

2021 -- H 6199

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN, AND
SUPPORTING ENHANCED BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS AND TAIWAN'S
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Edwards, Kazarian,
Fellela, Donovan, and Carson

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant
2 bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership. Since 1979, the Taiwan
3 Relations Act has provided a strong foundation for sustaining substantive relations between the
4 United States and Taiwan, including Taiwan and Rhode Island through continued exchanges,
5 engagement, and cooperation rooted in our common values of freedom, democracy, the rule of
6 law, and a free market economy, thereby assuring a bright future in our bilateral relationship; and

7 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has worked tirelessly to safeguard democracy and
8 way of life in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 24 million people, and expressed
9 commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and State, in a
11 formal letter sent to the Governors of all 50 states dated September 30, 2019, stated that
12 "expanding relations with Taiwan in areas such as trade, education, investment, and tourism is
13 fully compatible with and supports U.S. policy and can be beneficial to your state"; and

14 WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan's desire to reach a Bilateral Trade
15 Agreement (BTA) with the United States and the United States Senate unanimously passing the
16 "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI) of 2019"
17 (S.1678) on October 28, 2019, affirming that the "United States should emerge in bilateral trade
18 negotiations with Taiwan"; and

19 WHEREAS, The Taiwan Government has donated 135,000 surgical masks and 5,000

1 N95 masks to the State of Rhode Island to assist in the fight in the fight against Covid-19,
2 demonstrating that Taiwan is a responsible stakeholder and shall be included in the World Health
3 Organization (WHO) and the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

4 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
5 is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services
6 amounting to approximately \$90 billion in 2020, which helped create or support approximately
7 373, 288 United States jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan in which
9 Rhode Island exported \$24 million in goods, making Taiwan the 17th largest export market of
10 Rhode Island in the world and the 6th largest export market in Asia (2018); and

11 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through
12 bilateral agreements, and discussions of possibly opening a joint trade office in Taipei, to include
13 Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont that will further enhance
14 bilateral trade opportunities and Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

15 WHEREAS, Being a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region, Taiwan's inclusion in
16 international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal
17 Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), is
18 imperative for the best interest and safety of the international community. In addition, Taiwan's
19 participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is
20 necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
22 supports a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Biden Administration, including
23 the signing of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), and seeks to further strengthen the Rhode
24 Island-Taiwan partnership, and encourages Rhode Island State Government to further explore
25 ways to strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between the State of Rhode Island and Taiwan
26 in all areas, including signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taiwan regarding
27 bilateral economic and trade exchange and cooperation; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports Taiwan's participation in international
29 organizations and agreements, including WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO; and be
30 it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
32 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the
33 United States, the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress, the Honorable Daniel
34 McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China

1 (Taiwan), and Director-General Jonathan Sun, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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