

2023 -- S 1123

LC003004

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND  
TAIWAN, WHILE SUPPORTING ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN  
AND TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Pearson, Lombardo, and Picard

Date Introduced: June 14, 2023

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a robust  
2 bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, and supported by our common  
3 values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, that has resulted in  
4 our countries now enjoying strong and enduring relations; and

5           WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan  
6 is the 8th-largest trading partner of the United States as of 2022, with United States trade in goods  
7 with Taiwan totaling an estimated \$135.5 billion. Taiwan was the 6th-largest consumer of  
8 agricultural goods in 2022, totaling \$4.4 billion, and a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between  
9 Taiwan and the United States would result in even greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan while  
10 creating more jobs for the people of Rhode Island; and

11           WHEREAS, Taiwan-Rhode Island bilateral trade continues to grow. In 2022, Rhode  
12 Island's total exports to Taiwan reached \$55 million, a 37.5 percent increase over 2021, which  
13 included computer equipment, nonferrous materials excluding Alum and processing, basic  
14 chemicals, navigation, medical and control instruments, and electrical equipment and  
15 components, making Taiwan the 13th-largest export market of Rhode Island in the world. A  
16 Rhode Island trade office in Taiwan would further increase bilateral trade exchanges and create  
17 more economic benefits for the people of Rhode Island; and

18           WHEREAS, The reciprocal driver's license agreement signed between the Rhode Island  
19 Division of Motor Vehicles and Taiwan has proven to be beneficial and a Memorandum of

1 Understanding (MOU) on education exchange between Rhode Island and Taiwan would greatly  
2 benefit students from both our State and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, making its  
4 inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the  
5 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation  
6 Organization (ICAO) imperative for the best interests and safety of the international community.  
7 In addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
8 (UNFCCC) is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby encourages the Rhode  
10 Island State Government to promote and strengthen bilateral trade relations with Taiwan,  
11 including considering the possible opening of a trade office in Taiwan, and establishing a MOU  
12 to increase educational exchanges with Taiwan, and support for Taiwan's participation in  
13 international organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC,  
14 and ICAO; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit duly certified copies this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the  
17 United States; the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress; the Honorable Daniel  
18 J. McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island; the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen, President, Republic of  
19 China (Taiwan); and Director-General Jonathan Sun of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office  
20 in Boston.

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