

2020 -- H 7992

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN,
ENHANCING BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN IN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Abney, and Filippi

Date Introduced: March 11, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a most
2 important bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, supported by our
3 common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a free market economy, and our
4 countries now enjoy the strongest relations ever; and

5 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen, re-elected on January 11, 2020, for a second-term in
6 a direct, open, and democratic election, has worked tirelessly to uphold constitutional principles
7 and civil society in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23.5 million people, promote
8 international standing, and has expressed commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific
9 region; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States, and especially Rhode Island, share a
11 historically close relationship, marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural
12 exchange, scientific and technological interests, and tourism; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2019, the United States and Taiwan celebrated the 40th Anniversary of
14 the Taiwan Relations Act-TRA (Pub. L., 96-8, 22 U.S.C. 3301) enacted on April 10, 1979, "to
15 help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and to promote the foreign
16 policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other
17 relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and for other
18 purposes"; and

19 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo congratulated President

1 Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election in January and further stated that Taiwan and the United States
2 are “members of the same community of democracies” and that Taiwan is a “model for the Indo-
3 Pacific region and a force for good in the world”; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and State
5 clarified United States policy regarding Taiwan in a formal letter sent to the Governors of the 50
6 States, dated September 30, 2019, that stated “expanding relations with Taiwan in areas such as
7 trade, education, investment, and tourism is fully compatible with and supports U.S. policy and
8 can be beneficial to your state or municipality” and further stated that “Our Departments
9 encourage cooperation with Taiwan” by noting that “Taiwan is a vital U.S. partner and
10 democratic success story”; and

11 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has expressed Taiwan’s desire to reach a bilateral
12 trade agreement (BTA) with the United States, and the United States Senate unanimously passed
13 the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI) of 2019”
14 (S.1678) on October 28, 2019, affirming that the “United States should engage in bilateral trade
15 negotiations with Taiwan” and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rhode Island
16 and Taiwan regarding economic and trade exchange and cooperation that will promote bilateral
17 trade; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan’s 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
19 is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services
20 between the United States and Taiwan amounting to approximately \$85.5 billion in 2019, and
21 said trade has created or supported approximately 373,288 U.S. jobs according to the U.S.
22 Department of Commerce; and

23 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan, of which
24 Rhode Island exported \$31.1 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing,
25 chemicals, computer and electronic products, making Taiwan Rhode Island’s 17th largest export
26 market in the world and the 6th largest export market in Asia (2018); and

27 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through
28 bilateral trade agreements, resulting in even greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan, educational
29 and cultural exchange, scientific and technological interests, and tourism; and

30 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 18th largest global market and its inclusion in international
31 organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Health Assembly
32 (WHA) in the global effort to contain, combat and prevent the spread of such viruses as the novel
33 coronavirus 2019-nCoV, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL),
34 and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is in the best interest and safety of the

1 international community; and

2 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key transport hub for international air travel and a large flight
3 path in the Asia-Pacific remains under Taiwan's jurisdiction. In addition, Taiwan's inclusion in
4 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is necessary in the
5 global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
7 Providence Plantations hereby seeks to further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Taiwan-
8 Rhode Island trade and investment relations, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
9 on trade, and encourages the Executive branch of Rhode Island State Government to further
10 explore ways in which to strengthen and promote bilateral trade between Taiwan and Rhode
11 Island; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby supports Taiwan's participation
13 in international organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL,
14 UNFCCC 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 of this resolution, to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
17 the United States; the Rhode Island Delegation of the United States Congress; Governor Gina
18 Raimondo; President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China (Taiwan); and Douglas Y.T. Hsu,
19 Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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