

2024 -- S 2981

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

**REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND
TAIWAN WHILE SUPPORTING ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN
AND TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Introduced By: Senators Cano, and Picard

Date Introduced: April 11, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a robust
2 bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership supported by our common
3 values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, that has resulted in
4 our countries now enjoying strong and enduring relations; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan
6 is the 8th-largest trading partner of the United States as of 2023, with United States trade in goods
7 with Taiwan totaling an estimated \$127.4 billion. Taiwan was the 7th-largest consumer of
8 agricultural goods in 2023, totaling \$3.7 billion, and a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between
9 Taiwan and the United States would result in even greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan while
10 creating more jobs for the people of Rhode Island; and

11 WHEREAS, The adoption of an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation
12 (ADTA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income between the
13 United States and Taiwan is currently under discussion in Washington and Taipei. The United
14 States has similar treaties with nations around the world, many of which do not enjoy as robust a
15 trading relationship with the US as Taiwan. Negotiating and concluding a tax agreement with
16 Taiwan could: facilitate US-Taiwan economic cooperation; strengthen US-Taiwan strategic
17 relations; and encourage other nations to increase their economic ties to Taiwan. The conclusion
18 of a US-Taiwan ADTA would remove tax barriers and create a sustainable environment for cross-
19 border investment and economic cooperation, and would foster greater investment by Taiwanese

1 industries in the US, creating jobs for Americans and securing supply chains for vital products,
2 including, but not limited to, semiconductors; and

3 WHEREAS, The year 2024 marks the 45th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act
4 (TRA), Public Law 96-8 of the 96th Congress, which has acted as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan
5 relations to help maintain peace, security, prosperity and stability in the Western Pacific and to
6 promote foreign policy relations by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural,
7 educational and other interactions between the people of the United States and the people of
8 Taiwan; and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan-Rhode Island bilateral trade continues to grow. In 2023, Rhode
10 Island's total exports to Taiwan reached \$58 million, which included computer equipment, metal
11 processing products, basic chemicals, medical equipment, electrical equipment and components,
12 making Taiwan the 10th-largest export market for Rhode Island in the world. A Rhode Island
13 trade office in Taiwan would further increase bilateral trade exchanges and create more economic
14 benefits for the people of Rhode Island; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island and Taiwan have mutually established a reciprocal driver's
16 license and enhanced a higher education exchange, and Rhode Island would welcome the
17 opportunity for even closer educational cooperation with Taiwan, such as signing a Memorandum
18 of Understanding regarding a K-12 education exchange; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island recognizes Taiwan's contribution to a broad range of global
20 issues, including Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health
21 Organization (WHO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the
22 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention
23 on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is important for the best interest and safety of the
24 international community; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby congratulates Taiwan
26 on the election of Dr. Lai Ching-te as President and Hsiao Bi-khim as Vice President with their
27 inauguration being celebrated and commemorated on May 20, 2024, and encourages Rhode
28 Island's Executive Branch and Legislative Branch to promote and strengthen bilateral trade
29 relations with Taiwan, including considering the possible opening of a trade office in Taiwan, and
30 establishing an MOU to increase K-12 educational exchanges with Taiwan; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports Taiwan's participation in international
32 organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC, and ICAO,
33 while also supporting efforts to adopt a taxation agreement (ADTA) between the U.S. and
34 Taiwan; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the
3 United States; the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress; the Honorable Daniel
4 J. McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island; the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen, President, Republic of
5 China (Taiwan); and Director-General Charles Liao of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
6 in Boston.

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