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1 House Resolution 2 A resolution in appreciation of the sister state 3 relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties 4 between the State of Florida and the Republic of China 5 (Taiwan), reaffirming the commitment of the State of 6 Florida to the strong and deepening relationship with 7 the Republic of China (Taiwan) as the two embrace the 8 same fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the protection of human rights. 9 10 WHEREAS, April 10, 2015, marks the 36th anniversary of the 11 12 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which maintains peace, 13 security, and stability in the Western Pacific and promotes the 14 foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the 15 continuation of commercial and cultural relations between the 16 people of the United States and the people of the Republic of 17 China (Taiwan), and WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is one of the 18 United States' allies in the East Asian region, and the United 19 20 States continues to provide defensive weaponry, including advanced fighter aircraft, to the Republic of China (Taiwan), 21 22 thus creating job opportunities in this state and helping the Republic of China (Taiwan) maintain its defense capabilities in 23 24 the East Asian region, and 25 WHEREAS, President Ma Ying-jeou's East China Sea Peace 26 Initiative, which recognizes the conflicting territorial

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27 viewpoints of regional parties and calls on them to peacefully 28 resolve geographic disputes in order to share resources in 29 accordance with international law, is consistent with the 30 security and economic interests of the United States in East 31 Asia, and

32 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) participates in 33 over 60 international organizations, including the International 34 Civil Aviation Organization assembly, the Asia-Pacific Economic 35 Cooperation forum, the World Trade Organization, and the World 36 Health Assembly, and is bidding for attendance in the United 37 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and

38 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) seeks to join 39 international organizations and forums, including the Trans-40 Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic 41 Partnership, which will further expand its participation in the 42 global market, increase equal competition with member states, 43 and prevent economic marginalization, and

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) was the 10th largest two-way trade partner of the United States and the 7th largest export market for United States food and agricultural products in 2014, and was the 6th largest source of international students traveling to the United States in 2013, and

50 WHEREAS, support for continued bilateral talks under the 51 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, with efforts toward 52 establishing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United

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53 States, will globalize the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) 54 economy and eliminate trade barriers, thus solidifying the 55 Republic of China (Taiwan) as a robust and trustworthy partner 56 to the United States in the East Asian region, NOW, THEREFORE, 57

58 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of 59 Florida:

61 That the members of the House of Representatives recognize 62 the relationship and shared interests between the people of the 63 Republic of China (Taiwan) and the people of the United States, 64 support the shared interests and bids for partnership, and 65 express their support for future opportunities of international trade developments with the Republic of China (Taiwan) to 66 67 further strengthen the substantive relationship between Florida 68 and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami and the Office of the Governor of the State of Florida as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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