

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.