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House Resolution

A resolution expressing appreciation for the sister state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between the State of Florida and Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China.

7 WHEREAS, the people of Taiwan successfully elected their 8 first female president, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, on January 16, 2016, 9 by popular vote, further enhancing the roots of democracy within 10 the island and strengthening the common values it shares with 11 the United States, and

12 WHEREAS, April 10, 2016, marks the 37th anniversary of the 13 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which codified in law the 14 basis for continued commercial and cultural relations between 15 the United States and Taiwan, officially known as the Republic 16 of China, and

17 WHEREAS, former President Ma Ying-jeou's East China Sea Peace Initiative and South China Sea Peace Initiative, as well 18 19 as their codes of conduct which recognize the conflicting 20 territorial viewpoints of the interested parties, call on all parties concerned to resolve their regional disputes peacefully 21 22 and share resources in accordance with international law, which is consistent with the security and economic interests of the 23 24 United States in East and Southeast Asia, and

25 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes Taiwan's meaningful 26 participation in international organizations, including its bid

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27 for observer status in the International Criminal Police 28 Organization (INTERPOL), noting that Taiwan participates in, 29 observes, or cooperates with over 50 international 30 organizations, specifically its recent active participation in 31 the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly, as well as holding membership status in both the Asia-32 33 Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Trade 34 Organization (WTO), and 35 WHEREAS, Florida maintains and values its sister state 36 relationship with Taiwan, and 37 WHEREAS, Taiwan is Florida's sixth largest export market in 38 Asia, one of Miami's largest trading partners in Asia, and the 39 Port of Miami's sixth largest export country, and WHEREAS, in addition to the sister state relations that 40 41 exist between the State of Florida and Taiwan, sister city 42 relations are maintained between Miami-Dade County and New 43 Taipei City (formerly Taipei County) and the Port of Miami and Port Kaohsiung, NOW, THEREFORE, 44 45 46 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of 47 Florida: 48

49 That the House of Representatives expresses its 50 appreciation for the sister state relationship between Florida 51 and Taiwan.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be

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## 53 presented to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami

- 54 and the Office of the Governor of the State of Florida as a
- 55 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.