

HJR167 INTRODUCED



1 HJR167
2 15XILLL-1
3 By Representative Harbison
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 04-Apr-24



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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



HJR167 INTRODUCED

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

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

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



HJR167 INTRODUCED

56 conduct more frequent exchanges with their Taiwanese
57 counterparts.

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

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