

## HJR58 INTRODUCED



1     MEQ31W-1  
2     By Representative Harbison  
3     RFD: RULES  
4     First Read: 04-Apr-23  
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4 HJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED  
5 STATES AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA.  
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7 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest  
8 trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's  
9 second-largest trading partner, with a bilateral trade  
10 amount of \$105 billion in 2021; Taiwan is Alabama's 13th  
11 largest import country and the 21st largest export market of  
12 Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, Alabama was the second state to sign the  
14 K-12 and higher education cooperation MOU with Taiwan in  
15 2022 since the launch of the 2020 "U.S. - Taiwan Education  
16 Initiative" facilitating more Mandarin and English language,  
17 student, and teacher exchanges; and

18 WHEREAS, in September 2021, Auburn University signed  
19 a joint agreement to establish close academic ties with  
20 Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), resulting in  
21 the establishment of the "Taiwan Center of Chinese Language  
22 and Culture" and an abundant exchange of lecturers,  
23 students, and Chinese language and culture courses at  
24 Auburn; in 2023, Auburn faculty will travel to Taiwan to  
25 seek further collaborations; and

26 WHEREAS, Taiwan's delegation at the 2022 World Games  
27 in Birmingham, Alabama, won an impressive total of 13



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28 medals, its third best tally ever; the Taiwanese community  
29 in the State of Alabama shows encouragement and support; and

30 WHEREAS, Alabama welcomes all opportunities for even  
31 closer partnerships in business, educational, cultural, and  
32 people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the U.S. and  
33 Taiwan and better collaboration in the post-pandemic  
34 economic recovery efforts; and

35 WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous  
36 threats from the authoritarian neighbor of China, which has  
37 encroached on Taiwan's security by launching missiles and  
38 dispatching numerous aircraft and vessels into Taiwan's air  
39 defense identification zone and crossing the Taiwan Strait  
40 median line, disseminating disinformation and launching  
41 cyber-attacks, and repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the  
42 international system, as demonstrated through its denial of  
43 Taiwan's participation in the United Nations system  
44 meetings, mechanisms, conventions, and activities; and

45 WHEREAS, in 2022, the U.S. and Taiwan have  
46 experienced strengthening in bilateral relations; the launch  
47 of the "U.S. - Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade"  
48 facilitates negotiations on an economic and trade agreement  
49 with high-standard commitments; the "National Defense  
50 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023" facilitates a  
51 defense modernization program for Taiwan to deter China's  
52 aggression; the signing of the "Taiwan - U.S. MOU on  
53 Development and Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation"  
54 highlights Taiwan as a significant stakeholder globally; and



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55 WHEREAS, being a formal member of the Asia-Pacific  
56 Economic Cooperation (APEC) since 1991, Taiwan continues to  
57 contribute to the welfare of the people in the Asia-Pacific  
58 region; now therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
60 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it encourages the members of  
61 this body to join the Taiwan Caucus in welcoming the state  
62 government to establish a trade office in Taiwan, as South  
63 Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have  
64 recently done, to attract more investment and encourage  
65 state government officials and members of Legislature to  
66 conduct more frequent exchanges with their Taiwanese  
67 counterparts.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it supports the "U.S. -  
69 Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade" and the  
70 negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement as Taiwanese  
71 companies are looking for a diverse and free market in the  
72 U.S. and also supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in  
73 international organizations and mechanisms such as WHO,  
74 UNFCCC, ICAO, INTERPOL, and IPEF.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this  
76 resolution be prepared and transmitted to Governor Kay Ivey,  
77 Secretary of State Wes Allen, the Alabama Congressional  
78 Delegation, and Mr. Elliot Wang, Director-General of the  
79 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.