

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARNOLD, HARRIS, HENRY, AND JAY MORRIS

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the friendship between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana, to commemorate the anniversaries of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana and sister-city relationship between Taichung and Baton Rouge, to express support for Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for the East China Sea Peace Initiative, and for the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement, to encourage a closer economic relationship between Taiwan and the United States through a free trade agreement, a bilateral investment agreement, and Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and to commend Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts to promote continued cooperation between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has long enjoyed a cordial relationship with Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan engage in robust bilateral trade, and Taiwan is the world's twenty-third largest economy, seventeenth largest export economy, sixteenth largest import economy, fourth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, eleventh largest United States trading partner, sixteenth largest United States export market, and largest per capita importer of United States agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of Louisiana's most important export markets with more than six hundred million dollars in products imported by Taiwan in 2012; and

WHEREAS, 2013 marks the twenty-eighth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana and thirty-third anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in commercial aviation and the global economy, it is vital that Taiwan participate as an observer in the International Civil

Aviation Organization (ICAO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); meaningful participation by Taiwan as an observer in the ICAO would enhance efforts to improve safety and procedures and develop a global strategy to address aviation security threats, and as an observer in the UNFCCC, Taiwan would contribute greatly to global efforts aimed at reducing and preventing natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, in light of the latest controversies in the East China Sea and the Diaoyutai islands, it is necessary to call on all parties concerned to resolve disputes peacefully; in order to seek out a path to coexistence and mutual prosperity, the government of the Republic of China proposes the East China Sea Peace Initiative in an effort to make the East China Sea a place of peace and cooperation; in furtherance of this effort, in April of 2013, Taiwan and Japan negotiated the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization, and a free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States would substantially reduce or eliminate most import quotas, duties, and other trade barriers, expanding market opportunities for manufactured goods and agricultural products from Louisiana and the United States; a bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States and Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership would also help Taiwan and the United States foster a closer economic relationship; and

WHEREAS, Steve Hsia assumed his current post of Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston in March of 2013 and merits commendation for his efforts on behalf of furthering economic and educational opportunities between Taiwan and Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes the abiding friendship between Taiwan and the state of Louisiana and commemorates the twenty-eighth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and Louisiana and thirty-third anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby expresses support for Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for the East China Sea Peace Initiative, and for the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby encourages closer economic relationships between Taiwan and the United States through the negotiation of a free trade agreement and bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States and through Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby commends Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts toward promoting continued cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Steve Hsia, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES