

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 3, 2005

Committee
Report No.

_____ 05-67 _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Committee of the Whole, having met on May 17, 2005, makes reference to County Communication No. 05-88, from the Economic Development Coordinator, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "ESTABLISHING A SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to establish a sister-city relationship between the County of Maui and the Municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Economic Development Coordinator; the First Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Claudine Camacho, Student Services Coordinator of the Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ms. Camacho testified in support of the proposed resolution.

Your Committee received a brief overview of the request from the Economic Development Coordinator.

Your Committee noted that past resolutions adopted by the Council establishing sister-city relationships have included much more information on the similarities between the County of Maui and the proposed sister-city.

The Economic Development Coordinator indicated that the Municipality of Saipan has a population of approximately 75,000 people, relies heavily upon tourism, and has many Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese residents. She indicated that the Municipality of Saipan is similar to the County of Maui, both economically and culturally.

Ms. Camacho indicated that the Municipality of Saipan is primarily populated by native Chamorro and Carolinians. It is a part of a chain of islands that comprise the

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. She further indicated that this municipality has a history of medical referral operations with the State of Hawaii, primarily with Oahu, and that this program is currently expanding to Maui. According to Ms. Camacho, the economy in the Municipality of Saipan is booming, and that in addition to tourism, agriculture and aquaculture are important aspects of their economy. Ms. Camacho stated that similar to Hawaii, Saipan has a history greatly affected by World War II. She noted that the United States airplane named the Enola Gay had been stationed in Saipan during the War. The Enola Gay was used to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. She indicated that the Municipality of Saipan is interested in a sister-city relationship with the County of Maui so that it may learn from the County of Maui. She said that she is aware of six families who live on Maui that were originally from the Municipality of Saipan.

Your Committee discussed whether the Office of Economic Development has written criteria for the establishment of sister-city relationships with other municipalities. The Economic Development Coordinator indicated that although the Department considers issues such as population, economics, educational systems, business opportunities, weather, climate, and the number of residents from the proposed sister-city residing in the County, there is no written criteria.

Your Committee requested that the proposed resolution be revised to include additional information on the similarities between the County of Maui and the Municipality of Saipan regarding population, economics, educational systems, business opportunities, weather and climate, and involvement in World War II. In addition to these similarities, your Committee requested that the proposed resolution be revised to include the number of people from Saipan that currently reside in the County of Maui.

Your Committee requested the Economic Development Coordinator to obtain a letter from the Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan indicating the Municipality's interest in a sister-city relationship with the County of Maui.

Your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution incorporating your Committee's suggested revisions and filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, approved as to form and legality, incorporating your Committee's suggested revisions.

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Your Committee of the Whole RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "ESTABLISHING A SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS" be ADOPTED; and

2. That County Communication No. 05-88 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Chair**

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