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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN.

WHEREAS, the statistics on trade between the United States and Taiwan are impressive; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eighth largest trading partner, tenth largest export market, and fifth largest farm products market; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the trade flow between the United States and Taiwan totaled \$56,900,000,000, and the cumulative United States investment in Taiwan amounted to \$14,100,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been actively seeking a bilateral free trade agreement with the United States; and

WHEREAS, such an agreement may provide more opportunities for United States companies to invest in, and export to Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, United States consumers may also benefit from Taiwan products; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan already is a member of the World Trade Organization and a party to many economic and trade agreements with various countries; and

WHEREAS, a free trade agreement may enable the United States to indirectly facilitate the participation of Taiwan in multi-lateral Asian trade agreements, something that is now disfavored by the People's Republic of China; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the President of the United States to seriously consider entering into a free trade agreement with Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President is requested to undertake negotiations for the free trade agreement in a manner that respects the interests of all countries in the East Asian region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

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