

Senate Resolution 1269

By: Senator Beach of the 21st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who both deeply cherish  
3 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

4 WHEREAS, in the year of 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election and again  
5 demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan  
6 as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

7 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation  
8 of stability and growth; in 2012, President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the East China Sea Peace  
9 Initiative, which calls upon the parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully and engage  
10 in joint development of resources; and in May 2015, President Ma proposed the South China  
11 Sea Peace Initiative, which calls for the parties concerned to exercise restraint from taking  
12 unilateral actions that could escalate tensions, respect international law, and solve disputes  
13 peacefully through dialogue to maintain free and safe passage for ships and flights on and  
14 over the South China Sea; and

15 WHEREAS, Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework  
16 Agreement in 2010; American businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese  
17 companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights and then use  
18 Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

19 WHEREAS, in November 2015, President Ma and mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping met  
20 in Singapore, agreeing to jointly consolidate cross-strait peace and prosperity; and

21 WHEREAS, since 1984, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and  
22 mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each  
23 passing year; and

24 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' tenth largest trading partner, and the United States  
25 is Taiwan's third largest trading partner; and

26 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a  
27 significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan who choose the United States as their  
28 destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

29 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an  
30 even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a United States-Taiwan Bilateral  
31 Investment Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the  
32 Trans-Pacific Partnership in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Georgia  
33 and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between  
34 the citizens of both nations; and

35 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history  
36 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental  
37 protection; and

38 WHEREAS, Taiwan has made significant democratization efforts and engaged in meaningful  
39 participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation  
40 Organization, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well  
41 as other international organizations.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
43 commend Taiwan for its relations with the United States and extend their most sincere best  
44 wishes for continued cooperation and success.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Steven  
47 Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.