

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLD

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Commends the Republic of China (Taiwan) for economic relations with the state of Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Republic of China (Taiwan) for positive economic relations with the state
3 of Louisiana, to call for closer economic relations between Taiwan and the United
4 States, to support the mutual recognition of driver's licenses between Taiwan and the
5 state of Louisiana, to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations,
6 and to welcome and commend Director General Louis M. Huang for his continued
7 efforts and contributions to advance economic and cultural exchange between
8 Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) engage in robust
10 bilateral trade, and Taiwan is the world's twenty-first largest economy, fourteenth most
11 competitive economy worldwide, twentieth largest export economy, eighteenth largest
12 import economy, fifth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, twelfth largest United
13 States trading partner, twelfth largest United States import market, sixteenth largest United
14 States export market, and the largest per capita importer of United States agricultural
15 products; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is one of Louisiana's most important export markets with three
17 hundred ninety-five million dollars worth of products imported by Taiwan in 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal made his first visit to Taiwan in January of
19 2014 to meet President Ma Ying-Jeou and to hold meetings with executives from the
20 Formosa Plastics Group, the CPC Corporation, and others in order to successfully promote
21 trade and encourage bilateral investment between Louisiana and Taiwan; and

1 WHEREAS, with the approval of the United States Department of Energy granted
2 in February of 2014, Taiwan will begin a long-term plan to import shale gas from Louisiana,
3 which is to begin in 2018 and is estimated to be a multibillion dollar business opportunity;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia
6 Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC), and a bilateral free trade agreement between Taiwan
7 and the United States would substantially reduce most import quotas, duties, and other trade
8 barriers, expanding market opportunities for Louisiana and the entire United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents a high standard,
10 ambitious, comprehensive, and forward-looking pathway for achieving an eventual Free
11 Trade Area of Asia-Pacific; and

12 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the TPP would lead to an overall gain of more
13 than seventy-seven billion dollars in social welfare for the United States and all other
14 members; and

15 WHEREAS, streamlining the exchange of valid noncommercial driver's licenses for
16 a Louisiana applicant in Taiwan and an applicant from Taiwan living in Louisiana is part of
17 the effort to upgrade the business-friendly environment for business people of Taiwan and
18 Louisiana; this exchange would encourage mutual trade and investments; and

19 WHEREAS, given the important role that Taiwan plays in commercial aviation and
20 the global economy, it is vital that Taiwan participates as an observer in the International
21 Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
22 Change (UNFCCC); meaningful participation by Taiwan as an observer in the ICAO will
23 enhance efforts to improve safety and procedures and develop a global strategy to address
24 aviation security threats, and as an observer in the UNFCCC, Taiwan would greatly
25 contribute to global efforts aimed at reducing and preventing natural disasters; and

26 WHEREAS, 2015 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship
27 between Taiwan and Louisiana, as well as the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-city
28 relationship between the city of Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge; and

1 WHEREAS, Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
2 Office (TECO) in Houston, Texas, and his office continue to work towards advancing
3 economic and educational cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage closer economic relationships between
6 Taiwan and the United States through negotiation of a free trade agreement and bilateral
7 investment agreement between Taiwan and the United States and through Taiwan's
8 membership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby
10 encourages and supports the mutual recognition of noncommercial driver's licenses between
11 Taiwan and the state of Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives hereby
13 expresses support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Civil Aviation
14 Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, does hereby
15 celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Louisiana and
16 Taiwan and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the city of
17 Taichung and the city of Baton Rouge, and does hereby commend Louis M. Huang, Director
18 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts and
19 contributions towards enhancing cooperation between Taiwan and Louisiana.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
21 to Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
22 Houston, Texas.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 35 Original

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Arnold

Commends the relationship between Taiwan and La. and commemorates the 30th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Taiwan and La. and the 35th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Taichung and Baton Rouge.

Commends Louis M. Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, for his efforts and contributions in promoting continued cooperation between Taiwan and La.

Encourages a closer relationship between Taiwan and the U.S. through the negotiation of a free trade agreement and bilateral investment agreement between Taiwan and the U.S. and through Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.