

By Senator Bullard

39-03066-16

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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 and reaffirming the commitment of the State of Florida to the strong and deepening relationship with Taiwan, as the two embrace the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the protection of human rights.

WHEREAS, the people of Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, elected their new president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, on January 16, 2016, by popular vote, further enhancing the roots of democracy within the island, which strengthen the common values it shares with the United States, and

WHEREAS, April 10, 2016, marks the 37th 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 one of the allies in the East Asian region which the United States continues to provide with defensive weaponry, including naval vessels, equipment, and munitions, creating job opportunities in this country and helping Taiwan maintain its defensive capabilities in the region, and

WHEREAS, President Ma Yin-jeou's East China Sea Initiative and South China Sea Peace Initiative and the Taiwanese code of conduct, each of which recognizes the conflicting territorial viewpoints of the interested parties, call upon all parties to resolve their regional disputes peacefully and share resources

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33 in accordance with international law, which is consistent with
34 the security and economic interests of the United States in East
35 and Southeast Asia, and

36 WHEREAS, the United States supports Taiwan's meaningful
37 participation in and cooperation with more than 50 international
38 organizations, including its bid for attendance in the
39 International Criminal Police Organization, specifically,
40 Taiwan's recent active participation in the International Civil
41 Aviation Organization Assembly and its membership in both the
42 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the World Trade
43 Organization, and

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

51 WHEREAS, Taiwan was the United States' 10th largest two-way
52 trade partner in 2014, and

53 WHEREAS, with respect to Taiwan's contributions in the
54 global market by both its traditional and innovative industries,
55 support for continued bilateral talks under the Trade and
56 Investment Framework Agreement and the establishment of a
57 Bilateral Investment Agreement with the United States will
58 further globalize Taiwan's economy and eliminate trade barriers,
59 thus solidifying Taiwan as a robust and trustworthy partner to
60 the United States for trade and security in the East Asian
61 region, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the significance of the relationship and shared interests between the people of Taiwan and the United States is recognized, as is the importance of supporting future opportunities for international trade developments with Taiwan to further strengthen the substantive relationship between Florida and Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate welcomes the initiatives of the Taiwanese government to maintain peace in the East China Sea and the South China Sea and to promote trade with the United States and this state.

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