

2019 -- S 0039

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Picard, Cano, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: January 16, 2019

Referred To: Senate Commerce

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 23.58 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, Taiwan achieved a full democracy, replete with free and transparent
9 elections, including direct vote of the 14th term President and Vice President in January of 2016,
10 thereby providing a beacon of hope and a model for all peoples in the Asia-Pacific region who
11 desire to live under freedom and democracy; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States and Taiwan, and especially the State of Rhode Island,
13 share a historically close relationship, marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural
14 exchanges, scientific and technological interests, and tourism; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2017, the United States ranked as Taiwan's 3rd largest trading partner, and
16 Taiwan was the 11th largest trading partner of the United States in 2017, with bilateral trade in
17 goods during 2017 between the United States and Taiwan amounting to approximately \$68.2
18 billion, and said trade has created or supported an estimated 208,000 U.S. jobs in 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan in 2016, of

1 which Rhode Island exported \$101 million in goods, mostly in primary metal, chemicals, and
2 machinery, making Taiwan Rhode Island's 2nd largest export market in Asia in 2015. Taiwan and
3 the United States seek to increase trade and investment through bilateral agreements, resulting in
4 greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 13th largest global market, as of 2018, and its inclusion in
6 international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal
7 Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) are
8 in the best interest and safety of the international community. Taiwan is a key transport hub for
9 international air travel and a large flight path in the Asia-Pacific remains under Taiwan's
10 jurisdiction. In addition, Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on
11 Climate Change (UNFCCC) is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now,
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby commends Taiwan's role as peacemaker in the East and South China Seas, and seeks to
15 further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Rhode Island-Taiwan trade and investment relations,
16 and supports Taiwan's participation in international organizations and agreements, including the
17 WHO, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
20 the United States; the Rhode Island Delegation of the United States Congress; Governor Gina
21 Raimondo, President Tsai Ing-wen, and Douglas Yu-Tien Hsu, Director-General of the Taipei
22 Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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