

House Resolution 1646

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45th, Taylor of the 79th, Ramsey of the 72nd, and Byrd of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, in January of 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and
3 witnessed a peaceful transition of political power, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of
4 democracy in Asia and beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, under President Ma Ying-jeou's administration, Taiwan has committed to
6 achieving peace and co-prosperity with mainland China since 2008, and President Ma's
7 recent victory for re-election serves the best interest of the Asia-Pacific region in the
8 continuation of stability and growth; and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish
10 the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually
12 beneficial sister-state relations since 1984, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each
13 passing year; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States
15 is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

16 WHEREAS, in December of 2011, Taiwan was nominated for its inclusion in the United
17 States' Visa Waiver Program which is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan to
18 choosing the United States as their destination for sightseeing, higher education, trade, and
19 investment; and

20 WHEREAS, the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between Taiwan and
21 mainland China went into effect in September of 2010, and the government of Taiwan has
22 committed itself to achieving peace and co-prosperity with mainland China; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history
24 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental
25 protection, donating \$30,000 to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in May of
26 2011 in response to the severe storms and tornadoes that rampaged through several cities in
27 Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, by working together, Georgia welcomes all opportunities, such as resuming
29 meetings of the U.S.-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the inclusion
30 of Taiwan in the United States' Visa Waiver Program, to enhance the special sister-state bond
31 between Georgia and Taiwan, and encourages further cultural, educational, and business
32 exchanges between the citizens of Georgia and Taiwan.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and
35 the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization, the International
36 Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well
37 as the other international organizations.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Anna A. Kao, Director
40 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.