeira dishes to our regional cooking delights. In fact, the preparation of ophii could be part an appetizing high-end meal much like the preparation of the Kumamoto oysters that are on restaurant menus in Hawaii.

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I have heard that UH is currently doing research on ways to grow the ophii to make them more accessible and less costly. So here, although small, is an overall message that is one example of possibilities.

It is limitless what exploring the many avenues of a Hawaii Sister-State could bring to Hawaii and Madeira in terms of business, economics, culture, education, research and clearly not to miss- the potentials of palate delight.

In closing we will add symmetry to the arch of history with the proposed relationship. One can envision a growing appreciation for the interwoven relationship of Hawaii's and Madeira's history, culture and shared past. And with this proposed arrangement a shared present along with a future of sharing possibilities and working on matters that are practical and sustaining.

Should the Hawaii Sister-State relationship with Madeira become a reality. In my view, when engaged well, the proposed partnership will continue to build relationships for many generations and toward limitless possibilities in this Sister-State arrangement.

I support the proposed Hawaii State-Sister State relationship with Madeira.

Mahalo for your time and this opportunity to share perspective in this letter of support.

With warm aloha,

Gerald DeMello

Hilo, Hawaii

Willetta Martin Centeio  
84 -979 Moaelehua St  
Waianae, HI 96792

September 30, 2021

It is with heartfelt honor to have the opportunity to be a part of the Hawaii-Madeira Sister State input.

Being very proud of my Madeira heritage, it is wonderful to be connected on this next level with Madeira. This will bring many opportunities from both Hawaii and Madeira to share our experiences with our families and communities in tourism and history.

Sincerely,

*Willetta Martin Centeio*



October 7, 2021

Hawai‘i Sister-State Committee  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
250 South Hotel Street  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Dear Committee Members,

As leaders, representatives, supporters, allies, and friends of Hawai‘i’s Portuguese community, we write to express our strong support for the establishment of a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai‘i and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal. We also pledge to do our part to sustain and cultivate such a relationship in future years.

The connection between Hawai‘i and Madeira dates back to 1878, when the first immigrants from Madeira arrived on our shores to work in the sugar cane plantations. Over the next thirty years, thousands more Portuguese would arrive, of whom approximately half came from Madeira.

Along with their honest, hardworking, and family-oriented attitude, the Portuguese immigrants to Hawai‘i brought many reminders of their homeland which would eventually become integral parts of local culture: the braguinha which became the ‘ukulele, linguça which became better known as Portuguese sausage, and the cattlemen whose traditions shaped our local paniolo, among others.

Over the past 140 years, the Portuguese in Hawai‘i integrated themselves into the fabric of local society, becoming leaders in business, politics, education, and many other fields. We strongly believe that a proper way to honor their contributions now and in the future is to establish a Sister State relationship with the islands of their homeland.

Therefore, it is our pleasure to submit the following application to establish a Sister State relationship between the State of Hawai'i and the Autonomous Region of Madeira, Portugal. We respectfully request your favorable action on the application and look forward to sustaining the relationship long into the future.

Mahalo & Muito Obrigado,

Adrian Kamali'i

Alberto Jjardim

Alcides Niceas Pires

Anne M. Feiteira-Watanabe

Ashley Chinen

I'm very happy to see the two islands share business & have an agreement between each other.

Audrey Rocha Reed

*Portuguese Association of Maui, Secretary*

Augie Tulba

Honolulu City Councilman District 9

Beatrice Souza

*Portuguese Cultural & Historical Society - Member*

Brad Asuncion

Caroline Braga Lopes Zerbe

Charold (Goeas) Rivera

Cherese Shelton

At our meeting of September 5, 2021, the Portuguese Association of Maui endorsed the establishment of a Sister-State relationship with the Island of Madeira. Many of our members trace their lineage to Madeira and Porto Santo. I strongly support the establishment of a sister State relationship.

