



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	
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Proposed Sister-State:	Yamaguchi Prefecture in Japan and State of Hawaii
Name of Person Submitting Application:	Marilyn Higashide
Title of Person Submitting Application:	Director
Organization of Person Submitting Application:	Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai
Complete Address:	600 Queen Street #3307
	Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone Number:	808-722-4228
FAX Number:	
Email Address:	hakulei123@aol.com
List existing Sister-State relationships the proposed Sister-State already has: China: Shandong Province South Korea: Gyeongsangnam-do Spain: Navarre Vietnam: Binh Duong Province Russia: Krasnodar Region	
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 from the provincial, prefecture, or state jurisdiction to establish a Sister-State relationship with the State of Hawaii [legislation, letter(s) of support, etc.]). See attached letters	

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).

This mutually-beneficial endeavor will help to foster stronger ties between Hawaii and the Yamaguchi Prefecture and promote opportunities to develop economic, educational, cultural and governmental partnerships. A sister-state relationship will also enhance learning, encourage exchange of ideas and facilitate communication to strengthen bonds for future activities.

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:

<u>Organizations in Proposed Sister-State</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Nexus with Hawaii</u>
- Yamaguchi Prefecture Tourism Association	Tourism promotion, regional revitalization	N/A
- Yamaguchi Prefecture Education Commission	Education policy decisionmaking	N/A
- Yamaguchi Japan-America Society	Promoting exchanges between people in US and Japan	N/A
- Yamaguchi Prefecture International Exchange Association	Promoting internationalizing Yamaguchi Prefecture with Prefectural citizen participation	Holding Hawaii culture seminars

Note: Although these organizations are not well-connected with Hawaii, once Sister-State relationship is established, they will deepen their connections with Hawaii as a group.

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>
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See attached

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 attached

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:	Japanese	Head of State:	Tsugumasa Muraoka, Governor
Government System:	Constitutional Monarchy	Governmental Structure:	Parliamentary System
Legal System:	Based on Domestic Law	Transportation System:	Automobile, Rail, Air Transport, Ship
Demographic Information:	National Census 2015	Population:	1,405,007
Male:	664,936	Female:	740,071
Average Earnings:	US\$ 43,810	Religions:	Buddhism, Shinto, Christianity
Ethnic Diversity:	Japanese	Climate:	Warm and humid
Educational System:	Elementary Schools: 303 Middle Schools: 164 High Schools: 81 Universities: 10	Health/Medical System (hospitals/areas of expertise):	Number of Hospitals: 143 (Yamaguchi University, Prefectural General Medical Center)
International Programs & Exchanges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting international exchanges in education, culture, economy and multiculturalism - Assigned 8 staff for international exchange - Assigned 65 Assistant Language Teachers (ALT) - Foreign students: 1366 		

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Major Industries (please list):

Heavy Chemical Industry, Agriculture, Fishery, Tourism

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

Trade (free Trade Zone or Economic Zone):	Promotion of international expansion by prefectural businesses / Matsuda, Bridgestone, Uniqio	Environment:	Promotion of climate change control, air/water security, hydrogen usage research
Labor:	Youth employment strategy, Promoting senior employment / Primary industries 4.8%, secondary industries 25.6%, tertiary industries 67.5%	Health:	Improvement of health provider system, Senior health maintenance / Yamaguchi University Hospital
Education (including global education programs):	Development of enriched mind, Promotion of international education / Yamaguchi Prefectural University International Culture Department	Tourism:	Promoting making attractive tourist sites, international tourism / Akiyoshidai, Kintaikyo
Agriculture:	Increase demand for prefectural produced agricultural, forest and fishery products, leading technology research and development / Rice 35%, Farm animals 27%, Vegetable 24%, Fruit 6%, others 8%	Science & Technology:	Support for technology know-how, research and development / Yamaguchi Industrial Technology Center
Arts & Entertainment:	Create environment to familiarize Culture and Arts, conservation and utilization of cultural assets / Chochin Matsuri	Other Industries:	Fishery / 97 sea ports, Forestry / 70% of prefectural land is forest

MEDIA

Official Website: <http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp>

Major Television Stations: Yamaguchi Broadcasting,
TV Yamaguchi, Yamaguchi
Asahi Broadcasting

Major Radio Stations: FM Yamaguchi

Trade Publications: Yamaguchi News Paper

Other Internet-based Media:

OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS

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

Museums: Yamaguchi Prefectural Art Museum,
Hagi Art Museum, Uragami Museum

Symphony: Yamaguchi Prefecture Symphony Orchestra

Theatre & Performing Arts: Renaissa-Nagato, Sinfoniai-Iwakuni

Folk Arts: N/A

Traditional Handicrafts: Ouchi Nuri (lacquerware), Hagi Yaki
(pottery), Akamasuzuri (inkstone)

Zoo: Okuyama Zoo

Aquarium: Shimonoseki Kaikyokan

Other special attractions/examples of cultural diversity:

Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii, Motonosumi Inari Shrine, Kintaikyo, Akiyoshidai, Rurikoji

Sports Teams/Sporting Events:

Professional: Renofa Yamaguchi (Soccer)

Semi-Professional: Act Saikyo (Badminton),
Nagato Blue Angels (Female Rugby)

Amateur: N/A

Official Sport: N/A

Sports Clubs: N/A

Major Sporting Events:

- Shimonoseki Kaikyo Marathon
- General Cycling Events



YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

1-1 TAKIMACHI, YAMAGUCHI CITY 753-8501 JAPAN

February 12, 2021

The Honorable
David Y. Ige
Governor of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige,

I am writing to formally inform you that we will be applying for the establishment of a sister state relationship between the Prefecture of Yamaguchi and the State of Hawaii.

Yamaguchi and Hawaii share a deep history and has formed a strong bond. Since *kanyaku imin* (government-contacted immigrant labor) began, 10,424 people from our prefecture emigrated to Hawaii between 1885 and 1894. They overcame many challenges through the generations, and today are an active part in Hawaiian society. This is admired by the people of Yamaguchi.

There are five Yamaguchi Kenjinkais (Hawaii-Shima, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui) in Hawaii, and we have long continued exchanges with them including attendance to various anniversary events. I appreciated my time at the 150th Gannenmono Celebration in 2018 and the visit to Hawaii in 2019, as I was able to deepen relations with the people of Hawaii.

In addition, Suo-Oshima, an island in the eastern part of the prefecture, concluded a sister island relationship with Kauai County in 1963 for its history of emigration, and in its over 50-year relationship developed exchange activities ranging from study abroad programs to the mutual visitations between the heads of both islands. The Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii in Suo-Oshima displays valuable materials on the history of emigrants and our ongoing exchanges with Hawaii, contributing to the people's understanding of the deep historical connection between Yamaguchi and Hawaii.

Furthermore, Otsu Ryokuyo High School, a prefectural high school in Yamaguchi, conducts fisheries training off the coast of Hawaii every year, calls at Honolulu, and engages in exchanges with the Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. In addition, Yamaguchi University signed an international academic exchange agreement with the University of Hawaii, Kaua'i Community College in 2018, and is expected to promote further exchanges. In the past, six chartered planes have flown to Hawaii from Iwakuni City and many citizens of the prefecture used the opportunity to deepen exchanges with the people of Hawaii, including members of the kenjinkais.

In this way, much of the people of Yamaguchi hold Hawaii close to their hearts thanks to the various exchanges with Hawaii, and the friendships with the members of the kenjinkais are a common asset shared by the people of Yamaguchi.

I sincerely felt this upon my visit to Hawaii, and it is my firm belief that it is necessary to pass on the connection that we have built with Hawaii to the next generation.

Therefore, we hope to form an active and strong relationship between Yamaguchi and Hawaii in various fields such as history, culture, education, tourism, and economy with the trust we have built with the kenjinkais over the years as the foundation, and initiate a new history of exchanges.

We ask for your understanding of the exchanges between the Prefecture of Yamaguchi and the State of Hawaii, and for your support in concluding a sister state relationship.

Sincerely,



MURAOKA Tsugumasa

Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture

YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

1-1 TAKIMACHI, YAMAGUCHI CITY 753-8501 JAPAN

February 12, 2021

Ms. Marilyn Higashide
Director
Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai

Dear Ms. Higashide,

I am writing to you to ask for your support and cooperation in establishing a sister state relationship between the Prefecture of Yamaguchi and the State of Hawaii.

Including the Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, there are five Yamaguchi Kenjinkais in Hawaii; the Hawaii-Shima Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, Kauai Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, Kona Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, and the Maui Yamaguchi Kenjinkai. We have long continued exchanges with the kenjinkais including attendance to various anniversary events. I appreciated our time together at the 150th Gannenmono Celebration in 2018 and the visit to Hawaii in 2019, as I was able to deepen relations with the members of the kenjinkais.

