

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, CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA), AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN IN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Nesselbush, and Picard

Date Introduced: February 13, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

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 23.5 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 and the United States, 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, In 2019, The United States and Taiwan celebrate the 40th Anniversary of
12 the Taiwan Relations Act – TRA (Pub. L. 96-8, 22 U.S.C. 3301) enacted on April 10, 1979 "to
13 help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and to promote the foreign
14 policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other
15 relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and for other
16 purposes"; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1979, The Taiwan Relations Act has provided a strong foundation for
18 sustaining substantive relations between the United States and Taiwan, including Taiwan and

1 Rhode Island, through continued exchanges, engagement, and cooperation rooted in the shared
2 interests of freedom and democracy, thereby assuring a bright future in our bilateral relationship;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
5 is the 11th largest trading partner of the U.S. in 2017, with bilateral trade in goods and services
6 between the United States and Taiwan amounting to approximately \$62 billion in 2018 (Jan.-
7 October), and said trade has created or supported approximately 322,728 U.S. jobs according to
8 the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan of which
10 Rhode Island exported \$38 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing, fabricated
11 metal products, chemicals, and machinery. Taiwan was Rhode Island's 6th largest export market
12 in Asia (2017); and

13 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through
14 bilateral agreements, and discussions of possibly opening a joint trade office in Taipei, to include
15 Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont that will further enhance
16 bilateral trade opportunities and Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

17 WHEREAS, Taiwan has established reciprocal driver's license agreements with 31 states
18 across the United States, including Rhode Island which was signed on September 6, 2018. In fact,
19 Taiwan was the first foreign government to enter into a reciprocal driver's license agreement with
20 Rhode Island, thereby granting mutual driving privileges in Taiwan and Rhode Island; and

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

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
30 hereby celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and supports Taiwan's
31 participation in international organizations and agreements, including the WHO, INTERPOL,
32 UNFCCC and ICAO, and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby seeks to further strengthen United States-Taiwan
34 and Taiwan-Rhode Island trade and investment relations, and encourages the Rhode Island state

1 government to further explore the possibility of opening a New England joint trade office in
2 Taipei to strengthen and promote bilateral trade between Taiwan and Rhode Island; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
6 the United States, the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Congress, Governor Gina
7 Raimondo, State of Rhode Island, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic of China (Taiwan), and
8 Douglas Y.T. Hsu, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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