

2018 -- H 7331

LC004249

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Shekarchi, Morgan, McNamara, and Abney

Date Introduced: January 30, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a most
2 important 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

4 WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic
5 principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's 23 million people, promote Taiwan's
6 international standing, further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan, and
7 maintain peace in the Asia Pacific region; and

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

11 WHEREAS, The United states ranks as Taiwan's 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
12 was the 10th largest trading partner of the United States in 2017, with bilateral trade in goods and
13 services from January to November, 2017, between the United States and Taiwan, amounting to
14 approximately \$62.4 billion, and said trade has created or supported at least 322,728 U.S. jobs
15 according to the United States Department of Commerce; and

16 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan of which
17 Rhode Island exported \$101 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing, fabricated
18 metal products, chemicals, and machinery, making Taiwan Rhode Island's 2nd largest export
19 market in Asia (2016), and Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment

1 through bilateral agreements, resulting in greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

2 WHEREAS, Taiwan has established reciprocal drivers' license agreements with 25 states
3 across the United States, including Massachusetts (2016), thereby facilitating and streamlining
4 the license conversion process and providing citizens of Taiwan and the various states with the
5 ease and convenience of being able to drive within Taiwan and the respective jurisdictions; and

6 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 18th largest global market and its inclusion in international
7 organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal Police
8 Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are in the
9 best interest and safety of the international community. Taiwan is a key transport hub for
10 international air travel and a large flight path in the Asia-Pacific remains under Taiwan's
11 jurisdiction. In addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on
12 Climate Change (UNFCCC) is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED: That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby seeks to further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Rhode
16 Island-Taiwan trade and investment relations, and supports Taiwan's participation in international
17 organizations and agreements, including the WHO, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED: That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
21 the United States; the Rhode Island Delegation of the United States Congress; Governor Gina
22 Raimondo, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China (Taiwan); and Scott Lai, Director-General
23 of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

=====
LC004249
=====