

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 143

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States.

WHEREAS, in the year of 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, under President Ma Ying-jeou's administration, Taiwan has committed to achieving peace and co-prosperity with mainland China since 2008, and serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations since 1980, a friendship which continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

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

WHEREAS, with the designation of Taiwan as a member of the United States' Visa Waiver Program in November of 2012, Taiwan passport holders may now visit the United States for business or tourism for stays up to ninety days without obtaining a visa, which is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan who chose the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community and has a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this body commend the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other international organizations.

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