HJR167

15XILLL-1

By Representative Harbison

RFD: RULES

First Read: 04-Apr-24

HJR___ COMMENDING TAIWAN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, with a bilateral trade amount of $105 billion in 2021; Taiwan is Alabama's 13th largest import country and the 21st largest export market of Alabama; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it encourages the members of this body to join the Taiwan Caucus in welcoming the state government to establish a trade office in Taiwan, as South Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, and Pennsylvania have recently done, to attract more investment and encourage state government officials and members of Legislature to

conduct more frequent exchanges with their Taiwanese counterparts.

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

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