

2021 -- S 0847

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Kallman, and DiMario

Date Introduced: April 27, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

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

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

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

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

18           WHEREAS, The Taiwan Government has donated 135,000 surgical masks and 5,000  
19 N95 masks to the State of Rhode Island to assist in the fight against Covid-19, demonstrating that

1 Taiwan is a responsible stakeholder and should be included in the World Health Organization  
2 (WHO) and the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

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

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby supports a stronger  
17 United States-Taiwan relationship under the Biden Administration, including the signing of a  
18 Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), and seeks to further strengthen the Rhode Island-Taiwan  
19 partnership, and encourages the Rhode Island State government to further explore ways to  
20 strengthen and promote bilateral exchange between Rhode Island and Taiwan in all areas,  
21 including signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taiwan regarding bilateral  
22 economic and trade exchange and cooperation; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports Taiwan’s participation in international  
24 organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO;  
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the  
28 United States, the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress, the Honorable Daniel  
29 McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China (Taiwan),  
30 and Director-General Jonathan Sun, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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