In addition, Suo-Oshima and Kauai County are in an over 50-year Sister-Island relationship, Otsu Ryokuyo High School engages in exchanges with the Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai, and Yamaguchi University and the University of Hawaii, Kaua'i Community College signed an international academic exchange agreement. In this way, much of the people of Yamaguchi hold Hawaii close to their hearts thanks to the various exchanges with Hawaii, and the friendships with the members of the kenjinkais are a common asset shared by the people of Yamaguchi.

I sincerely felt this upon my visit to Hawaii, and in addition to deepening our bond with the members of the kenjinkais, it is my firm belief that it is necessary to pass on the connection that we have built with Hawaii to the next generation.

Therefore, we hope to form an active and strong relationship between Yamaguchi and Hawaii in various fields such as history, culture, education, tourism, and economy with the trust we have built with the kenjinkais over the years as the foundation, and initiate a new history of exchanges.

We ask for the support and cooperation from you and the members of the Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai in concluding a sister state relationship between Yamaguchi Prefecture and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



MURAOKA Tsugumasa
Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture

Page 2 Third question: 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>
- Consulate General of Japan	- Protect rights and interests of Japan and the Japanese people; promote cultural exchanges between Japan and Hawaii; and conduct other necessary activities.	N/A
- Japan-America Society of Hawaii	- Promote understanding and friendship between the people of Hawaii and Japan.	- Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai had a dinner party with Yamaguchi Japan-America Society in April 1972 in Yamaguchi.
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce	- Promote business and economic growth in Hawaii based on the principle, "Members Supporting Members."	N/A
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii	- Be a vibrant resource, strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawaii.	- Yamaguchi University regularly brings groups of students for annual visits to its gallery.
- Matsunaga Peace Institute	- Promote cross-cultural understanding and collaborative problem-solving.	N/A

Page 2 Third Question (cont.)

Organizations in Hawaii

Mission

**Nexus with Proposed
Sister-State**

- Public and Private Schools
in Hawaii

- Each school has its own mission
statement.

- Hokolani Elementary
School took groups of
students to Yamaguchi
to meet the Governor,
tour sites and visit an
elementary school.
- Punahou School's Wo
International Center
supports programs that
promote global education;
also offers study-abroad
programs, as well as
cultural trips to Japan.

- United Japanese Society

- Perpetuate Japanese Culture
in Hawaii.

N/A

- Yamaguchi Kenjinkai on
Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Hilo,
and Kona

- Each club has its own mission
statement

- These clubs have been
involved in goodwill
exchanges and visits
to Yamaguchi-ken
over the years.
- Sister-city between
Suo-Oshima and the
island of Kauai.
- Yamaguchi University
brought students to Oahu,
Hawaii and Kauai.

Page 2 Fourth question: 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.

- Yamaguchi Prefecture, with its proud and illustrious history, played a pivotal role in the modernization of Japan. Efforts by many incredibly talented and fiercely dedicated individuals set the wheels in motion to transform Japan from a feudal society to a modernized state. With the fall of the Shogunate and the start of the Meiji era, a group of five young men from Yamaguchi secretly left for England in 1863 with the aim of studying western technology. This group came to be known as the *Choshu Five*. What they learned abroad, along with their newly-acquired English skills, made them invaluable to the new Meiji government. One of them, Inoue Kaoru, became Japan's first Finance Minister. Another, Ito Hirobumi, rose to become the first Prime Minister of Japan. Since then, the Yamaguchi Prefecture produced a total of eight Prime Ministers!
- From the time the Kanyaku-Imin from Japan started in 1885 to 1894, 10,424 people from the Yamaguchi Prefecture immigrated to Hawaii.
- There have been many exchanges between the 5 Yamaguchi Kenjinkais (Honolulu, Kauai, Big Island, Kona, Maui) in the State of Hawaii throughout the years, such as attending anniversary events of each Kenjinkai.
- Suo-Oshima Town signed a Sister-Island relationship with Kauai in 1963; and there have been many exchange activities, such as visits by the heads and island citizens and exchange students.
- Otsu Green-Ocean High School holds its fishery training off Hawaii, stopping by Honolulu Port and socializing with Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai.
- Yamaguchi University signed a University Exchange Program Agreement with University of Hawaii's Kauai Community College.
- Yamaguchi Prefecture chartered airplanes to visit Hawaii six times.
- Yamaguchi Prefecture would like to renew its relationship with the State of Hawaii in the areas of history, culture, education, economy and many others, based on trust relationship built with Kenjinkais through the years.