HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENDORSING TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, SUPPORTING THE SIGNING OF A UNITED STATES-TAIWAN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, AND COMMEMORATING THE RELATIONSHIPS AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND TAIWAN.

WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan are bonded by a shared commitment to democracy, freedom, human rights, the rule of law, and a free market economy; and

WHEREAS, to further support and reinforce trading partnerships, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade has reached an agreement to develop concrete methods to deepen the economic and trade relationship of the countries, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovative and inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses, including through new trade agreements; and

WHEREAS, in order to strengthen bilateral trade, the government of Taiwan has expressed its desire to sign a bilateral trade agreement, bilateral investment agreement, and avoidance of double taxation agreement with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii and Taiwan have had an established sisterstate relationship since 1993 that has developed an enduring and mutually beneficiary friendship, exemplified by the Taiwan government's generous \$500,000 contribution to Hawaii in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the strong reciprocal trading partnership, the State of Hawaii Office in Taipei and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu have been working together to promote substantial cooperation and exchanges in areas of tourism, agriculture, culture, and education; and

WHEREAS, the United States-Taiwan Education Initiative was launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation on international education and enhance Taiwan's role in providing Mandarin Chinese language instruction; and

WHEREAS, given the designation of Mandarin Chinese as a critical language and Taiwan's plans to be bilingual by 2030, schools and institutions of higher education in both Hawaii and Taiwan have enhanced their exchanges, as exemplified by the partnership between University of Hawaii and the National Tsing Hua University; and

WHEREAS, for years, Taiwan has actively engaged in climate change research, supported anti-terrorism cooperation, and worked with its partners to tackle transnational crime; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's meaningful participation in bodies such as the World Health Organization, International Criminal Police Organization, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and International Civil Aviation Organization would make international mechanisms truly global; and

WHEREAS, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization and will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that this body joins the United States to endorse the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the first agreement under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and encourages the United States Trade Representative to commence negotiations to enter into a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan; and

2025-2914 HR115 HD1 HMSO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body commemorates the State of Hawaii's thirty-second anniversary of sister-state relations with Taiwan and supports mutual beneficiary exchanges and cooperation with Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Republic of China; President of the United States; President of the United States Senate; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; United States Secretary of State; members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; Governor; and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.