

FEB 06 2008

S.R. NO. 26

SENATE 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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32 WHEREAS, Taiwan, though developed, is not a participant in
33 the Visa Waiver Program; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the federal Secure Travel and Counterterrorism
3 Partnership Act of 2007, Public Law 110-53 directs the Secretary
4 of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to expand visa
5 waivers to qualifying countries; and

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7 WHEREAS, a visa waiver may be granted to a country if:

- 8
9 (1) The country meets all security requirements of the
10 Act;
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12 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the
13 totality of the country's security risk mitigation
14 measures provide assurance that the country's
15 participation in the program would not compromise the
16 law enforcement, security interests, or enforcement of
17 the immigration laws of the United States;
18
19 (3) There has been a sustained reduction in the rate of
20 refusals for nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the
21 country and conditions exist to continue such
22 reduction;
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24 (4) The country cooperated with the government of the
25 United States on counterterrorism initiatives,
26 information sharing, and preventing terrorist travel
27 before the date of its designation as a program
28 country, and the Secretary of Homeland Security and
29 the Secretary of State determine that such cooperation
30 will continue; and
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32 (5) The rate of refusals for nonimmigrant visitor visas
33 for nationals of the country during the previous full
34 fiscal year was not more than ten per cent or the visa
35 overstay rate for the country for the previous full
36 fiscal year has not exceeded the maximum established
37 visa overstay rate; and
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39 WHEREAS, Taiwan meets each of the foregoing requirements;
40 now, therefore,

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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
44 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and



1 Tourism and the Hawaii Tourism Authority are requested to
2 implement programs to increase the number of visitors from
3 Taiwan to the maximum extent possible; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Citizenship
6 and Immigration Services and the United States Department of
7 Homeland Security are requested to add Taiwan to the list of
8 visa waivers; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
11 Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii Tourism
12 Authority are requested to assist and cooperate with the United
13 States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United
14 States Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the
15 inclusion of Taiwan on the visa waiver list; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
18 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to develop a list
19 of Hawaii-made products appropriate for exportation to Taiwan;
20 and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Homeland Security,
24 Secretary of the State Department, Director General of the
25 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Governor of the State of
26 Hawaii, Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism,
27 Executive Director of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and each
28 member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

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