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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENDORSING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION 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 SUPPORTING THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTERSTATE RELATIONS BETWEEN HAWAII AND TAIWAN.

WHEREAS, climate change has become a major global issue confronting humanity in the 21st century, and Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as an observer would enable Taiwan to make valuable contributions to the international community; and

WHEREAS, in September 2016, the United States Department of State expressed its support for the "meaningful participation" of Taiwan as an observer in the International Civil Aviation Organization; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a key air transport hub that links Northeast and Southeast Asia, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization as an observer will ensure the aviation safety of passengers from Taiwan and abroad; and

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2016, Taiwan participated in the annual World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, as an observer, setting a precedent for Taiwan's participation in United Nations specialized agencies; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2016, the President of the United States signed into a law a bill that directs the Department of State to:

(1) Develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police

Organization (INTERPOL) and at other related activities, meetings, and mechanisms; and

 (2) Instruct INTERPOL Washington to request observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and urge INTERPOL members to support Taiwan's observer status and participation; and

 WHEREAS, on April 5, 2017, the State of Hawaii signed a reciprocal driver's license agreement with Taiwan--the State's second such accord with a foreign government--which will bring increased convenience to residents of both places as well as help deepen bilateral exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and Taiwan Province of the Republic of China jointly established a sister-state relationship in 1993 to promote international understanding and goodwill and to strengthen the friendship between the residents of Hawaii and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, over the past 24 years, the bonds of true friendship and a steadfast partnership between Hawaii and Taiwan have taken root, resulting in greater economic, social, and cultural exchange between the two sides; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses 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 $24^{\rm th}$ anniversary of sister-state relations between the State of Hawaii and Taiwan Province of the Republic of China; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; United States Secretary of State; each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; Governor of the State of Hawaii;

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- 1 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and
- 2 Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
- 3 Honolulu.