

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: Senator Sandra Cano

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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