

## House Resolution 498

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 138<sup>th</sup>, Pak of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and again  
3 demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan  
4 to be a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and
- 5 WHEREAS, under President Ma Ying-jeou's administration, Taiwan has been committed to  
6 achieving peace and co-prosperity with mainland China since 2008 and to serving the best  
7 interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who both deeply cherish  
9 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and
- 10 WHEREAS, since 1984, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and  
11 mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each  
12 passing year; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' tenth-largest trading partner, and the United States  
14 is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and
- 15 WHEREAS, with the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program in  
16 November, 2012, Taiwanese passport holders may visit the United States for purposes of  
17 business or tourism for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa, a significant step in attracting  
18 travelers from Taiwan to the United States as a destination for trade, investment, and  
19 sightseeing; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community, with a long history  
21 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental  
22 protection; and

23 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an  
24 even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a United States-Taiwan Bilateral  
25 Investment Agreement, a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan into the  
26 Trans-Pacific Partnership in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Georgia  
27 and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between  
28 the citizens of both nations.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and  
31 the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International  
32 Civil Aviation Organization, and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, as  
33 well as other international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for  
34 continued cooperation and success.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Anna A. Kao, Director  
37 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.