

2017 -- H 5433

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**HONORING AND WELCOMING HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI, SR.,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT
TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Edwards, Marshall, Blazejewski, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: February 08, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., Vice President of Africa's oldest
2 Republic, Liberia, was inaugurated as Vice President of Liberia on January 16th of 2006. During
3 the 2011 Presidential Elections, Vice President Boakai was again selected by her Excellency,
4 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to serve as her running-mate and ultimately, the two were elected to their
5 second six-year term; and

6 WHEREAS, Born into a large family in the remote village of Worsonga in Foya District,
7 Lofa County, Joseph Boakai attended school in Kenema, Sierra Leone, and later at the United
8 Pentecostal Mission School in Bomi Hills before graduating from the College of West Africa. He
9 attained his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Liberia and later
10 attended Kansas State University on a USAID Fellowship; and

11 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from college in 1972, Vice President Boakai married his
12 college sweetheart Kartumu Yarta Cooper, and together they are the proud parents of three sons
13 and one daughter. The following year, he was appointed Resident Manager of the Liberia
14 Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC), and in 1980, he became the first Liberian Managing
15 Director of LPMC; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1983, the Honorable Mr. Boakai was named Minister of Agriculture for
17 Liberia. Over the course of the next two decades he held a number of significant management
18 positions including Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Liberia Wood Management
19 Corporation, Chairman of the Interim Government of National Unity, and Managing Director of

1 the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company; and

2 WHEREAS, Currently, His Excellency Boakai serves as President of the Liberian Senate
3 where he presides two days a week over plenary sessions of that body. He also performs
4 supervisory functions over a number of government institutions and agencies including the
5 Liberia National Lotteries (LOTTO), the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA), the Liberia
6 Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE), and the National Commission on Disarmament
7 Demobilization Resettlement and Reintegration (NCDDRR); and

8 WHEREAS, Liberia has had long-standing historical ties with America and has provided
9 unwavering support for the United States through a policy of special cooperation and friendship.
10 Rhode Island, as well as the United States, has a very large Liberian community, with an
11 estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people of Liberian descent living in the Ocean State; and

12 WHEREAS, Vice President Boakai has spent more than thirty-five years in dedicated
13 service to the people of Liberia and has brought a wealth of humanity and devout commitment to
14 his Vice Presidency. He has and continues to shape a brighter future for the people and children
15 in his country, and he is eminently worthy of our recognition and praise; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby warmly welcomes His
17 Excellency Joseph N. Boakai to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. We
18 moreover wish him good health, and a future filled with continued success and happiness; and be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to His Excellency Joseph N. Bokai, Sr., Vice
22 President of the Republic of Liberia.

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