

House Resolution 589

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45th, Jones of the 47th, Hitchens of the 161st, Collins of the 68th, Newton of the 123rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the State of Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are like-minded in that both deeply cherish the
4 common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from the authoritarian
6 neighbor of China, who has encroached on Taiwan's security by flying in Taiwan's air
7 defense identification zone (ADIZ), disseminating disinformation and launching
8 cyber-attacks, and repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the international system, as
9 demonstrated through its denial of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly
10 (WHA); and

11 WHEREAS, in 2021, the United States and Taiwan have experienced strengthening in
12 bilateral relations: The state department loosened restrictions on official contacts with
13 Taiwan; both sides resumed the eleventh Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
14 (TIFA) Council meeting; the United States continues to approve its arms sales to Taiwan,
15 demonstrating that the United States has always placed great importance on Taiwan's defense
16 capabilities; Taiwan and the United States, along with Japan, welcomed Australia as the

17 fourth official partner of the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF); and most
18 recently, the United States included Taiwan in the 2021 Summit for Democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, Taiwan has contributed extensive resources to help the international
20 community, including the United States, in combating the COVID-19 pandemic through the
21 global donation of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of thousands of
22 isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of thermometers; reciprocally, the United States has
23 donated four million doses of the Moderna vaccine to Taiwan; and

24 WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the second-freest country in Asia, scoring 94 out of 100 and
25 seventh in the world in Freedom House's latest report on global freedom; and

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States
27 is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the
28 United States; Taiwan is the 17th export market of Georgia, Georgia's eleventh-largest
29 import country, investing \$327.5 million to Georgia and supporting an estimated 5,401 jobs
30 in Georgia; recently, South Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have
31 established trade offices in Taiwan to attract more investments; and

32 WHEREAS, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an even closer partnership on business,
33 education, and culture, as well as for people to people exchanges between the citizens of both
34 nations and to recover better together in the worldwide post pandemic economic recovery
35 efforts.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body are encouraged to join the Southeastern State Legislature Caucus
38 (SESTC), calling like-minded states and international communities to support Taiwan's

39 democracy, freedom, and meaningful participation in international organizations and
40 cooperation, such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation
41 Organization, INTERPOL, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and CPTPP.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the members of this body support the early start of
43 negotiations on a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), establishing a trade office
44 in Taiwan to serve Taiwanese companies that are looking for diverse and free markets in the
45 United States instead of China.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge Georgia and Taiwan to
47 sign K-12 and higher education cooperation MOUs aimed at Mandarin-English language
48 exchange programs, encouraging officials and members of legislature to conduct more
49 frequent exchanges with their Taiwanese counterparts.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
52 Governor Brian Kemp, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, and Mr. Elliot Wang,
53 director-general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.