Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and International Affairs March 16, 2006

by

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HB 1890 HD1 – Relating to Sister State and Province Relationships

Chair English, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1890 HD1, which would establish a Hawai'i sister state committee to recommend sister state or province relationships for the legislature's action. The University is supportive of strengthening our ties within the region and the world.

We support HB 1890 HD1 provided that there is understanding that its passage does not necessarily involve the establishment of exchange partnerships between the University of Hawai'i and universities in sister states. The University needs to retain the control and ability to establish our own agreements with foreign Universities that meet our strategic and academic needs.