

2022 -- S 2990

LC005859

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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, Picard, Lombardo, Euer, Kallman, and Pearson

Date Introduced: June 02, 2022

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 robust and resilient diplomatic relations; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, and  
6 Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States, with U.S. trade in goods with  
7 Taiwan totaling and estimated \$114.1 billion in 2021; and

8 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has expressed Taiwan's desire to reach a Bilateral  
9 Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States, which will certainly increase trade and  
10 exchanges between Rhode Island and Taiwan; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island and Taiwan have enjoyed a long history of vibrant bilateral  
12 relations, including trade, as evidenced by Rhode Island having exported \$39 million in goods in  
13 2021, and Rhode Island having imported \$56 million in goods from Taiwan in 2021; and

14 WHEREAS, The Taiwan Government desires to establish a Memorandum of  
15 Understanding with Rhode Island to increase educational exchange between Taiwan and Rhode  
16 Island; and

17 WHEREAS, The Taiwan Government donated 135,000 surgical masks and 5,000 N95  
18 masks to the State of Rhode Island to assist in the fight against COVID-19 and Omicron,  
19 demonstrating that Taiwan values the relationship with Rhode Island; and

1           WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key air transport hub in Asia, therefore, its inclusion in  
2 international organizations and agreements such as the World Health Organization (WHO),  
3 World Health Assembly (WHA), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL),  
4 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and United Nations Framework Convention on  
5 Climate Change (UNFCCC) is in the best interest of the international community; now, therefore  
6 be it

7           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby encourages the Rhode  
8 Island State Government to work closely with Taiwan to strengthen and promote bilateral trade  
9 between Rhode Island and Taiwan, and supports Taiwan's participation in international  
10 organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC, and ICAO,  
11 and seeks to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan and Rhode Island-Taiwan trade and investment relations by  
12 encouraging Rhode Island and the Economic Development Corporation to consider opening a  
13 trade office in Taiwan to further strengthen and promote trade relations with Taiwan and the  
14 Asia-Pacific region; 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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