

2023 Honolulu South Korea Sister City Goodwill Mission

October 10th – 16th 2023

Travel Report

Introduction

A Honolulu Delegation that included Council Chairman Tommy Waters, Floor Leader Radiant Cordero, Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos Tam, Councilmember Matt Weyer, Councilmember Val Aquino Okimoto, and Director of International Relations Brad Kitsu visited South Korea from October 10th- 16th 2023. The Delegation visited for the purposes of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its Sister City and 10th Anniversary of its Friendship Council relationship with Seoul Metropolitan Government, as well as the 20th Anniversary of the Sister City Relationship with Incheon Metropolitan Government.

Tuesday October 10, 2023

10:00 am – 10:45 am Chair Waters and the Honolulu Councilmembers visited the Incheon Metropolitan City Fine Art Association to view the Honolulu- Incheon International Art Exchange Exhibit. Artists from the Honolulu based Kosuk Foundation, participated in an art exhibit with Artist from Incheon, South Korea, in an annual art exchange and art show. With funding from the Incheon Metropolitan Government, the Honolulu and Incheon Artists display their artwork (which are for sale) as part of the two week event. The Artist 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.

Taking the opportunity to enjoy the art exhibit as well as showing support for the Honolulu based Korean Art Community, Chair Waters and the Councilmembers toured the gallery and took time to speak and take pictures with the Artists. The artists were very proud to show off their art work to the Councilmembers and asked if the City would consider finding a gallery for them to display their art in Honolulu.



11:30 am – 2:30 pm Business, Economic and Commerce Site visit to Namdaemun Market Place. Chair Waters and the Councilmembers toured the marketplace and saw the various vendors and products being sold. The Delegation observed the high volume of locals and tourist alike crowding the corridors of the marketplace at mid-day, during the work week. Taking note that there were store vendors and street vendors occupying space in the marketplace, the Delegation learned about the permitting, operating and health code procedures as well as how a successful, inclusive venue that allows vendors with an array of

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items for sale (i.e. food, clothing, jewelry, luggage, children's apparel and toys, luggage) can coexist in the same space.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Chair Waters and the Councilmembers were greeted at the Lotte Hotel Seoul by Seoul Metropolitan Council Secretary General Sang In Kim. Secretary General Kim greeted Chair Waters with a bouquet of flowers and best wishes for the stay in Seoul. It was an honor for Chair Waters and the Councilmembers to meet briefly with SG Kim during a very busy time for the SMC.

Wednesday October 11, 2023

10:00 am -11:45 pm Chair Waters and the Honolulu Delegation meet with Seoul Metropolitan Council (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. This included a tour of the SMC building and full council chambers that houses 112 Councilmembers.

Chairman Waters and the Honolulu Delegation discussed various issues facing Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and the policies they have installed to address the issues. Seoul is home to 10 million constituents and another 7 million making the commute to Seoul daily, the biggest challenges for the SMC are traffic, air pollution and public housing. As Seoul continues to make strides in addressing traffic and Air pollution, they have reached policy milestones with their public housing.

Identifying that their shortage of housing inventory is due to generational change causing a significant spike in single family dwelling, especially amongst the young adult population. Seoul has implemented such policies as specialized housing for young professionals, as well as specialized housing for newlyweds.

The SMC has made it a priority to improve government housing policies to compete against private rental housing, to counter the sky rocketing rental costs. The SMC acknowledges that in Seoul, there is a stigma to living in public housing and receiving rental assistance, and are currently creating marketing tools to remove that stigma. Chairman Kim also mentioned that the SMC established policy to require developers to incorporate schools and infrastructure improvements into planning designs.



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Other topics discussed between the Honolulu Delegation and Chairman Kim included; the various programs implemented to assist ex-pats and immigrants encouraging diversity within the City and research and development of underground incinerators to address waste management for a population size of 10 million residents.

Seoul relies on three major revenue sources to balance their budget. These are 1) Tobacco Consumption Tax 2) Property Tax 3) Registration (Resident) Tax. Like Hawaii, Seoul is at a crossroad between the massive amounts of generated revenue from the consumption of tobacco products and the health and safety of its people.

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Following the meeting between the two councils, Chairman Kim treated the Honolulu delegation to lunch at the historic Phil Kyung Jae Restaurant. Here the Honolulu Delegation and Chairman Kim continued the discussion of various policies over a traditional Korean ceremonial dinner. Chair Kim offered to share their policy information regarding the tobacco consumption tax and public housing initiatives. Being that it was the first meeting between the appointed Chairmen, a bond was formed and commitment to sharing policy ideas to address the similar challenges facing Seoul and Honolulu.



6:00 pm – 9:00 pm The Honolulu 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 treated to mixer and update of the current status of Korean tourism to Hawaii. Chair Waters gave opening remarks to the audience, with the attending Councilmembers at his side, addressed the budding relationship between Korea and Hawaii, and in support of Hawaii tourism, thanked Hawaii Tourism Korea for the enjoyable and beneficial event and urged Korean travel agents to come to Hawaii to experience the beauty of the island and its 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

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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.

The event organizers and attendees were grateful to have the Honolulu City Councilmembers present to show their support of the industry and sharing their sentiments to the Korean audience.



Thursday October 12, 2023

10:00 am – 12:30 pm The Honolulu delegation visited the Seoul Transportation Operation Information System (TOPIS) and were treated to a presentation given by Ms. Young Jin An, regarding one of the most futuristic and sophisticated traffic management system, emergency response and data collection in the world. TOPIS is a system of 480 CCTVs throughout the Seoul metropolitan area. The system provides system operators to provide real time information regarding traffic management (i.e. vehicular accidents, illegally parked cars and vehicles that exceed the speed limit), immediate response to emergencies by providing precise locations and trauma evaluation providing 1st responders critical information prior to arriving on scene. Another value provided by TOPIS to 1st responders, particularly police officers, is the ability to handout speeding citations based on documented footage of said offender. TOPIS, with its CCTV capabilities, tracks and records offenders with documented evidence, followed by a citation mailed to the vehicle owner. TOPIS also allows police to issue citations to vehicles that are illegally park. All this allows the police officers to address the more serious violations.

Not only does TOPIS provide real time updates but also has the ability to track the number of bikes, cars, buses, trains and taxis on the road at any given time. Via its online website or application, users can also access data that allows for improved driving times and can also alert to heavily congested roadways, and provide users with quickest route options. TOPIS also tracks weather conditions and collect data on rain and snow fall.

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With further development of TOPIS, Seoul now runs autonomous vehicles and buses, allowing for driverless transportation around the City and the removal of human error.



3:00 pm – 4:15 pm The Honolulu delegation paid a visit to the Gyeongbokgung Palace in the heart of Seoul, for a historical and cultural tour. The delegation, with the help of English speaking tour guide, learned the history of this long standing palace, which was destroyed during the Korean War with Japan, and then refurbished by the last King of Seoul. It was a great experience for the Honolulu delegation to get a better sense of the rich and deep-rooted history of Korea and the respect they have for their forefathers.

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Friday October 13, 2023

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Chair Waters and the Honolulu Delegation were welcomed to Incheon City Hall and meet with Incheon Chairman Shick Heo and the 4 of the 6 Standing Committee Chairs (7 of the 40 members of the Incheon City Council). 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 st Vice Chairman |
| 2) Councilmember Jong-hyuk Park | 2 nd 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 |

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2:30 pm – 4:30 pm The delegation took the opportunity to meet with and tour the **Incheon Global Campus (IGC)**. The campus is currently home to 5 American based Universities; University of Utah, George Mason University, Stanford University, to name a few. The Campus offers Korean born students and students from abroad, to obtain a full-fledged 4 year degree, one with the same value as in the States, but at half the cost. The Honolulu Delegation was originally scheduled to meet with the President of the IGC and the senior leadership team of the University of Utah Asia Campus. The meeting with the President was cancelled as he contracted covid and was unable to attend.

The Honolulu Delegation was however, treated to an introductory video presentation by the Incheon Global Campus Administration and was then given a tour of the campus and the University of Utah Asia Building. The Honolulu Delegation was able to meet 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 biggest blessing and an awe-striking experience was sitting on the panel representing the University of Utah was a Hawaii born Lahaina resident Ms. Pohai Miyamoto. It was touching and inspiring hearing about her story and the journey that led her to Korea.

The Incheon Global Campus left the Honolulu Delegation with lasting impressions and with the potentiality of having the University of Hawaii be a part of this campus?



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Saturday October 14, 2023

10:30 am – 11:30 am The Honolulu Delegation went on a Business/Economic/ Commerce site visit and meeting 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.

The goal for the Incheon Startup Park is to become a global hub for the technology industry. By expanding its market reach globally, and being in line with technologies from the 4th Industrial Revolution (i.e. artificial intelligence, 5G, big data and Bio-health),ISP provides startup members support that is second to none.

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 Honolulu Councilmembers had the opportunity to visit 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. Characterized as hard working and religious based, the Korean workers worked 10 hour work days, 26 days a month for a salary of \$15 in US gold. Korean immigrants filled labor vacancies in industries such as plantation work, nursing, and construction.

