



RESOLUTION

APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2013 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A PROPOSAL THAT URGES THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL TO EASE VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WHEREAS, China and her people have long been a part of the economy and culture of Hawaii since the first Chinese sugar plantation laborers arrived in the islands in 1852; and

WHEREAS, the first one hundred seventy-five laborers were from Hong Kong bound for Maui—most of them from depression-torn Guangdong and Fujian in southern China; and

WHEREAS, from 1852 to 1876, nearly 4,000 Chinese laborers migrated to Hawaii; and by 1882, these *huaqiao* or migrants made up almost 49 percent of plantation labor, outnumbering Caucasians in the islands; and

WHEREAS, the progeny of these humble but determined Chinese immigrants rose quickly through the ranks of Hawaii's educational, political, and business communities, and would leave lasting impacts on Hawaii and even the world—the most famous of whom is referred to as "The Forerunner of the Revolution," Dr. Sun Yat-sen; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sun's education at Iolani School and Oahu College inspired him to develop the vision of an educated, strong, and democratic, modern-day China that he would dedicate the rest of his life to building, and would later say that Hawaii was where he "came to know what modern, civilized governments are like and what they mean"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sun established the first Chinese revolutionary party, called *Xing Zhong Hui* or Revive China Society, and returned to Hawaii five more times at which time many Hawaii families contributed financially to his cause; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Hawaii Sister-Cities Summit held in Honolulu on September 13-15, 2011, highlighted the inextricable and historic ties between China and Hawaii with a particular emphasis on strengthening our relationships with Honolulu's sister cities of Zhongshan, Haikou, Qinhuangdao, and Chengdu; and



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WHEREAS, the summit demonstrated that China will continue to embrace our open door policy and fortified our understanding of each other's needs in the areas of cultural exchange, economic development, trade, tourism, and education; and

WHEREAS, recently, members of Hawaii's business and government communities welcomed 271 passengers at Honolulu International Airport from China Eastern Airlines' inaugural direct flight from Shanghai, heralding a new era for Honolulu's economic growth and forging closer ties between the United States and China; and

WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China, with its 1.3 billion people, represents a very large and lucrative pool of visitors, as the average Chinese tourist to Hawaii is expected to spend about \$368 per day, compared to \$275 daily for every Japanese tourist and just \$178 per day, on average, for all tourists to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, tourism dollars have been identified by the United States Department of Commerce as an *export*, and President Barack Obama's National Export Initiative of May 2010 seeks to double U.S. exports by 2015; and

WHEREAS, China has transformed itself from an impoverished country to the world's second largest economy, and as it grows, continues to have an impact on Hawaii and the globe; and

WHEREAS, China is now a major trade partner with the United States and force for stability and peace in Asia, and has become a world leader in the auto market and the world's largest producer of energy; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the reciprocity between China and Hawaii, the visa application and approval process for Chinese business and tourist travelers is an arduous and often lengthy process which deters many potential visitors to Hawaii and the United States; and

WHEREAS, a Chinese citizen who wishes to visit the United States must appear in person before a U.S. consulate official to obtain the visa but there are only five U.S. consulates in the entire People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, due to the small number of consulates and staff to handle the in-person interviews necessary for entry visas, the average wait times for those interviews in China far exceed those wait times in other countries; and



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WHEREAS, one solution to ease this problem is for a country to be admitted to the U.S. State Department's Visa Waiver Program, which allows nationals from foreign countries to enter the United States for tourism- or business-related purposes for as long as 90 days without obtaining a visa; and

WHEREAS, both Japan and South Korea qualify for visa waivers; and

WHEREAS, when South Korea became one of the 36 countries in the State Department's Visa Waiver Program in November of 2008, it boosted tourism to Hawaii from that country; and

WHEREAS, in order for a country to qualify for the Visa Waiver Program, the country must satisfy certain conditions, with the United States government retaining the ultimate discretion to admit the country to the program; and

WHEREAS, one condition for entry into the waiver program is the rate of refusal of a country's visa applicants which must be three percent or lower; and

WHEREAS, the refusal rate for Chinese visa applicants was 13.3 percent as of 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, a newly created industry group appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, recommended measures that can be taken to increase travel to the U.S. from China, which include: (1) raising the visa refusal rate from three to 10 percent; (2) establishing a maximum wait time for in-person visa interviews of five days; (3) adding four to six visa processing locations and several hundred consulate officers to process visas; and (4) allowing non-immigrant visas to last 10 years for Chinese visitors, which is permitted in other countries; and

