HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-141

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHONAI, JAPAN, AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

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

WHEREAS, the Guidelines provide that cities potentially considered for a sister city or 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, Shonai is a small town situated near the Sea of Japan and the summit of Mount Gassan, in the Yamagata Prefecture of Japan; and

WHEREAS, Shonai is a visitor destination with scenic, cultural, and spiritual significance. Shinto and Buddhist religions consider Mount Gassan, the main peak of the "Three Mountains of Dewa," as sacred with a symbolic meaning to the past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, other attractions in Shonai include several natural hot springs, wind-turbines used for power generation, and the Erosion Control Resource Center, which compiles technology and data on erosion control; and

WHEREAS, Shonai is known for its diverse agricultural approaches, fertile lands, diverse climate, and clear waters, which contribute to Shonai's high-quality rice that is cultivated without the use of artificial fertilizers and chemicals; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i has deep ties to the Japanese community due in large part to Japanese immigrants settling in Hawai'i as agricultural plantation laborers, leaving a significant cultural and social impact to the City that continues to this day; and

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WHEREAS, Honolulu is home to numerous Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines that comprised a major part of Japanese immigrants' community life; and

WHEREAS, Shonai has expressed an interest in sharing educational exchange programs with Honolulu and in exploring other shared interests such as agricultural practices, climate change, and land erosion; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that sharing innovative ideas for improving education programs and promoting cultural awareness through student exchanges and other learning programs are critical to strengthening the preservation of the City's history and cultural values; and

WHEREAS, given the shared aspects of ethnic and cultural diversity and common public policy goals between Shonai and Honolulu, the Council finds that the Guidelines and criteria for a new friendship city relationship with Shonai, Japan, have been met; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it supports establishing a friendship city relationship with Shonai, 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 Shonai, or the appropriate public official, to formalize the friendship city relationship; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-141

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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; the Mayor of Shonai, Japan; and the Council Chair of Shonai, Japan.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 8 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 25-141

Introduced: 05/08/25 By: SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO Committee: COUNCIL (CCL)

Title: ESTABLISHING A FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHONAI, JAPAN, AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

05/08/25	INTRO	Introduced.
05/14/25	CCL	Adopted. 9 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER

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