

2017 -- H 5408

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

Date Introduced: February 07, 2017

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, Taiwan has 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 and thereby providing a beacon of hope and a model for all peoples in the Asia-Pacific region
11 who 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, The United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd largest trading partner, and Taiwan
16 was the 10th largest trading partner of the United States in 2016, with bilateral trade in goods and
17 services from January to November of 2016 between the United States and Taiwan amounting to
18 approximately \$56.7 billion, and said trade has created or supported at least 324,569 U.S. jobs
19 according to the United States Department of Commerce; and

1 WHEREAS, New England exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan, of which
2 Rhode Island exported \$39.5 million in goods, mostly in primary metal, chemicals, and
3 machinery, making Taiwan Rhode Island's 2nd largest export market in Asia in 2015. Taiwan and
4 the United States seek to increase trade and investment through bilateral agreements, resulting in
5 greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan; and

6 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 20th 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 commends Taiwan's 2016 Presidential Election, Taiwan's role as
16 peacemaker in the East and South China Seas, and seeks to further strengthen United States-
17 Taiwan and Rhode Island-Taiwan trade and investment relations, and supports Taiwan's
18 participation in international organizations and agreements, including the WHO, INTERPOL,
19 UNFCCC and ICAO; and be it further

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

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