WHEREAS, the unanimous approval of the county councils is necessary for inclusion of a proposal in the Hawaii State Association of County's legislative package; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City and County of Honolulu approves for inclusion in the 2013 legislative package a proposal, attached as Exhibit A, that urges the United States Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Attorney General to include the People's Republic of China in the Visa Waiver Program and support the recommendations of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board to ease visa restrictions and the visa application and approval process for business and tourist travelers from the People's Republic of China; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii State Association of Counties and the Mayors of the counties of Kauai, Hawaii, Honolulu, and Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUL 18 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

JUL 18 11 31 AM '12
CITY CLERK
RECEIVED

EXHIBIT A

___.C.R. NO._____

_____ CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL
TO EASE VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA.

1 WHEREAS, China and her people have long been a part of the
2 economy and culture of Hawaii since the first Chinese sugar
3 plantation laborers arrived in the islands in 1852; and

4 WHEREAS, the first one hundred seventy-five laborers were
5 from Hong Kong bound for Maui-most of them from depression-torn
6 Guangdong and Fujian in southern China; and

7 WHEREAS, from 1852 to 1876, nearly 4,000 Chinese laborers
8 migrated to Hawaii; and by 1882, these *huaqiao* or migrants made
9 up almost 49 percent of plantation labor, outnumbering
10 Caucasians in the islands; and

11 WHEREAS, the progeny of these humble but determined Chinese
12 immigrants rose quickly through the ranks of Hawaii's
13 educational, political, and business communities, and would
14 leave lasting impacts on Hawaii and even the world—the most

1 famous of whom is referred to as "The Forerunner of the
2 Revolution," Dr. Sun Yat-sen; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Sun's education at Iolani School and Oahu
4 College inspired him to develop the vision of an educated,
5 strong, and democratic, modern-day China that he would dedicate
6 the rest of his life to building, and would later say that
7 Hawaii was where he "came to know what modern, civilized
8 governments are like and what they mean"; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Sun established the first Chinese
10 revolutionary party, called *Xing Zhong Hui* or Revive China
11 Society, and returned to Hawaii five more times at which time
12 many Hawaii families contributed financially to his cause; and

13 WHEREAS, the Counties of Hawaii Sister-Cities Summit held
14 in Honolulu on September 13-15, 2011 highlighted the
15 inextricable and historic ties between China and Hawaii with a
16 particular emphasis on strengthening our relationships with
17 Honolulu's sister cities of Zhongshan, Haikou, Qinhuangdao, and
18 Chengdu; and

19 WHEREAS, the summit demonstrated that China will continue
20 to embrace our open door policy and fortified our understanding
21 of each other's needs in the areas of cultural exchange,
22 economic development, trade, tourism, and education; and

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1 WHEREAS, recently, members of Hawaii's business and
2 government communities welcomed 271 passengers at Honolulu
3 International Airport from China Eastern Airlines' inaugural
4 direct flight from Shanghai, heralding a new era for Honolulu's
5 economic growth and forging closer ties between the United
6 States and China; and

7 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China, with its 1.3
8 billion people, represents a very large and lucrative pool of
9 visitors, as the average Chinese tourist to Hawaii is expected
10 to spend about \$368 per day, compared to \$275 daily for every
11 Japanese tourist and just \$178 per day, on average, for all
12 tourists to Hawaii; and

13 WHEREAS, tourism dollars have been identified by the United
14 States Department of Commerce as an export, and President Barack
15 Obama's National Export Initiative of May 2010 seeks to double
16 U.S. exports by 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, China has transformed itself from an impoverished
18 country to the world's second largest economy, and as it grows,
19 continues to have an impact on Hawaii and the globe; and

20 WHEREAS, China is now a major trade partner with the United
21 States and force for stability and peace in Asia, and has become

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1 a world leader in the auto market and the world's largest
2 producer of energy; and

3 WHEREAS, in spite of the reciprocity between China and
4 Hawaii, the visa application and approval process for Chinese
5 business and tourist travelers is an arduous and often lengthy
6 process which deters many potential visitors to Hawaii and the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, a Chinese citizen who wishes to visit the United
9 States must appear in person before a U.S. consulate official to
10 obtain the visa but there are only five U.S. consulates in the
11 entire People's Republic of China; and

12 WHEREAS, due to the small number of consulates and staff to
13 handle the in-person interviews necessary for entry visas, the
14 average wait times for those interviews in China far exceed
15 those wait times in other countries; and

16 WHEREAS, one solution to ease this problem is for a country
17 to be admitted to the U.S. State Department's Visa Waiver
18 Program, which allows nationals from foreign countries to enter
19 the United States for tourism- or business-related purposes for
20 as long as 90 days without obtaining a visa; and

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1 WHEREAS, both Japan and South Korea qualify for visa
2 waivers; and

3 WHEREAS, when South Korea became one of the 36 countries in
4 the State Department's Visa Waiver Program in November of 2008,
5 it boosted tourism to Hawaii from that country; and

6 WHEREAS, in order for a country to qualify for the Visa
7 Waiver Program, the country must satisfy certain conditions;
8 with the United States government retaining the ultimate
9 discretion to admit the country to the program; and

10 WHEREAS, one condition for entry into the waiver program is
11 the rate of refusal of a country's visa applicants which must be
12 three percent or lower; and

13 WHEREAS, the refusal rate for Chinese visa applicants was
14 13.3 percent as of 2010; and

15 WHEREAS, the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, a newly
16 created industry group appointed by the U.S. Secretary of
17 Commerce, recommended measures that can be taken to increase
18 travel to the U.S. from China, which include: (1) raising the
19 visa refusal rate from three to 10 percent; (2) establishing a
20 maximum wait time for in-person visa interviews of five days;
21 (3) adding four to six visa processing locations and several

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1 hundred consulate officers to process visas; and (4) allowing
2 non-immigrant visas to last 10 years for Chinese visitors, which
3 is permitted in other countries; now, therefore

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives/Senate of
5 the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2013, the Senate/House concurring, that it urges the
7 United States Department of State, the Department of Homeland
8 Security, and the United States Attorney General to include the
9 People's Republic of China in the Visa Waiver Program and
10 support the recommendations of the Travel and Tourism Advisory
11 Board to ease visa restrictions and the visa application and
12 approval process for business and tourist travelers from the
13 People's Republic of China; and

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1 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be
2 transmitted to the Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of the
3 U.S. Department of State; Secretary Janet Napolitano, Secretary
4 of the Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Attorney General
5 Eric H. Holder Jr.; Secretary Rebecca Blank, Acting Secretary,
6 U.S. Department of Commerce; China's Ambassador to the United
7 States, 2201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Suite 110, Washington, D.C.
8 20007; the members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; the
9 Hawaii Tourism Authority; the Director of the Hawaii State
10 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; the
11 Asian American Institute, 4753 North Broadway, Suite 904,
12 Chicago, Illinois 60640; the Organization of Chinese Americans,
13 1322 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-1803; and the
14 President of the Hawaii State Association of Counties and the
15 Mayors of the counties of Kauai, Hawaii, Honolulu, and Maui.
16

OFFERED BY: _____

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
C E R T I F I C A T E

RESOLUTION 12-182

Introduced: 07/18/12 By: STANLEY CHANG

Committee: EXECUTIVE MATTERS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

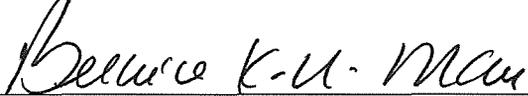
Title: RESOLUTION APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2013 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A PROPOSAL THAT URGES THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL TO EASE VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

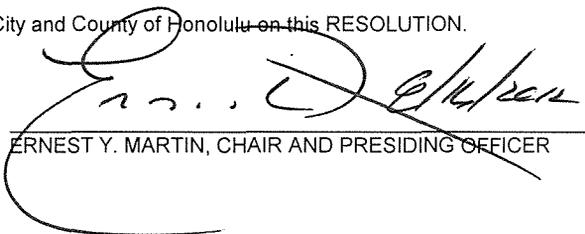
Links: [RES12-182](#)
[CR-249](#)

Voting Legend: Y= Aye, Y* = Aye w/Reservations, N = No, A = Absent, ABN = Abstain

EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS	07/24/12	CR-249 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.							
COUNCIL	08/15/12	CR-249 AND RESOLUTION 12-182 WERE ADOPTED.							
ANDERSON	A	BERG	Y	CACHOLA	Y	CHANG	Y	GABBARD	Y
GARCIA	Y	HARIMOTO	Y	KOBAYASHI	Y	MARTIN	Y		

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK


ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER