HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-282, FD1

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH YAMAGUCHI CITY, JAPAN.

WHEREAS, Resolution 21-212 establishes guidelines for the City and County of Honolulu ("Honolulu") that govern the establishment and termination of its friendship city relationships ("Guidelines"); and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines provide that cities potentially considered for a friendship city relationship should:

1. Share a direct historical, cultural, or ethnic relationship with the residents of Honolulu;

2. Be similar in population size or character to Honolulu; and

3. Share common public policy goals with Honolulu, including the promotion of business, trade, and tourism or the mutual exchange of friendship, culture, education, and technology; and

WHEREAS, Yamaguchi City, the capital of Yamaguchi Prefecture, is a culturally significant destination renowned for its unique art, culture, and natural beauty located near the western edge of Japan's main island, Honshu; and

WHEREAS, modeled after the historical capital of Japan, Yamaguchi City is known as the "Kyoto of the West" and possesses a rich and longstanding history that stems from, among other things, its location as a crucial stopping point between Hiroshima and Kyushu, which enabled the flourishing of international commerce and interactions with missionaries during the 14th through 16th centuries; and

WHEREAS, Yamaguchi City retains many prominent features from its historic past, such as the iconic five-story pagoda of Rurikoji Temple, and visitors from around the world are drawn to the city's elegant temples, castle ruins, ancient roads, gardens, hot spring baths, and cherry blossom trees; and

WHEREAS, Yamaguchi City also remains one of the intellectual and cultural hubs of Honshu Island, boasting prominent local universities and the state-of-the-art Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, a multi-million dollar facility that hosts artistic exhibitions, performances, movie screenings, and workshops for children; and

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Yamaguchi City, with an estimated population of 190,000 as of 2022, shares common public policy goals with Honolulu, including the promotion of business, trade, and tourism and the desire to encourage diversity and hospitality while preserving its unique environment and local culture; and

WHEREAS, Honolulu and Yamaguchi City share a long history and strong bond, beginning with the *kanyaku imin* and the immigration of over 10,000 contract laborers from Yamaguchi Prefecture to Hawai'i between 1885 and 1894; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the people of Yamaguchi and the five Yamaguchi Kenjinkai (community associations organized by descendants of Yamaguchi Prefecture that promote and perpetuate the prefecture's culture and traditions) in Hawai'i have engaged in continuous cultural exchanges, including annual fisheries training off the coast of Hawai'i by a Yamaguchi high school, reciprocal hosting and reception of delegations and tour groups, attending each other's various anniversary events, and study abroad and academic exchanges with Kaua'i Community College, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai has helped facilitate the important ongoing relationship between Yamaguchi City and Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of Honolulu Yamaguchi Kenjinkai and other affiliate groups, the State of Hawai'i and Yamaguchi Prefecture established a Sister-State Agreement on August 27, 2022, to "foster mutually beneficial interchange, strengthen the existing bonds of friendship and goodwill, encourage the growth of economic and educational opportunities, and promote the interchange of culture"; and

WHEREAS, Yamaguchi City has also expressed an interest in establishing a friendship city relationship with Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") welcomes the opportunity to establish a friendship city relationship with Yamaguchi City; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the guidelines and criteria for the establishment of a new friendship city relationship have been met; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that, in the spirit of aloha, it supports the establishment of a friendship city relationship with Yamaguchi City, Japan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the friendship city agreement shall be consistent with the implementation policies of Resolution 21-212, which, in addition to provisions for establishing friendship city relationships, also provide the terms and conditions to make these ties lasting and purposeful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the adoption of this resolution, the Mayor or the Mayor's designee is requested to prepare and enter into an agreement with the Mayor of Yamaguchi City, or the appropriate public official, to formalize the friendship city relationship; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor; the Managing Director; the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts; and the Mayor of Yamaguchi City, Japan, or the appropriate public official.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 3, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 24-282, FD1

Introduced: 12/03/24 By: TOMMY WATERS Committee: COUNCIL (CCL)

Title: ESTABLISHING A FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH YAMAGUCHI CITY, JAPAN.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

12/03/24	INTRO	Introduced.
12/11/24	CCL	Amended to handcarried FD1. OCS2024-1074/12/9/2024 3:43 PM 6 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 3 ABSENT: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, TUPOLA
12/11/24	CCL	Adopted. 6 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 3 ABSENT: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, TUPOLA

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.

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER