

FEB 06 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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4 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading
5 partner, eleventh largest export market, and fifth largest farm
6 products market; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2006, the trade flow between the United States
9 and Taiwan totaled \$61,200,000,000, and the cumulative United
10 States investment in Taiwan amounted to \$15,000,000,000; and

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

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15 WHEREAS, a free trade agreement may provide more
16 opportunities for United States companies to invest in and
17 export to Taiwan; and

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19 WHEREAS, United States consumers may also benefit from
20 products made in Taiwan; and

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

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26 WHEREAS, the United States concluded a free trade agreement
27 with South Korea on April 2, 2007; and

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29 WHEREAS, the structure of Taiwan's and South Korea's
30 exports to the United States are very similar, with both
31 consisting primarily of manufactured goods; and

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33 WHEREAS, the United States' free trade agreement with South
34 Korea creates a trade disparity in that it will have a very
35 negative impact upon Taiwan's economy, resulting in a



1 substantial weakening of the United States' competitiveness in
2 the international market; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is urgent that Taiwan be on the same
5 competitive footing in the United States market as South Korea
6 in order to sustain a continuing economic growth for Taiwan,
7 which is in the best interest of the United States
8 internationally; and

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10 WHEREAS, in 2006, thirty-five state houses or senate or
11 both, in twenty-three states, passed resolutions to express
12 support of a free trade agreement between the United States and
13 Taiwan; and

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15 WHEREAS, a free trade agreement with Taiwan may enable the
16 United States to indirectly facilitate the participation of
17 Taiwan in multilateral Asian trade agreements; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
21 that the President of the United States is urged to enter into a
22 free trade agreement with Taiwan; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
25 States is requested to undertake negotiations for a free trade
26 agreement with Taiwan in a manner that respects the interests of
27 all countries in the East Asian region; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States
31 and each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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34 OFFERED BY: J. Kalani Eglish