Crystal Rose

Cyrus Johnasen

*Hawai'i County, Director of Communications*

D.C. Martin

*Dan Nelson Portuguese Genealogical & Historical Society of Hawai'i, president*

I have traveled to both Maderia and the Azores. Felt like I saw my grandmother on every corner. Beautiful Country; beautiful people.

Danny W. Abreu

DMA Services LLC, President

Dawn Shiota

Deborah Lynn (Soares) Enay

Debra A. Nahinu

Dianna Fernandez Nichols

Dolores Dos Santos

Donald Keliinoi

*Director, Portuguese Culture & Historical Center*

Danny W. Abreu, Co-Producer of the Portuguese In Hawai'i Documentary and Executive Producer of the Portuguese IN Hawai'i Book soon to be released. President, DMA Services LLC, a Real Estate Investment Company.

Mahalo for this!

Excited to sign this relationship

Nice Effort

Donna Mercado Kim  
*Hawai'i State Senate*

Dr. Marlene Hapai  
*Hawai'i Island Portuguese Chamber of Commerce  
Cultural & Educational Center, President/Executive  
Director*  
Dr. Paul M Chandler  
*Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, UH Mānoa*  
Erynn Fernandez  
Frederick Baier  
Georgette Gomes  
Georgianna DeCosta  
Henry Dolim

Jamee Vasconcellos Miller  
Jocelyn Doane  
John M. DeCosta, Jr.  
Kahealani Martins, Psy.D.  
*Portuguese Family History Collections of Hawai'i*  
Kalani L. Kaanaana  
Kande (Souza) Lopes

Karen Chang Barr  
Keala Awana  
Keith Anthony DeMello  
Kekoa Cuban  
Kevin Sledge  
Kilin Reece  
*Kealakai Center for Pacific Strings*  
Lawrence Hudson  
Leanne Arciero

Leilani Maguire  
Lenilson Costa  
Linda Teves Ruddle  
Lori Gomes  
Melvin P. Silva, Jr.  
*Business Manager, Local 1 – Bricklayers and Allied  
Craftworkers Union of Hawai'i*  
Micah Alameda  
Michael Oliver Springer  
*MOS Music Studio, LLC, Owner*

This is the perfect time to reawaken a common history and culture through a Sister State relationship to determine what has survived this long period of time, what has changed, and what has been forgotten and needs to be brought back. There is much to learn from each other and this will provide the opportunity to do so.

Thanks for supporting this initiative!

Be happy to help in anyway. Visited Funchal several years ago and found our family

The Portuguese have made some significant impacts on Hawai'i's history and it would be meaningful to establish a Sister City relationship with Madeira, the city of origin of our ancestors. Since learning of my Portuguese roots, I would like to learn more of their traditions, food and culture to share with my ohana.

I would like to support this measure.

My great grandfather came here in 1879 on the Ravenscrag, from Camacha, Madeira and I am proud to say that he worked very hard as a dairyman, married a girl who came a few years later and had 13 children, 11 of whom lived to adulthood and were very successful.

I am proud to be of Portuguese decent

Michael W. Freitas  
Michelle Chow  
Miguel Nunes  
*Hawai'i Space Flight Lab, Deputy Director*  
Monica Hammers

Monica Kurtz  
Múcio Novaes

Patricia L. Shimomoto  
Rachel Mamiya Hernandez  
*Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas, Spanish & Portuguese Division, Assistant Professor/ American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), President-Elect*  
Raymond Miyashiro, *Regal Travel*  
Rebecca Soon (Paresa)  
*Solutions Pacific, Chief Operating Officer*  
Richard & Wilma Boudreau  
*Portuguese Cultural & Historical Society, Vice President (Wilma)*  
Robert G. Castro  
*Portuguese Genealogical & Historical Society of Hawai'i, Secretary*

Robert J. Robello  
*Portuguese Association of Maui*  
Rod Antone

Ronald J. Silva  
Ryan Hunt  
Sandy Park  
Saundra Wells  
Stephanie Ohigashi,  
*Hawai'i State Rep. to Sister Cities International*  
Stephanie Rogers-Welch  
Susana Poulin  
*Nominee as Vice Honorary Consul of Brazil in Hawai'i*  
Tenille Nakayama-Benavente

Teresa M Kato  
Thomas G. Cabrinha  
*Portuguese Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, Treasurer*  
Watters O. Martin, Jr.

