
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM AND THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT
PROGRAMS TO INCREASE VISITORS FROM TAIWAN, AND REQUESTING
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO EXPAND THE VISA
WAIVER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE TAIWAN.

1 WHEREAS, in 2007, 587,000 visitors from Taiwan arrived in
2 the United States, representing just 6.5 per cent of the total
3 outbound travelers from Taiwan; and
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5 WHEREAS, the 6.5 per cent figure for 2007 was a continuing
6 decline from 6.8 per cent from 2006, and a ten per cent decline
7 from 2005 of travelers from Taiwan to the United States; and
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9 WHEREAS, the number of Taiwanese visitors to Hawaii in 2006
10 was approximately 15,450 visitors, not a significant percentage
11 of all visitors to Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the data indicates that the Taiwan visitor market
14 is a huge potential source of tourists to Hawaii; and
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16 WHEREAS, promotion of diversification of Hawaii's tourism
17 markets is a logical and important public policy goal that helps
18 to mitigate the adverse impacts of a volatile tourism industry;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, Hawaii needs to be promoted in Taiwan as a tourism
22 destination to increase the number of visitors from Taiwan,
23 which coincidentally share many of the same ethnic and cultural
24 traits as Hawaii residents; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Visa Waiver Program of the United States
27 allows citizens of certain countries to travel to the United
28 States for tourism or business purposes for up to ninety days
29 without having to obtain a visa, with all participating
30 countries being developed countries; and



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2 WHEREAS, Taiwan, though developed, is not a participant in
3 the Visa Waiver Program; and
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5 WHEREAS, the federal Secure Travel and Counterterrorism
6 Partnership Act of 2007, Public Law 110-53 directs the Secretary
7 of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to expand visa
8 waivers to qualifying countries; and
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10 WHEREAS, a visa waiver may be granted to a country if:

- 11
12 (1) The country meets all security requirements of the
13 Act;
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15 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the
16 totality of the country's security risk mitigation
17 measures provide assurance that the country's
18 participation in the program would not compromise the
19 law enforcement, security interests, or enforcement of
20 the immigration laws of the United States;
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22 (3) There has been a sustained reduction in the rate of
23 refusals for nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the
24 country and conditions exist to continue such
25 reduction;
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27 (4) The country cooperated with the government of the
28 United States on counterterrorism initiatives,
29 information sharing, and preventing terrorist travel
30 before the date of its designation as a program
31 country, and the Secretary of Homeland Security and
32 the Secretary of State determine that such cooperation
33 will continue; and
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35 (5) The rate of refusals for nonimmigrant visitor visas
36 for nationals of the country during the previous full
37 fiscal year was not more than ten per cent or the visa
38 overstay rate for the country for the previous full
39 fiscal year has not exceeded the maximum established
40 visa overstay rate; and
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42 WHEREAS, Taiwan meets each of the foregoing requirements;
43 now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
 3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 4 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii
 5 Tourism Authority are requested to implement programs to
 6 increase the number of visitors from Taiwan to the maximum
 7 extent possible; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Citizenship
 10 and Immigration Services and the United States Department of
 11 Homeland Security are requested to add Taiwan to the list of
 12 visa waivers; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 15 Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii Tourism
 16 Authority are requested to assist and cooperate with the United
 17 States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United
 18 States Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the
 19 inclusion of Taiwan on the visa waiver list; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 22 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to develop a list
 23 of Hawaii-made products appropriate for exportation to Taiwan;
 24 and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of
 28 Homeland Security, Secretary of the State Department, Director
 29 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Governor of
 30 the State of Hawaii, Director of Business, Economic Development,
 31 and Tourism, Executive Director of the Hawaii Tourism Authority,
 32 and each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

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 35 OFFERED BY:


