




**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
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February 14, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kenny Amazaki, ASO  
Council Administrative Services

**FROM:** Councilmember Matt Weyer 

**SUBJECT:** 2023 Honolulu South Korea Sister City Goodwill Mission – Travel Report

Our Honolulu City Council Delegation visited South Korea from October 10<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Sister City and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Friendship Council relationship with Seoul Metropolitan Government, as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sister City Relationship with Incheon Metropolitan Government. The trip provided an opportunity to learn what other large cities are doing to address many of today's pressing issues.

**Tuesday October 10, 2023**

**10:00 am – 10:45 am** The Delegation visited the Incheon **Metropolitan City Fine Art Association** to view the Honolulu-Incheon International Art Exchange Exhibit. The Incheon Metropolitan Government funds the two week event, which showcases artists from Honolulu and Incheon. Artists from the Kosuk Foundation also display their art 2-3 times a year in Honolulu Hale as a celebration of art and the Korean community.



**11:30 am – 2:30 pm** The Delegation conducted a Business, Economic and Commerce Site visit to **Namdaemun Market Place** and learned about how local vendors connect with both residents and visitors alike in a dense, well-managed environment.

**2:30 pm – 3:30 pm** The Delegation met with **Seoul Metropolitan Council (SMC) Secretary General Sang In Kim** and discussed the relationship between Seoul and Honolulu.

### **Wednesday October 11, 2023**

**10:00 am -11:45 pm** The Delegation met with **SMC Chairman Dr. Hyeonki Kim**, Vice Chairman **Chang Jin Nam**, Floor Leader for the People Power Party **Mrs. Jung Choi Ho**, and Planning and Economy Committee Chair **Mrs. Suk Ja Lee**. The discussion included transportation, waste management, housing, and public safety and how SMC supports a population of 10 million constituents, with an additional 7 million coming into the City for work each day. SMC discussed how workforce housing, specifically for young professionals and newlyweds, have helped respond to the increased demand for housing opportunities in light of spiking rental costs. Similar to Honolulu, SMC requires community benefits such as schools and infrastructure be incorporated into new projects.



Seoul's major revenue sources are: (1) Tobacco Consumption Tax, (2) Property Tax, and (3) Registration (Resident) Tax. The SMC Chairman acknowledged the reliance on the tobacco tax does not prevent government policy aimed at decreasing tobacco use. Walking around the City, smoking was only allowed designated areas and not on the public sidewalk.

**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm** Seoul then provided lunch at the historic **Phil Kyung Jae Restaurant**, which consisted of a traditional Korean ceremonial dinner. Chair Kim detailed the longstanding relationship between the United States and South Korea and the need to foster that relationship to maintain regional stability and security.



**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm** The Delegation attended the **Hawaii Tourism Korea (HTK) VIP Reception** as distinguished guest that included Ms. Joy Sakurai, a former Wahiawa resident now Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in South Korea. Over 200 attendees, a mix of Korea’s top travel agencies and Hawaii Tourism Industry members, were provided an update on the current status of Korean tourism to Hawaii. The Delegation, via Chair Waters, addressed the audience and highlighted the important of Korean visitors and the value of shared values and culture.

As part of the evening’s event Ms. Jin Jang, Account Director for Hawaii Tourism Korea, gave an informative presentation of statistics from pre-pandemic times to post pandemic. She also introduced HTK’s newest slogan which is Malama Hawaii, with the emphasis to Korean travelers to be mindful and respectful visitors to the islands in order to receive the greatest experience our Islands have to offer.



**Thursday October 12, 2023**

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm** The Delegation visited the **Seoul Transportation Operation Information System (TOPIS)**, a highly sophisticated traffic management system, emergency response and data collection system. With 480 CCTV’s throughout Seoul, TOPIS provides system operators to provide real time information regarding traffic management, bus and taxi locations and travel paths, emergencies that require first responder action, the weather, and much more.

By way of TOPIS, law enforcement can issue infractions for traffic violations, and the public can interface with the system online.



**3:00 pm – 4:15 pm** The Delegation visited **Gyeongbokgung Palace**, a cultural icon in the heart of the City that was destroyed during the Korean War with Japan and then refurbished by the last King of Seoul.



### **Friday October 13, 2023**

**11:00 am to 2:00 pm** The Delegation visited **Incheon City Hall** and met with Incheon Chairman Shick Heo and 4 of the 6 Standing Committee Chairs. Each councilmember from the Honolulu Delegation shared the issues they face within their district and the commonalities between the issues facing both Incheon and Honolulu. Councilmembers from both sides expressed a committed effort to perpetuate the Friendship Council Relationship and Sister City Relationship.

The meeting was followed by a luncheon with Chairman Heo and members of the Incheon Metropolitan Council. The two Cities continued their discussions over a traditional Korean meal, fortifying the bond between the councils.

Joining Chairman Shick Heo, from the Incheon Metropolitan Council (IMC) were:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1) Vice Chairman Bong-rak Lee   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman              |
| 2) Councilmember Jong-hyuk Park | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman              |
| 3) Councilmember Min-su Han     | Council Steering Committee                 |
| 4) Councilmember Dong-seop Shin | Administration Safety Committee            |
| 5) Councilmember Hae-gwon Jeong | Industry and Economy Committee             |
| 6) Councilmember Dae-jung Kim   | Budget and Accounts Committee              |
| 7) Council Dan-bee Lee          | Public Administration and Safety Committee |



**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm** The Delegation toured the **Incheon Global Campus (IGC)**. The campus is currently home to 5 American based universities, including the University of Utah, George Mason University, and Stanford University. The Campus offers Korean born students and students from abroad to obtain a 4 year degree. The Delegation viewed a presentation and participated in a tour of the facility by the Global Campus Administration. The Delegation met with Associate Dean of Faculty Mr. Francis Schortgen, Director of External Relations and Alumni Relations Mr. James Park, and Assistant Director of Career and Internship Development Center Mr. John Woo. During the panel discussion, the Honolulu Delegation learned about the University's enrollment process, tuition and boarding cost, the various degrees offered, and the overall campus life. The Delegation also met with University of Utah student and Hawaii born Lahaina resident Ms. Pohai Miyamoto. She shared her experiences, journey, and desire that Hawaii residents know about the Global Campus opportunity.



