

By Senator Bullard

39-04102-15

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing appreciation for the sister state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between Florida and Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, and reaffirming the commitment of this state to a strong and deepening relationship with Taiwan as it continues to embrace the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the protection of human rights.

WHEREAS, April 10, 2015, marked the 36th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which maintains peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and promotes the foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an ally of the United States in East Asia and, as such, continues to receive defensive weaponry, including advanced fighter aircraft, from the United States, which creates job opportunities in this state and helps Taiwan maintain its defense capabilities in the region, and

WHEREAS, President Ma Ying-jeou's East China Sea Peace Initiative and the code of conduct adopted thereunder, which recognizes the conflicting territorial viewpoints of the interested parties, calls on all concerned to resolve their regional disputes peacefully and share resources in accordance with international law, which is consistent with the security and economic interests of the United States in East Asia, and

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30 WHEREAS, Taiwan's meaningful participation in international
31 organizations, including its bid for attendance in the United
32 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its
33 participation in, observation of, and cooperation with more than
34 50 international organizations, specifically its recent active
35 participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization's
36 Assembly, is commendable, as is its membership in both the Asia-
37 Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the World Trade
38 Organization, and

39 WHEREAS, support for Taiwan's continued economic growth and
40 prosperity is important to the interests of the United States,
41 especially with regard to Taiwan's bid to join the Trans-Pacific
42 Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership,
43 which will further expand Taiwan's participation in the global
44 market, increase equal competition with member states, and
45 prevent economic marginalization, and

46 WHEREAS, in 2014, Taiwan was the 10th largest two-way trade
47 partner of the United States and the 7th largest export market
48 for food and agricultural products from the United States, and,
49 in 2013, was the 6th largest source of international students
50 traveling to the United States, and

51 WHEREAS, with respect to Taiwan's contributions in the
52 global markets of both traditional and innovative industries,
53 support for continued bilateral talks under the Trade and
54 Investment Framework Agreement and accompanying efforts toward
55 establishing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United
56 States will globalize Taiwan's economy and eliminate trade
57 barriers, thus solidifying Taiwan as a robust and trustworthy
58 trade and security partner to the United States in East Asia,

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59 NOW, THEREFORE,

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61 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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63 That we express appreciation for the sister state
64 relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between
65 Florida and Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China,
66 and reaffirm the commitment of this state to a strong and
67 deepening relationship with Taiwan as it continues to embrace
68 the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the protection
69 of human rights.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
71 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Taipei
72 Economic and Cultural Office in Miami as a tangible token of the
73 sentiments of the Florida Senate.