

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVES WRIGHT, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BROWN, CARLSON, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DEWITT, DICKERSON, EGAN, FISHER, HORTON, HUGHES, MIKE JOHNSON, MELERINE, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, ST. BLANC, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, AND WYBLE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express support for the strengthening of the state's partnership with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage.

WHEREAS, the longstanding bonds of friendship between the United States and Taiwan, embodied in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, continue to yield important economic, social, strategic, and cultural benefits; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan ranks as the United States' eighth largest trading partner and thirteenth largest export market with bilateral trade in goods and services that reached one hundred sixty-six billion dollars in 2023 as well as the sixth largest export market for the United States' agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a particularly important market for Louisiana farmers and is Louisiana's fifth largest trading partner in the Asia-Pacific; moreover, Taiwan imported nearly eight hundred fifteen million dollars in commodities from Louisiana in 2023, and Louisiana imported one hundred ninety-one million dollars in Taiwanese goods; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's recent action to lift restrictions on United States' beef and pork in January 2021 served to enhance bilateral trade; and

WHEREAS, the robust trade and investment partnership between the United States and Taiwan provides a solid foundation for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement to spur job creation, further expand the global market, and secure international supply chains; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is committed to helping address global challenges, from humanitarian crises to nontraditional security threats; moreover, it has emerged as an important partner in pandemic prevention, bolstering unprecedented international support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the World Health Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese officials and civil society groups partner with the United States on a range of issues to promote our common values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, building on the cooperative tradition of prior joint partnerships such as the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, which advances Taiwanese leadership in such arenas as democratization, human rights, women's empowerment, and public health; and

WHEREAS, given the important role Taiwan plays in global aviation security, Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization would help develop a global aviation safety network and address vital issues such as the unilateral adjustment of flight routes in the Taiwan Strait; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the thirty-ninth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and Taiwan and is a bond nurtured through mutually beneficial exchanges; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the United States have benefitted immeasurably through decades of unwavering friendship with Taiwan, and the wider world is sure to reap tremendous rewards as Taiwan works to enhance its presence in the international community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support for the strengthening of the partnership with Taiwan, the expansion of Taiwan's role on the global stage, and Taiwan's efforts to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait through meaningful dialogue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby do all of the following:

- (1) Express support for a tax agreement between the United States and Taiwan.
- (2) Express support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, United Nations, World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Criminal Police Organization, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(3) Express support for Louisiana to establish a partnership with Taiwan through the National Guard's State Partnership Program to build on decades of mutually beneficial relations.

(4) Celebrate the forty-fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act and the thirty-ninth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the state of Louisiana and Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Texas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE