



Mufi Hannemann, Chair
John Henry Felix, Vice-Chair
Donna Mercado Kim, Member
Rene Mansho, Member
Jon Yoshimura, Member

NOTICE

THERE SHALL BE A MEETING OF THE
SISTER CITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1997
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
HONOLULU HALE, SECOND FLOOR
CHAIR: COUNCILMEMBER RENE MANSHO

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AGENDA

1. Approval of May 8, 1997 Minutes
2. Committee Reports
3. Correspondence

Unfinished Business

4. Update of Sister City Applications

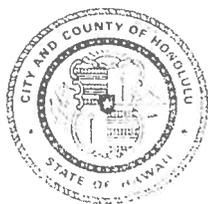
New Business

5. Zhongshan - EDPT Committee Approval
6. Discussion of Designated Liaisons from Task Force for Each Sister City
7. Announcements
8. Next Scheduled Meeting

If you have any questions or comments, contact Councilmember Rene Mansho via e-mail address at: rmansho@gold.chem.hawaii.edu

Note: The public is invited to attend this task force meeting for information. Oral testimony will not be accepted.

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Any disabled person requiring special assistance should
contact the City Clerk's Office, 523-4369, for details.
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CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

RENE MANSHO
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT I
(808) 547-7001 OFFICE
(808) 566-1184 FAX
E-mail: rmansho@gold.chem.hawaii.edu

SISTER CITIES ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEETING
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM
JUNE 12, 1997

MINUTES

- I. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Rene Mansho at 3:10 p.m.
- II. ATTENDANCE
 - A. Committee Members:
 - .Councilmember Rene Mansho, Co-Chair
 - .Lynette Char, Mayor's Office, Co-Chair
 - .Bill Brophy, Hawaii Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 - .Mieko Otsuka, Circle Rainbow Air
 - .Richard Bahar, DBEDT/State of Hawaii
 - .Wesley Fong, Chinese Chamber of Commerce
 - .Kenneth Chong, Chinese Chamber of Commerce
 - .Karen Knudsen, East-West Center
 - B. Others in Attendance:
 - .Cookie Harris, staff of Councilmember Rene Mansho
 - .Joyce Oliveira, staff of Councilmember Donna Mercado Kim
 - .Lori Kunioka, staff of Council Chair John DeSoto
- III. Minutes of May 8, 1997, was accepted with corrections to spelling of name Lynette "Chair" to "Char" on page 1; delete "an" from "Hawaiian" on page 2; paragraph 6; corrections to General "Fung" to "Feng" and Director General "Kwai Wang" from "California" to Director General "Kai Wang" from "Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Honolulu". on page 3, paragraph 2; paragraph 3 change "is" to "are"; and paragraph 6 delete "g" in "Zhongshang".

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IV. Committee Reports/Correspondence

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce received communication from Consul General Feng in Los Angeles expressing his delight on the action taken for a sister city relationship with Zhongshan City. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce has been keeping Consul General Feng informed of the step-by-step process.

Lily Yao, representing the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu presented an honorary certificate to Mayor Wu of Kaohsiung City during a May, 1997, visit to Taiwan. The Honolulu City Council certificate was given to Mayor Wu to forward to the Speaker of Kaohsiung Council since the presenter for the Council's honorary certificate was not available for presentation. The presentation was well received and the Mayor is looking forward to future visitations.

The concerns on establishing a Chinese Consulate in Hawaii would be beneficial, however, there is a written policy that each country has equal number of consulates in each others' country. Currently, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has more consulates in the United States than the United States has in PRC. The United States chooses not to add any more consulates. Although there is only one China, two governments (PRC and Taiwan), the United States only officially recognizes the PRC.

V. Update of Sister City Applications

Papua, New Guinea

Lynette Char received a fax from Consul General Harry Olson of Papua, New Guinea, informing her that Papua, New Guinea, still wants to become a sister city and their application is being worked on. Task members are advised that Papua, New Guinea's application is pending with intent to submit.

A May 7, 1997, Star-Bulletin news article submitted to members of the task force with concerns on the "lawlessness" in Papua. Action will be considered when application is submitted. It was suggested by Karen Knudsen that any update on Papua should be directed to the Australian Consul General Colin McDonald whose consulate has close relationship with Papua.

