HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-98

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH BANGKOK, THAILAND.

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

WHEREAS, the Guidelines provide that a sister city relationship may be established with another city that:

1. Shares a direct historical, cultural, or ethnic relationship with the people of Honolulu;

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

3. Shares 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, Bangkok, the capital and most populated city within Thailand, formerly known as Siam, is located in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, Bangkok's economy is driven by tourism, and the city is renowned for its mix of cultural landmarks, historical sites, and modern city life; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between Hawai'i and Thailand began in 1881 when King David Kalākaua circumnavigated the world and during his journey met King Chulalongkorn, ruler of Siam (Thailand); and

WHEREAS, King Kalākaua was installed as a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Crown of Siam by King Chulalongkorn and awarded King Chulalongkorn the Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the grandson of King Chulalongkorn, gifted a royal order and a gold elephant to The Friends of Iolani Palace as a cultural gift to replace the original gifts lost from King Kalākaua's visit to Siam and dedicated a traditional sala (pavilion) to the East-West Center; and

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WHEREAS, Bangkok currently maintains sister and friendship city relationships with 36 cities, including some with which the City also shares a sister or friendship city relationship such as Fukuoka, Japan; Manila, Philippines; and Seoul, South Korea; and

WHEREAS, Bangkok has recently taken steps to restart a modern-day partnership with the City, and in 2025, the Chairman of the Bangkok Metropolitan Council led a delegation to Honolulu to meet with City officials; and

WHEREAS, City officials and Bangkok Metropolitan Council members discussed the exchange of best practices on policy priorities such as addressing public rapid transportation, sustainable tourism, agriculture, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") believes that sharing innovative ideas for improving museum operations and arts education programs and promoting cultural awareness through the exchange of museum exhibitions are critical to strengthening the preservation of the City's history and cultural values; and

WHEREAS, the goals of a sister relationship with Bangkok include exchanging information on multimodal public transportation and synchronicity, climate change, and culture, as well as to better support and engage with the Thai community in Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, given the shared aspects of ethnic and cultural diversity and common public policy goals between the two cities, the Council finds that the guidelines and criteria for a new sister city relationship with Bangkok, Thailand, have been met; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it supports establishing a new sister city relationship with Bangkok, Thailand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sister city agreement must be consistent with the implementation policies of Resolution 21-212, which, in addition to provisions for establishing sister 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 Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, or the appropriate public official, to formalize the sister city relationship; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, or the appropriate public official.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 27 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Sister City Relationship; Bangkok, Thailand; International Relations

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.