

FINAL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (DBEDT)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT DIVISION (BDS)

MINUTES OF THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018, AT 3:00 PM AT
NO. 1 CAPITAL DISTRICT BUILDING, 250 S. HOTEL ST., HONOLULU, HI 96813
IN CONFERENCE ROOM #436

Committee Members Present were:

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
Kay Matsui	-	Hawaii State Association of Counties

Committee Administration:

Brian Yee	-	Attorney General
Mark Ritchie	-	DBEDT/BDS
Leslie Kawamoto	-	DBEDT/BDS
Selma S. Malcolm	-	DBEDT/BDS

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Ritchie on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., who welcomed everyone present. Special welcome was extended to Mr. Bryan Lee of the Attorney General's Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2017:

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, September 29, 2017, were approved on a motion by Ms. Jean Rolles and seconded by Mr. Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs.

Motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Orientation for new Hawaii Sister-State Committee Members:

Mr. Ritchie stated that according to Sunshine Law requirements – the agenda for the meeting must be posted in Lt. Governor's Office as well as to the State Calendar at least six (6) days prior to the meeting. Minutes should also be posted on the DBEDT's/State website.

He also indicated that if members of the committee have any questions or concerns relating to the State Ethics Code and Sunshine Law, they should forward them to him or Mr. Dennis Ling at DBEDT for submission to Mr. Bryan Lee at the Attorney General's Office who will provide answers to disseminate to them.

The Committee reviewed the status of the sister-state relationship and noted that some sister-states are very active while others have shown little or no activity at all. During discussion, clarification was sought as when a sister-state relationship is severed because there has not been any contact or movement with Azores Island in Portugal in a very long time and they are still a member. Mr. Ritchie explained that sometimes, there are certain social and cultural activities that are going on but the Committee and DBEDT may not be aware of and severing ties may jeopardize that. Ms. Nakama said she would research a possible Hawaii Portuguese Association of Maui to get information on what plans Maui Sister City has to move towards a friendship link.

Mr. Hannahs indicated that he would evaluate our current sister-state relationships to see if its possible to reach out on a county level to see what current relationships they have to see if we can in any way support the elevation of those relationships.

Ms. Nakama suggested that an analysis would set the context and whatever is derived from fact finding would lend itself to developing a criterion for others on the list. Also, that if the budged can only support certain amount of relationships, then we should pare down according to economic directions of the state and then keep in mind other types of developments at the county level and come up with a criteria on not only how to pare down, but how to recruit based on some of or all our initial goals on how to move our efforts forward in a more progressive way.

Mr. Topenio asked if the sister-states had a separate budget from DBEDT or if DBEDT was receiving dedicated funding from the legislature for sister-state activities.

Mr. Ritchie replied that funding for sister-state activities are from DBEDT's budget (general or divisional budget).

Ms. Nakama enquired about the next step for the state when there are new sister-state relationships. Mr. Ritchie then extended an invitation to the committee to join him at the next meeting with the legislature.

The Committee recommended that before the next meeting DBEDT should prepare some type of background analysis of the existing structure and provide some options of what is required to move forward. And that should include looking at the county list and compare it with the state list and looking perhaps to some good examples, as well as some type of quick analysis of the existing relationships with an eye towards creating criteria for both recruitment, reinvigoration and/or paring.

As part of DBEDT's orientation agenda, some historic perspective should be provided of what DBEDT is all about.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, S.D. 1 & Senate Resolution 78, S.D. 1:

The Committee reviewed and approved the Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, S.D. 1 and the Senate Resolution 78, S.D. 1. Mr. Ritchie then requested a motion to submit the report to the Legislature.

Motion was made by Ms. Debra Nakama and seconded by Ms. Jean Rolles recommending that the approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, S.D. 1 and Senate Resolution 78, S.D. 1; requesting that Hawaii Sister-State Committee and DBEDT evaluate the Sister-State program and make recommendations to improve the capacity and sustainability of the efforts to promote mutually beneficial international relationships, be submitted to the Legislature.

Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Review & Approval of 2018 Sister-State Annual Report for Submission to Legislature:

The Committee reviewed and approve the 2018 Sister-State Annual Report for submission to the Legislature.

Motion was made by Ms. Debra Nakama and seconded by Mr. Eduardo Topenio recommending that the approved 2018 Sister-State Annual Report be submitted to the Legislature.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Ritchie stated that copies of the annual report will be posted on DBEDT's website and will also be distributed to various organizations for information purposes.

C. Election of Chair:

Motion was made by Ms. Jean Rolles and seconded by Mr. Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs to nominate Ms. Kay Matsui as Chair of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Nomination of Vice-Chair:

Motion was made by Mr. Eduardo Topenio and seconded by Ms. Debra Nakama to nominate Ms. Jean Rolles as Vice-Chair for the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

Motion was passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

TBA

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Debra Nakama and seconded by Mr. Eduardo Topenio.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Matsui
Chair, Hawaii Sister-State Committee

Date