

House Resolution 41 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY ANDERSON, DRAKE, ARNOLD, MASCHER, S. OLSON,
PETERSEN, and BERRY

1 A Resolution reaffirming Iowa's sister-state
2 relationship with the Republic of China (Taiwan),
3 and encouraging the United States government to
4 include Taiwan in the United States Visa Waiver
5 Program.

6 WHEREAS, the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates
7 its centennial this year and its National Day on
8 October 10, 2011, joining friends and compatriots
9 around the world in commemorating 100 years since
10 its birth on October 10, 1911, as Asia's first
11 Republic; and

12 WHEREAS, in the last quarter-century, the Republic
13 of China, which exists today on Taiwan, has achieved
14 economic and social stability, has been lauded as a
15 beacon of democracy for Asia, has dramatically improved
16 its record on human rights, and has taken great
17 steps forward to enter the world arena as a trusted
18 partner, provider of humanitarian aid, promoter of
19 cultural ties, and creator of new technologies and
20 businesses; and

21 WHEREAS, Governor Terry E. Branstad has played an
22 important role in cementing the long-standing cordial
23 relationship between Iowa and Taiwan, and in 1989
24 signed the agreement with Governor Chuang-huan Chiu
25 of the Taiwan provincial government that formally
26 established sister-state relations; and

27 WHEREAS, the relationship between Iowa and Taiwan

1 has flourished and been beneficial ever since,
2 particularly with respect to agricultural trade,
3 educational and cultural exchanges, and the hosting of
4 reciprocal trade, legislative, and other delegations
5 to promote economic and cultural ties, including the
6 possible opening of an Iowa state trade office in
7 Taipei; and

8 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an invaluable friend and
9 partner as Taiwan in 2009 ranked as the United States'
10 tenth-largest trading partner and fifth-largest market
11 for United States agricultural goods and the world's
12 fourteenth-largest market for Iowa goods, worth \$94.1
13 million in 2009, an increase of 9.4 percent above
14 Iowa's exports to Taiwan in 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, the Taiwan government has met a central
16 requirement for inclusion in the United States Visa
17 Waiver Program by achieving a low visa-rejection
18 rate of less than 3 percent among Taiwan nationals
19 applying for visas to the United States and has
20 gained visa-waiver status with 113 other countries
21 including the European Union, the United Kingdom and
22 Canada, representing 96 percent of the most frequently
23 visited countries by citizens of Taiwan, which is an
24 increase of 50 countries of those granting Taiwan
25 visa-waiver status in just two and one-half years, thus
26 symbolizing the growing respect commanded by Taiwan
27 internationally; NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
29 the House of Representatives reaffirms its support of
30 the sister-state relations between Iowa and Taiwan; and

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1 urges the United States government to include Taiwan in
2 the United States Visa Waiver Program; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
4 House shall send a copy of this Resolution to Governor
5 Terry E. Branstad, United States Secretary of State
6 Hillary Rodham Clinton, Jung-Tzer Lin, Governor of the
7 Taiwan Provincial Government, and the Taipei Economic
8 and Cultural Office in Chicago, Illinois.