

By Senator Rodriguez

39-04216-21

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing appreciation for the sister state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between the State of Florida and Taiwan.

WHEREAS, April 10, 2021, marked the 42nd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which codified in law the basis for continued commercial and cultural relations between the people of the United States and Taiwan, and

WHEREAS, since November 1, 2012, Taiwan has been a member of the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which makes two-way travel for business and tourism more convenient, reflecting the cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, and

WHEREAS, the launch of FORMOSAT-7/COSMIC-2 on June 25, 2019, a joint United States-Taiwan collaborative space mission of a constellation of six satellites designed to enhance the accuracy of atmospheric weather prediction, has demonstrated the mutual benefit born of the relations between this country and Taiwan, and

WHEREAS, the first female president of Taiwan, elected in 2016 and reelected for a second term on January 11, 2020, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, was welcomed to the State of Florida in June 2016, as were the Speaker of Tainan City Council, Kuo Hsin-liang, and his delegation in February 2020, further enhancing the bilateral relationship between Taiwan and this state, as well as strengthening the common values Taiwan shares with this country, and

WHEREAS, Taiwan participates in international organizations, including its bid for observer status in the

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30 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); its
31 involvement with the World Health Assembly (WHA), the
32 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United
33 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and its
34 membership status in both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
35 (APEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and participates,
36 observes, and cooperates with more than 50 international
37 organizations, and

38 WHEREAS, Taiwan was the United States' ninth-largest
39 trading partner as of November 2020 and the State of Florida's
40 sixth-largest trading partner in Asia, and

41 WHEREAS, several sisterhood relations exist between the
42 State of Florida and Taiwan, including the sister relationships
43 between Miami-Dade County and New Taipei City, formerly Taipei
44 County; the Port of Miami and the Port of Kaohsiung; the City of
45 Orlando and Tainan City; the City of Fort Lauderdale, the City
46 of Miami, and the City of Pensacola and Kaohsiung City; and the
47 City of Sunny Isles Beach and Hengchun Township, and

48 WHEREAS, to assist the State of Florida in its fight
49 against the virus causing COVID-19, Taiwan has donated to the
50 state and its local governments more than 420,000 medical masks,
51 demonstrating Taiwan's commitment to helping its international
52 partners in need, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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56 That the Senate expresses its appreciation for the sister
57 state relationship between the State of Florida and Taiwan.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be

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59 transmitted to President Tsai Ing-wen through the Taipei
60 Economic and Cultural Office in Miami and to the Executive
61 Office of the Governor as a tangible token of the sentiments
62 expressed herein.