

Senate Resolution 329

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Cowsert of the 46th, Millar of the 40th and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish
3 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in the year of 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and again
5 demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan
6 as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation
8 of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation
9 Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. United States businesses can collaborate with
10 innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual
11 property rights, and then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other
12 key Asian markets; and
- 13 WHEREAS, since 1984, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and
14 mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each
15 passing year; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eleventh-largest trading partner, and the United
17 States is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a
19 significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination
20 for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

21 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an
22 even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a US-Taiwan Bilateral Investment
23 Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific
24 Partnership in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Georgia and Taiwan and
25 to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of
26 both nations; and

27 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history
28 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental
29 protection.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful
32 participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation
33 Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other
34 international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued
35 cooperation and success.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Steven
38 Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.