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HAWAIʻI SISTER-STATE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 30, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

As authorized under Act 220, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 2021 and Chapter 92-3.7 Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes (HRS), the public can participate in the meeting either:

1) **By attending the in-person meeting at: 250 South Hotel Street, Fifth Floor Conference Room 507, Honolulu, HI 96813;** or

2) **Via video-audio livestream -** to join the **video-audio livestream meeting**, go to:

Join MS Teams Meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/234033050967955?p=iLbv6qpHzdNeFltlH1
Meeting ID: 234 033 050 967 955
Passcode: TE9t3Qd2
By phone
+1 808-829-4853
Phone conference ID: 616 929 199#

Materials for this agenda and minutes for this meeting will be available at:
https://invest.hawaii.gov/international-relations/hawaii-sister-states/
Members of the public may submit written testimony
via e-mail to: constancio.c.paranal@hawaii.gov
or via postal mail to:
DBEDT-Business Development & Support Division
No.1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor,Honolulu, HI, 96813.
Please include the word "*testimony*" and the subject matter following the address line.

INTERNET ACCESS:

*To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony during the meeting, please use the above link. You will be asked to enter your name in order to access the meeting as an attendee. The Commission requests that you enter your full name, but you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., *****@***mail.com.*

As an attendee, your microphone will be automatically muted during the meeting unless you are providing testimony. For each agenda item you wish to testify on, please click the Raise Hand

button found on your screen. *Commission staff will enable each individual testifier to unmute their microphone. When recognized by the Chair, please unmute your microphone before speaking and mute your microphone after you finish speaking to prevent audio feedback. When testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent.*

PHONE ACCESS:

If you cannot get internet access, you may get audio-only access by calling the Teams Phone Number listed at the top on the agenda. Upon dialing the number, you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID which is also listed at the top of the agenda. After entering the Meeting ID, you will be asked to either enter our panelist number or wait to be admitted into the meeting. You will not have a panelist number. So, please wait until you are admitted into the meeting.

When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may indicate you want to testify by entering "" and then "9" on your phone's keypad. After entering "*" and then "9", a voice prompt will let you know that the host of the meeting has been notified. When recognized by the Chairperson, you may unmute yourself by pressing "*" and then "6" on your phone. A voice prompt will let you know that you are unmuted. Once you are finished speaking, please enter "*" and then "6" again to mute yourself.*

For both internet and phone access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent.

Hawai‘i Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission
Meeting Agenda
November 30, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Roll call
B. Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2026

II. Old Business – None

A. Ensure all commissioners are in full compliance with State Ethics Commission requirements and understand upcoming obligations

1. **Financial disclosure status**
    a. DBEDT will confirm which commissioners have completed their filings and who still has outstanding requirements.
2. **Mandatory Ethics & Native Hawaiian Law training updates**
    a. Clarify which trainings are required for this Commission, confirm deadlines, and identify any sessions still available.

B. Finalize the Commission’s first formal budget request and prepare recommendations for DBEDT and the Governor.

1. **Review of Commissioner-submitted budget priorities**
    a. Summary of needs identified by members (e.g., travel for official delegations, participation in anniversaries, operational support).
2. **Next steps for Governor’s budget submission**
    a. Establish timeline for finalizing the request given state budget deadlines, and determine who will communicate recommendations and whether additional documentation is needed.

C. Begin developing a formalized, consistent approach for evaluating new proposals and reviewing existing relationships.

1. **DBEDT presentation of initial criteria framework**
    a. DBEDT will present a draft set of criteria based on past practices, statutory requirements, and Commission discussions.
2. **Discussion of review cycle for existing sister-state agreements**
    a. Identify review intervals and how to differentiate active relationships from dormant ones and determine appropriate follow-up.
3. **Identification of priority relationships for evaluation**
    a. Commissioners may select specific sister-states for early review in 2027, based on activity level, upcoming anniversaries, or strategic relevance.

D. Provide a comprehensive understanding of Hawai‘i’s international ecosystem across state agencies and community institutions.

1. **Discussion of gaps, opportunities, and alignment with Commission mandate**
    a. Identify missing or underutilized partnerships, and consider how the Commission can strategically support or expand key international relationships as allowed under new legislation.

III. New Business

A. Review outstanding commitments from the prior Hawai‘i delegation to Guangdong and Hainan and determine how the Commission can support follow-up activities.

1. **DBEDT update on proposed projects and academic partnerships**
    a. DBEDT will report on the status of initiatives discussed during the 2025 delegation,and clarify which commitments are active, pending, or require additional outreach.
2. **Commission discussion of next steps**
    a. Identify which items may fall within the Commission’s new international partnership mandate, and determine whether further inquiries, coordination with UH or DOE, or engagement with Guangdong/Hainan officials should be pursued.

B. Understand UH’s exploration of resident or reduced tuition for students from Hawai‘i’s sister-states and determine the Commission’s role, if any.

1. **Status update on UH West O‘ahu research and potential legislation**
    a. Review preliminary information gathered by UH West O‘ahu faculty regarding tuition models for partner jurisdictions, and clarify whether UH plans to introduce legislation, pilot a program, or continue internal study.
    b. Consider how such a policy aligns with the Commission’s goals for strengthening educational exchanges.

C. Explore creating a structured briefing program to help Commissioners stay informed on regional developments, opportunities, and issues relevant to Hawai‘i’s international positioning.

1. **Consideration of establishing periodic briefings from East-West Center, consulates, and regional experts**
    a. Discuss benefits of receiving regular context-setting briefings on Indo-Pacific diplomacy, economic trends, cultural ties, and geopolitical developments.

b. Identify which institutions are best positioned to provide non-lobbying informational briefings consistent with Sunshine Law.

2. Identification of initial topics and presenters

a. Commissioners may propose priority topics such as:
   - regional security trends,
   - economic partnerships and trade flows,
   - educational exchange landscapes,
   - emerging opportunities in the Pacific Islands region.

b. Discuss which experts or organizations could present at early sessions.

IV. Announcements

No upcoming events requiring Commission participation.

V. Next Meeting

A. November 30, 2026
B. December 21, 2026

VI. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Selma Malcolm at (808) 265-4921 or selma.s.malcolm@hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

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