Willetta Martin Centeio  
*Hawai'i Council on Portuguese Heritage of Hawai'i, Vice President*

I am a Portuguese citizen living and working in Hawai'i and I am very supportive of this initiative.

So happy to see more Portuguese presence in Hawai'i!

Family roots in both Madeira & the Azores; if not for COVID, we would have visited in 2020.

Dou meu apoio a esta iniciativa, qualquer coisa estou à disposição. (I give my support for this initiative, I am available to help in any way).

I have Madeira ancestors on both my mother's and my father's side.

Think this a good idea, I and my family has always been part of the culture since the days of The Brotherhood of Kewalo Holy Ghost in Kakaako.

Ancestor: Joao Pinto da Silva (1857-1902) was among the first to establish the Portuguese Colony in the Kawaihau, Kaua'i district's village of Kealia, Kingdom of Hawai'i in 1878-1879.

My Great-grandmother, Maria Mendonca, was from Machico, Madeira

My great grandparents sailed to the Hawaiian Island in the 1880s on contract to work in the sugarcane and pineapple plantations as supervisors(lunas) on Maui and the Big Island. We have 8 generations here in Hawai'i and are proud of our ethnic background and try to keep connected with Madeira Island. Muito obrigada for this continued connection.



**Additional Statements of Support from Our Website**

“I support this 100 percent.”

Brad Asuncion

[brad.asuncion@hawaiianair.com](mailto:brad.asuncion@hawaiianair.com)

1586 Ahihi St #A Honolulu, HI 96919

“Both my husband and I are PROUD to be the 100% Portuguese, the 5th generation of immigrants that came from Madeira and the Azores.”

Jennifer Silva

[bnjsilva1978@hotmail.com](mailto:bnjsilva1978@hotmail.com)

HCR2 Box 6202 Keaau, HI 96749

“My great , great grandfather came to Hawaii in 1879 from Madeira. His name was Manuel Nunes and he was one of the creators of the ukulele which was born from the brahguinha.”

Frank Suster

[franksuster51@gmail.com](mailto:franksuster51@gmail.com)

91-1146 Haiano place, Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

“I support the sister state effort because of the geographical and environmental similarities of the islands and the cultural bonds that have existed for over 40 years.”

Sue Ann Chun

[sueannchun@yahoo.com](mailto:sueannchun@yahoo.com)

95-715 Lewanuu St. Mililani, HI 96789

“I totally support this. Both of my parents are from Madeira. I am the 1st generation here. I have traveled extensively back-and-forth to Hawaii doing various music for the different Portuguese organizations with my honor, over the years. Thank you for Connecting my parents beautiful island of Madeira to Hawaii it makes so much sense. “

Ramana Vieira

[Fadodiva@gmail.com](mailto:Fadodiva@gmail.com)

473 Rosso Court, Vacaville, California

[www.ramanavieira.net](http://www.ramanavieira.net)

“I support the project, and I'm a Member of the Portuguese Association of Maui.”

Carlos D. Hernandez

[carloshernandez@mauigateway.com](mailto:carloshernandez@mauigateway.com)

111 Kahului Beach Rd. C-313, Kahului HI 96732

“This is a wonderful start especially for those of us who have been doing genealogy research for years. And I've been to Madeira. Love the island.”

Marie Shantz

[shantzre@gmail.com](mailto:shantzre@gmail.com)

2524 Roop Road, Taneytown, MD 21787

“Would love to see this happen!”

Bree Peters

[breemail@mac.com](mailto:breemail@mac.com)

64-5215 Puu Nohea St, Kamuela, HI 96743

**Review of 2021 Sister-States Annual Report  
to Legislature (First Draft)**