



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 173**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 2035



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT-TAIWAN SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut and the Republic of China
2 (Taiwan) have enjoyed a long history of friendship and have maintained
3 a fruitful sister-state relationship encompassing cultural, educational
4 and economic exchanges since 1999; and

5 WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut exported 238 million dollars'
6 worth of products to Taiwan in 2022, making Taiwan one of the most
7 important foreign markets for Connecticut, and strengthening a robust
8 bilateral trade relationship as well as fostering a continued collaboration
9 between their respective industries; and

10 WHEREAS, as a full-fledged democracy and robust free-market
11 economy, Taiwan shares with the United States the principles and
12 values that provide a strong foundation for mutually beneficial
13 relations; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan
15 Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship as
16 well as to advance mutual security and commercial interests between
17 the United States and Taiwan, and the TRA, together with the Six
18 Assurances of President Ronald Reagan in 1982, have served as the
19 cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and have helped to
20 preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

21 WHEREAS, peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is crucial to the
22 maintenance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and Taiwan is an
23 indispensable partner in safeguarding peace and stability in the region;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the United States-Taiwan Education Initiative was
26 launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation on international education
27 and highlight Taiwan's ability to provide instruction in Mandarin, and
28 given Mandarin's designation as a critical language for maintaining
29 national security by the United States, the state of Connecticut welcomes
30 opportunities to advance educational exchanges with Taiwan; and

31 WHEREAS, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition
32 pacts with 36 states of the United States since 2013, and more than 25,000
33 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of such pacts,
34 and were Taiwan and the state of Connecticut to enter into a driver's
35 license reciprocity agreement with each other, such an agreement would
36 help increase the mobility of international students, business owners
37 and academics from both sides; and

38 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the United States Visa Waiver
39 Program and Global Entry, and the reciprocal travel facilitation enjoyed
40 by United States citizens when visiting Taiwan, allows Taiwan and the
41 United States to develop closer relations and witness rapid growth in all
42 areas of bilateral development; and

43 WHEREAS, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in
44 the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation
45 Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police

46 Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Framework Convention
47 on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it will continue to support Taiwan's
48 participation in the United Nations and other international
49 organizations; and

50 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan enjoy longstanding and
51 extensive economic ties, including 135.9 billion dollars in bilateral trade
52 in 2022, making Taiwan the ninth largest trading partner of the United
53 States; and

54 WHEREAS, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with
55 the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has
56 expressed its desire to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and an
57 Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) with the United
58 States; and

59 WHEREAS, Taiwan supports and wishes to become a member of the
60 United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which will
61 help bolster the economic potential of the region by defining shared
62 trade objectives among partners and addressing standards for
63 technology, supply chains, the digital economy and clean energy; and

64 WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Assembly wishes to
65 congratulate Taiwan on its free, fair presidential election on January 13,
66 2024, and to convey its best wishes to President-elect Lai Ching-te and
67 Vice president-elect Hsiao Bi-khim for their continued success.

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
69 Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize the twenty-fifth
70 anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister-State Relationship and the
71 forty-fifth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), and reiterate
72 its support for a closer economic, educational, scientific and security
73 partnership between the United States and the Republic of China
74 (Taiwan); and

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House
76 of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the

77 President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Taipei
78 Economic and Cultural Office in New York.

GAE *Joint Favorable*