

By Senator Torres

15-01437-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution enhancing the sister-state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between Florida and the Republic of China (Taiwan), and reaffirming and maintaining the commitment of the State of Florida and the United States to the strong and deepening relationship with Taiwan, as the two nations together embrace the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the protection of human rights.

WHEREAS, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, the first female president of the Republic of China (Taiwan), was welcomed in Miami on June 24, 2016, enhancing the already strong bilateral relationship between Taiwan and Florida, as well as strengthening the common values that Taiwan shares with the United States, and

WHEREAS, April 10, 2019, marks the 40th 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 relationships between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an East Asian ally of the United States, which continues to provide defensive weaponry and arms to Taiwan through the sale of naval vessels, equipment, and munitions, including 60 Sikorsky UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters that were officially transferred in Florida, and the provision of post-sale training in this state, which created local employment

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30 opportunities, and

31 WHEREAS, Taiwan's meaningful participation in international
32 organizations, including its bid for observer status in the
33 International Criminal Police Organization, better known as
34 INTERPOL, and the World Health Assembly, is encouraged and
35 supported, as is its meaningful participation in the United
36 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the
37 International Civil Aviation Organization, both of which are in
38 the best interests of the regional and global economy, and

39 WHEREAS, Taiwan participates in, observes, or cooperates
40 with more than 50 international organizations and holds
41 membership status in both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
42 and the World Trade Organization, and

43 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been a member of the United States'
44 Visa Waiver Program since November 1, 2012, reflecting the
45 cooperation between the United States and Taiwan and making
46 travel for business and tourism more convenient, and

47 WHEREAS, Taiwan's contributions in the global marketplace
48 in both traditional and innovative industries, and its support
49 for continued bilateral dialogue under the Trade and Investment
50 Framework Agreement, together with exploration of the
51 possibility of a future bilateral investment agreement with the
52 United States, will globalize Taiwan's economy and eliminate
53 trade barriers, thus solidifying Taiwan as a robust and
54 trustworthy partner to the United States for trade and security
55 in East Asia, and

56 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' 11th largest trading
57 partner and is Florida's 7th largest export market in Asia, and

58 WHEREAS, sisterhood relationships exist between Florida and

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59 Taiwan, Miami-Dade County and New Taipei City (formerly Taipei
60 County), and a number of Florida cities and the Port of Miami
61 and their Taiwanese counterparts, NOW, THEREFORE,
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63 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:
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65 That the relationship and shared interests between the
66 people of Taiwan and the people of the United States are
67 recognized and the partnership between the two nations and
68 further strengthening of the ties between Florida and Taiwan,
69 including future trade opportunities, are supported.

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