**Saturday October 14, 2023**

**10:30 am – 11:30 am** The Delegation participated in a Business/Economic/ Commerce site visit at the **Incheon Startup Park (ISP)**. The ISP, which opened in February 2021, supports demonstration, investment and global advancement of start businesses in the technology industry. Technological Startup businesses with an established marketable product may apply for annual membership to ISP. Once a member, the Startup has free access to physical and virtual workspaces, board/meeting rooms, access to data archives, access to funding from stakeholders/investor, and equipment to enhance the work experience.

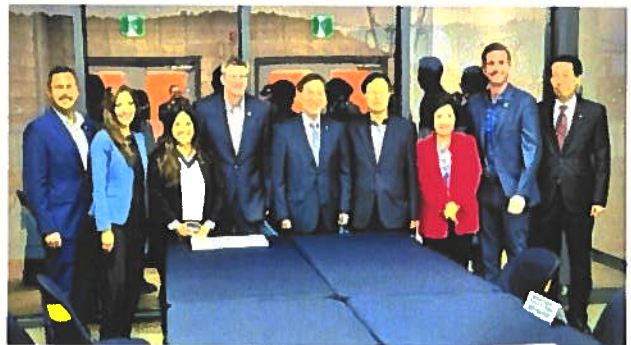
With financial support from the Incheon Metropolitan Government (\$200 million USD) and of big business such as the Shihan Financial Group (\$400 mil over 5 years), ISP uses a combination of private funding, opportunities to participate on a global scale, experiences, capabilities and public support to create a model similar to the Silicon Valley in the United States.

This experience provided the delegation with an inside look at how a City funded program can provide its local startups with opportunities to succeed in a global market and in return place the City/Country at the pinnacle of a thriving industry.



**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm** The Delegation visited the **Museum of Korea Immigration History**, being that the first ever immigration of Koreans looking for better financial opportunities headed for Honolulu in 1903 aboard the S.S. Gaelic. The Delegation learned the history of Korean Immigration that began in 1903 with its first immigration to Hawaii, then to Mexico, Germany and Brazil. The experience provided insight into the challenges Korean immigrants face, and it fostered an appreciation of the Korean heritage and culture.

**5:30 pm – 9:00 pm** The Delegation attended the **Incheon Festa 2023** or Incheon Citizen's Day as VIP guest of Incheon Mayor Yoo and Chairman Heo. The Delegation met with Mayor Jong-Bok Yoo and two members of his cabinet and later sat with Incheon's other Sister City Delegations as Mayor Yoo oversaw the Incheon Citizen's Day celebrations before 5, 000 attendees. The Delegation's presence at the celebration reinforced the bond between our two sister cities and insured that the relationship will continue to provide learning opportunities and growth from one another.



### Sunday October 15, 2023

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm** The Delegation participated in a question and answer session at the **Jelmupo Gurakbu**, an international club house established in 1901 that houses a museum and a Cultural Center. The Delegation was able to enjoy a presentation of traditional Korean music before engaging with several dozen Incheon citizens. Discussions ranged from the Maui wildfires, including the Delegation sharing appreciation for the financial support by the Republic of Korea, to how Honolulu is confronting a host of issues.



**Monday October 16, 2023**

**10:30 pm – 1:00 pm** The Delegation visited the **Guwol Asiad Public Housing Complex**. The six building facility, which was once the Olympic village back in 2014, now provides subsidized housing for 3 target populations: (1) young business singles, (2) newlyweds, and (3) seniors. The facility hosts a pre-school/daycare facility on site, fitness gym, meeting/ party rooms, reserved stalled parking, and the state of art recycling program. The site hosts a \$6 million USD furnace, where residents mix their rubbish with a bio-generated formula to create a fertilized compost. The Incheon Housing Committee Chairman and the Complex Supervisor provided the Delegation with a presentation that was followed by a tour of the facility. It was interesting to observe the differences and similarities in how our two jurisdictions address affordable housing and to contemplate additional approaches.





**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm** The Delegation visited the **Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ)**, which included a visit to the **IFEZ Global Center**. Similar to **TOPIS**, the facility strives to bring the latest technologies to its smart city to provide a safe and time efficient lifestyle. With the use of 460 CCTVs within IFEZ, 1<sup>st</sup> responders get real time information for response.



The Delegation also visited the **IFEZ Global Tower**, home to the various divisions operating IFEZ, it houses a sub office of the United Nations. Part of the tour of the Tower included a visit to the observation deck providing the Delegation a panoramic view of IFEZ. At the conclusion of the tour the Councilmembers had a brief meet and greet with the Commissioner of IFEZ, Mr. Jin-Yong Kim.



City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: February 14, 2024

Traveler: Councilmember Matt Weyer


Event: ~~2023 Honolulu-South Korea Goodwill Mission~~

Location: Incheon and Seoul, South Korea

Dates: From ~~October 10, 2023~~ To ~~October 16, 2023~~

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel		
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	0	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Traveler

2/14/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date