

2014 -- S 2826

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS AND TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Introduced By: Senator William A. Walaska

Date Introduced: March 25, 2014

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an island with a population of 23 million people. Since coming
2 into power in 2008, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-Jeou has worked tirelessly to support our
3 common values of freedom and democracy, improve cross-Strait relations, attain broader
4 recognition in international governmental and nongovernmental organizations, progress in
5 signing free trade agreements with other nations, and more fully participate in regional economic
6 integration processes; and

7 WHEREAS, In April of 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) invited Taiwan
8 (Chinese Taipei) to attend the 62nd World Health Assembly as an observer, thus setting a
9 precedent for United Nations specialized agencies to recognize Taiwan as an entity; and

10 WHEREAS, Full membership in international organizations and recognition of Taiwan
11 would allow the people of Taiwan to contribute their well-developed knowledge, skills, and
12 resources to issues that not only directly affect them, but also the United States, and other nations
13 around the globe; and

14 WHEREAS, Being barred from international economic organizations and inhibited or
15 excluded from free trade agreements impedes Taiwan's ability to be competitive on an
16 international level and hinders the economic liberalization of its domestic economy as well as
17 further regional integration; and

18 WHEREAS, Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans travel to Taiwan for
19 business and leisure. In 2012, Taiwan became a member of the United States Visa Waiver

1 Program reflecting the friendship, trust, and cooperation shared between the United States and
2 Taiwan; and

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan has and continues to make meaningful contributions to the world
4 community. It is the 18th largest trading economy in the world and the 11th largest trading
5 partner of the United States; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby fully supports bilateral trade relations and Taiwan's meaningful participation in
8 International Organizations; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Anne Hung, Director-General of the Taipei
11 Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

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