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Phuket, Thailand

A discussion with Thailand Consul General Colin Miyabara was that Phuket was not a compatible sister city because of population and with the country's economic businesses. It was suggested that Bangkok would be a suitable match for a sister city and also suggested that the task force deal directly with the consulate. Co-Chair René Mansho will prepare letter to Thailand Consulate requesting invitation for Bangkok to become sister city. An inquiry by Mieko Otsuka as to what other United States city is sister city to Bangkok. Richard Bahar indicated that Washington, D.C. is a sister city to Bangkok.

Taitung, Taiwan

No information received by Jerry Chang.

Solothurn, Switzerland

No information received, however, Nicolas Schweitzer has an application.

Dalian, China

No activity. There is dialogue between the Mayor of Dalian and Max Wang. Because of cultural and communication differences, the Mayor of Dalian felt offended when an application form was presented to him. Max Wang was apologetic for situation. It was suggested that the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu send a letter extending a friendly relationship to the Mayor of Dalian.

Discussion followed on handling Dalian in a diplomatic and amicable manner. The task force needs to maintain a sense of goodwill, peace and friendship. Open door communication and government protocol are tools in establishing a friendly relationship with a city who is being approached for a formal sister city relationship. However, cultural and communication differences may arise and the applicant city may decide not to become a sister city and instead considers themselves as a "friendship city".

The task force members were in agreement that any proposal/application for sister city relationship with Honolulu that an organization or sponsorship group should be the liaison representative for the sister city relationship application. An inquiry was asked if the sister city profile application has an organization/sponsorship included in the application. There is mention of an organization/sponsorship but not definite wording to the effect.

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Clarification is needed on determining the difference between a "friendship city" versus a "formal sister city relationship". The task force members are also inquiring on protocol for visiting city representatives. Co-Chair Lynette Char advises that the Mayor has no commitment in entertaining any friendship city. It was mentioned that any of Honolulu's sister city relationship member who visits Honolulu should have their Honolulu organization/sponsor group or liaison representative handle the visit.

Task Force member, Wesley Fong, inquired on the City's sister city policy which allows for four (4) sister city relationships per country. He was advised by Co-Chair Rene Mansho the policy, in the past, was set with no more than four (4) sister cities per country. A request for another sister city in a country that already has four (4) sister cities can be amended with a resolution from the City Council for the request on an additional sister city.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce (CCH) is looking at two sister city relationships with Zhaoqing and Hong Kong.

Zhaoqing is a resort area, north of Guangchao (?), a new developing area which is like a tourist mecca. Zhaoqing City is specializing in the tourist industry. In relation to Honolulu, Zhaoqing is in equal par with our tourist industry - it offers a 54-hole golf course, beautiful lakes, caves, and mountains. The CCH will explore the possibilities because Zhaoqing has indicated their interest in becoming a sister city. Further reports/information will be forwarded to the task force.

The other possible city is Hong Kong. Although we may want them as a sister city, Hong Kong may not want to become a member. CCH has created an ad hoc committee for Hong Kong to look into the possibility of relationship and will pursue only if Hong Kong is interested.

Co-Chair Rene Mansho inquired if Beijing could also be considered as a sister city relationship. The task force will be looking into this possibility.

It was suggested that China having many sister city relationships with Honolulu, the task force should prioritize the request for sister cities with China. The task force needs to focus on the higher priority and, unless the city wants a relationship, then appropriate to pursue. The ideal situation in any sister city relationship application is having each sister city application move in the same direction as well as working concurrently with each other.

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Karen Knudsen, East-West Center, explained that the East-West Center is moving the same direction as the Sister Cities Advisory Task Force. The East-West Center has been working for many years in establishing relationships by brutng their reach with the Asia Pacific regions. Former Governor George Ariyoshi, an East-West Center Director, will be participating and speaking at the Japan American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce President. Although the East-West Center is a national institution, the center is making changes in their attitude and is focusing on working collaboratively with the State, City, and local communities.

Co-Chair Lynette Char distributed packets for the 1997 24th Biennial Japan American Conference of Mayors and Chamber of Commerce Presidents (JACMCCP). She announced that Ann Kobayashi is the Mayor's representative for coordinating the JACMCCP. Mayor Jeremy Harris will be attending a conference in San Francisco and June 20, 1997 and will also distribute the JACMCCP packets there.

Co-Chair Rene Mansho asked Co-Chair Lynette Char if the sister cities with Honolulu could get together at the conference in a workshop to discuss relationships with each other as to what we are doing and what we are planning to do. Lynette Char advised that Ann Kobayashi is the Mayor's representative and that she will ask her about the program because program for the conference is being handled by Walter Tagawa and that she does not know what the program involves.

- VI. Co-Chair Rene Mansho thanked the United Chinese Society and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for providing testimony at the June 4, 1997, Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Committee (EDPT) and for working so hard in bringing it forward. The EDPT committee voted to pass the resolution out-for-adoption for the June 18, 1997, City Council meeting.**

After the City Council approves the resolution, the task force members were informed that there will be two official signings of the resolution one with the Mayor of Zhongshan City during his visit in Honolulu sometime in August or September and also with Mayor Harris visit to Zhongshan City in October.

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VII. The task force discussed the concern on a liaison representative for each sister city relationship with Honolulu. A volunteer from the task force should assist with one sister city relationship in obtaining a liaison representative or a point of contact person. Richard Bahar suggested that the liaison representative be appointed for a term of six (6) months to one (1) year. The concern with a liaison representative is that the representative may not be too involved with the sister city and becomes lost in the oncoming years, and the task force may, then, lose any contact with the sister city. The task force could initiate a committee in looking for an organization to act as sponsor or a liaison for a sister city.

Discussion followed on liaison representatives/organization that are considered sponsors for:

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|-----------------------|----------|--|
| .Hainan Island | - | Leigh Wai Doo |
| .Naha | - | United Okinawan Association |
| .Kaohsiung | - | China Town Merchants |
| .Zhongshan | - | Ad Hoc Committee of Zhongshan (CCH) |

For example, a proposal requesting a sister city relationship with Sendai City was sent to Sendai City for consideration. Sendai City thanked Honolulu for proposal but did not want to become a sister city. Mieko Otsuka explained that there were lots of problems with another sister city with Sendai. Sendai City used government money to entertainment the sister city with dinners, hotel, etc. The Sendai government cut funds for sister city and is sensitive about becoming involved with another sister city relationship.

Also, another proposal requesting a sister city relationship with Fukuoka City for consideration was presented to Fukuoka City. Fukuoka City did not want to become a sister city because they have established a Sister/State relationship with Hawaii. Although, City Council and members of the City are invited to participate in the Sister/State relationship, Fukuoka City did not want to extend any sister city relationship.

It was recommended by Wesley Fong that an organization/sponsor/business entity be a point of contact for the sister city relationship. This recommendation will also be included in the profile application form. A draft proposal will be prepared.

Richard Bahar inquired if anything has been done on the legality of using the phrase "sister city" without belonging to the Sister Cities International. Co-Chair Lynette Char responded that the task force has not done anything.

VIII. Announcements

1) Wesley Fong would like on behalf of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to thank the task force for all their efforts in moving the application for Zhongshan forward to becoming a sister city with Honolulu. Since its inception, the CCH, ad hoc committee, and the task force have come a long way in having this application completed. Ron Young, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, will be handling the visitation of the Zhongshan delegation in August or September. Thank you to the task force for working together with Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

2) Mieko Otsuka and Ann Kobayashi will be attending the annual commemorative peace ceremony in Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities in August, 1997. They both will also be attending a World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-City Solidarity. Sister Cities with Hiroshima will be participating in the conference. Ann Kobayashi is the Mayor's representative.

It was suggested by Co-Chair Rene Mansho that Honolulu should have a sister city conference with each sister city's bringing together and sharing economic development issues and culminating activities with each other. DBEDT and HCVB could also participate as sponsors.

3) Richard Bahar announced that on the week of July 4, 1997, the citizens of Taiwan are having an "America Week in Taiwan". The State of Hawaii is the only state participating in this event.

On October 6, 1997, Kaoishung, Taiwan will be having an "International Education Fair", one of the biggest of its kind. The State of Hawaii has committed to be a participant.

Richard Bahar also suggested that the sister city task force should list sister city activities on a master calendar. Information on activities should be forwarded to the task force for implementation.

IX. Next scheduled meeting: July 24, 1997 - Thursday 3:00 p.m. Council Committee Room

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.