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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
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before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, March 28, 2024
TIME: 3:02PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SCR 2

ENDORING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN AS AN OBSERVER IN THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, INTERNATIONAL CIVIL ACTION ORGANIZATION, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION; SUPPORTING THE FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE US-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE, A SPEEDY CONCLUSION TO THE NEGOTIATION, AND ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN; AND SUPPORTING THE STATE OF HAWAII'S THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER-STATE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND COMMEMORATING THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports **SCR 2** which urges the endorsement of 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; supports the further progress on the US-Taiwan initiative on 21st-Century Trade, a speedy conclusion to this negotiation, and encouraging the United States Trade Representative to commence negotiations to enter into a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan; and supporting the State of Hawaii's thirty-first anniversary of

sister-state relations with Taiwan and commemorating the forty-fifth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

DBEDT supports this resolution by believing closer economic ties with Taiwan, Hawai'i can tap into numerous benefits that can stimulate economic growth and job creation. Hawai'i's long-standing sister-state relationships with Taiwan has brought about significant cultural, educational, and economic exchanges, benefiting both Hawai'i and Taiwan. We encourage the continued strengthening of this special connection, which has fostered understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the two regions.

Through the State of Hawai'i Office in Taipei, DBEDT/BDSO has been working with Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Honolulu to promote economic development and enhance business opportunities. Taiwan will also be participating in the 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts & Culture to be held in Honolulu from June 6-16, 2024. DBEDT will continue to work closely with Taiwan to not only enhance diplomatic relations but also promote international cooperation for the mutual benefit to Hawai'i and Taiwan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office(TECO) in Honolulu

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, TECO supports the SCR2 which emphasizes the importance of the long term partnership between US and Taiwan and the warm friendship between Hawaii and Taiwan. TECO is seeking your strong support for these everlasting relationships as well.

2024 marks the 45th anniversary of Taiwan Relations Act and 31st Anniversary of Hawaii-Taiwan Sister State Relationship.

Reaching bilateral agreements such as United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, Bilateral Trade Agreement, Bilateral Investment Agreement and Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between US and Taiwan, as well as Gift Scholarship, Academic Cooperation and Agreement of Cooperative 3+2 Master Programs, and Mandarin Exchanges Programs between Hawaii and Taiwan will definitely pave the way for further friendship and connections that are precious for both sides.

Taiwan has become a successful democracy.

Its model upholds transparency, rule of law, respect for human rights, and values that shared with all the United Nations (UN) members. Taiwan plays critical role in the global high-tech supply chains, economy and a hub of travel, culture, and education. Taiwan should be viewed as a valued partner and trusted friend of UN member states.

Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UN system is a pragmatic issue

As the international community faces an unprecedented number of complex and global issues, it is critical for all stakeholders to help address these problems. This includes the 24 million people who live in

Taiwan. Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UN system is not a political issue, but a pragmatic one.

Taiwan's robust participation in UN specialized agencies for the past decades proves its value for the international community.

Taiwan has full membership in 40 intergovernmental organizations and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Organization for Animal Health and Central American Bank for Economic Integration. It also enjoys observer or other statuses in 25 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and committees of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Central American Integration System. In light of Taiwan's robust capital market and pivotal position in Asia, the Central American Bank of Economic Integration opened an office in Taiwan in 2021, making it the first new branch to be opened outside of Central America.

Taiwan's robust participation in UN specialized agencies for the past decades proves its value for the international community. However, despite tens of millions of passengers traveling annually through its airports, Taiwan was not represented at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) triennial assembly. Although Taiwan's response to COVID-19 and its healthcare system is one of the best in the world, Taiwan was not at the World Health Assembly(WHA). Members of international community engage every single day in activities at the UN, while Taiwan's are blocked from participating in these activities.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage — Taiwan can help!

Every second, three people around the globe fall into financial difficulties due to illness, resulting in innumerable family tragedies. In order for all people to receive the health services they need without suffering financial

Testimony for SCR2

hardship, the World Health Organization(WHO) has made universal health coverage part of its core mission.

Taiwan was the first nation in Asia to marshal its resources and founded a single-payer national health insurance system, which provides equal coverage of health care to all citizens and foreigners who legally work or reside in Taiwan. Taiwan is willing to share its experience on setting up this system to help all nations promote health equity and realize the third U.N. Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.