It was a sober experience as the Honolulu Delegation learned of the trials and tribulations of the Korean immigrant, and upon observing the many names of Korean immigrants that have helped pave the way for Koreans of today, members of the Honolulu Delegation were able to recognize names on the display. The

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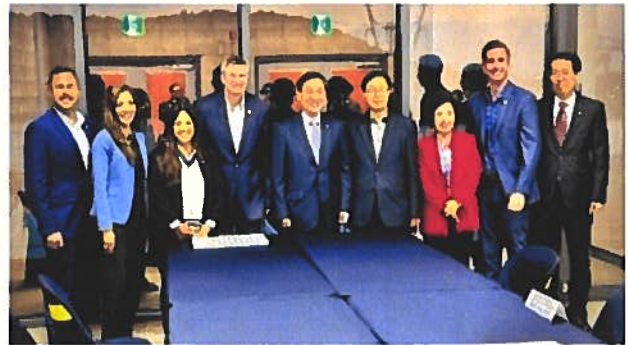
experience undeniably provided the Delegation an appreciation of the Korean heritage and culture, which they may draw upon when working with the Korean community within their districts.

After the museum visit, the Honolulu Councilmembers hopped on to the Wolmi Sea Train, which tours the small islet of Wolmi and Jemulpo Port (the site of the first Korean immigration to Hawaii). Although not the type of train as Honolulu's Skyline, the experience allowed the Delegation to ride an elevated train platform and takeaway ideas that could perhaps, improve upon its current situations.

Following the ride, the Honolulu Councilmembers discussed ideas that could enhance the Skyline experience and jump start ridership while it continues to expand and become fully operational.

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm The Honolulu Delegation attended the *Incheon Festa 2023* or Incheon Citizen's Day as VIP guest of Incheon Mayor Yoo and Chairman Heo. The Honolulu Delegation met with Mayor Jong-Bok Yoo and two members of his cabinet. After an exchange of pleasantries that included the significance of Honolulu's presence at the event, and exchange of gifts, the Honolulu Delegation sat with Incheon's other Sister City Delegations to listen as Mayor Yoo delivered a rousing speech to over 5, 000 people in attendance for Incheon Citizen's day.

The Honolulu City Council's presence at Incheon Citizen's Day reinforced the formidable bond between the two cities, as noted by Chair Heo in his speech that followed Mayor Yoo's. Being present, acknowledged the importance of the relationship 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 Honolulu Councilmembers participated in a question and answer session ("Talk show") at the Jelmupo Gurakbu. Jelmupo Gurakbu was the international club house established in 1901, that acted as the meeting place for international comrades from around the world during layovers, while ships docked in Jelmupo Port. Since its establishment, the clubhouse has served museum and a Cultural Center.

With an audience of about 30 Incheon Citizens, the 5 Councilmembers were treated to a performance of traditional Korean music before addressing the audience and their questions regarding the Sister City/Friendship Council relationships between Incheon and Honolulu. Questions included why the relationship is important, what issues do Incheon and Honolulu have in common, how to care for In Ha

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Pawaa Park in Honolulu, etc. Councilmembers had the opportunity to communicate with Incheon citizens and address their questions. The Incheon citizens express gratitude and appreciation of the Honolulu Councilmembers for taking the time to talk with them.



Monday October 16, 2023

10:30 pm – 1:00 pm The Honolulu 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 3) elderly. Retrofitted to fit those markets specific needs, it also offers a pre-school/daycare facility on site, fitness gym, meeting/ party rooms, reserved stalled parking, and the state of art recycling program. The residents of the complex are required to separate their trash; the raw waste in particular is separated and inserted in to a massive dehydrator. Once enough is accumulated, it is then transferred to a \$6 million USD furnace, where is mixed with a bio-generated formula to create a fertilized compost.

After a brief presentations by the Incheon Housing Committee Chairman and the Complex Supervisor, the Delegation took a tour of the complex which included seeing each of the 3 style of units in the complex. Each of the units is equipped with a kitchen, pantry, shower, closet space, and hot water. The difference in housing policies between Honolulu and Incheon fall within the type of programming and targeting. The visit to the complex provided the Delegation an opportunity to see additional creative designs for affordable housing and the type of alternative facilities that could be included future housing designs.

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2:30 pm – 4:00 pm The Councilmembers visited the **Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ)**. Within IFEZ, a visit to the **IFEZ Global Center**, and like Seoul Metropolitan City's **TOPIS**, 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, 1st responders get real time information for response.



The Councilmembers then visited the **IFEZ Global Tower**, home to the various divisions operating IFEZ, it is houses a sub office of the United Nations. Part of the tour of the Tower included a visit to the observation

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deck providing the Delegation a panoramic view of IFEZ. Chair Waters noted the significant development since his last visit in 2019.



At the conclusion of the tour the Councilmembers had a brief meet and greet with the Commissioner of IFEZ, Mr. Jin- Yong Kim.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam's Addendum to the Honolulu Delegation's Report for Their trip to South Korea

During our visit to Incheon's Chinatown and Port Area, there were striking similarities between Incheon's Chinatown and Honolulu's Chinatown Arts and Culture district. Both places blend a rich Chinese heritage with a vibrant arts community, feature numerous restaurants and cafés, and are adjacent to other historical sites as well as the "old" port area. Similarly, after decades of thriving "naturally-occurring" mixed commercial/residential use, both neighborhoods went into decline by the end of the 20th century, but now have the potential to reemerge as bustling business districts and tourism destinations.¹

The Incheon Chinatown area features a streetscape that combines Chinese and Bohemian design elements with pedestrian-friendly streets. These include building ornamentation with Chinese elements, public sculptures and other art installations such as murals, unique pavement treatments that define the public realm, and a tasteful mix of historic and modern façades. The urban design encourages artistry and events that place the unique Chinese-Korean culture at the forefront. Their Chinatown offered a number of insights to take back home.

An interesting link I discovered while visiting the Museum of Korea Emigration History: the first Korean church in Honolulu was situated at Hotel/River St. It seems to me that a commemorative plaque and mural at this location could bring attention to this fact and enliven this corner which is currently a concentrator for homeless and drug use. The mural could be supported and maintained by the local Korean community. This small gesture would align with Mayor Blangiardi's vision for revitalizing the River Street corridor. Additionally, Incheon's waterfront, especially the tastefully repurposed old grain silo and the event-ready port area, offers a blueprint for waterfront revitalization. I have already contacted the Center for Korean Studies at UH Mānoa to try to gather more information.

Later in the trip, I met with Tony Hong, a South Korean actor, television personality, restaurateur, and the most visible LGBTQ+ activist in the country. He had a promising career in show business in South Korea before being the first major celebrity to come out of the closet in 2000. We discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the LGBTQ community in our respective communities. We also discussed the untapped potential of the Korean LGBTQ+ travel market in Hawai'i, which has not been thoroughly explored or encouraged, unlike U.S. Mainland LGBTQ+ travel.^{2,3} I also discussed the potential for Mr. Hong to consider Hawai'i as a site for a future restaurant within his restaurant empire. As I have always said, Hawai'i can and should be seen as a welcoming paradise, especially for those visiting from home countries which are perhaps less welcoming. This can benefit both the LGBTQ community globally, and Hawai'i's economy.

¹ Tan, Wendy W. "Incheon Chinatown: Cultural Heritage of this Korea's First Chinatown." CUNY Hunter College. July 9, 2019. https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1593&context=hc_pubs

² CMI Community Marketing & Insights. "Reaching the LGBT Traveler USA Report Profile of Hawai'i LGBT Visitors and Non-Visitors." Hawai'i Tourism Authority. September 2016.
<https://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org/media/1313/hawaii-2016-usa-report-published-03-15-2017.pdf>

³ CMI Community Marketing & Insights. "24th Annual LGBTQ Tourism & Hospitality Survey Sponsored Questions." Hawai'i Tourism Authority. December 2019.

https://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org/media/10326/cmi_24th-lgbtq-travel-study_hta-sponsored-questions_final.pdf

An idea that resonated with me during the visit: the "Sister City grove" concept in a City park or botanical garden. As we continue to host delegations from other municipalities, I would like to see each of them plant a tree. This could create a cohesive theme in one of our city parks, a testament to our international bonds, and support the effort to plant more trees on O'ahu. This could either take place in an existing City park with underutilized space, or in a new park in West or Central O'ahu that doesn't have a plan for cohesive programming or a "theme." Similarly, a Distance Arrow sign to our sister cities placed in/around Honolulu Hale would also elevate the profile of our Sister Cities, and perhaps serve as a throwback to the landmark "Crossroads of the Pacific" sign at the Kaukau Corner in the mid-20th Century.

On the educational front, during our visit to IGC Incheon Global Campus, CM Cordero and I emphasized the potential partnerships between Farrington High School and the University of Utah Asia Campus. Farrington has a budding eSports program; University of Utah's is one of the best programs in the country. It's important that we encourage our students to consider broader horizons with connections like this. To that end, because of our encouragement, a delegation from the University of Utah Asia Campus visited Farrington's campus on October 24th - while they were in Hawai'i to do college visits to other schools - to do a presentation for Farrington students and to begin a discussion on a preferred pathway for Farrington graduates.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 11/16/2023

Traveler: TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM


Event: 2023 Honolulu- South Korea Goodwill Mission

Location: Incheon and Seoul, ~~Korea~~ *South Korea*

Dates: From October ~~9~~ *9*, 2023 To October 16, 2023

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare	\$1388.75	
3. Hotel		
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	1388.75	

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

11.16.23

Date