



General Assembly

**House Joint Resolution No.
50**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 3642



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT-TAIWAN SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut and the Republic of China
2 (Taiwan) have enjoyed a long history of friendship and have maintained
3 a fruitful sister-state relationship encompassing cultural, educational
4 and economic exchanges since 1999; and

5 WHEREAS, the state of Connecticut exported 194 million dollars'
6 worth of products to Taiwan in 2019, making Taiwan one of the major
7 foreign markets for Connecticut, and strengthening a robust bilateral
8 trade relationship as well as fostering a continued collaboration between
9 their respective industries; and

10 WHEREAS, as a full-fledged democracy and robust free-market
11 economy, Taiwan shares with the United States the principles and
12 values that provide a strong foundation for mutually beneficial

13 relations; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan
15 Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship as
16 well as to advance mutual security and commercial interests between
17 the United States and Taiwan, and the TRA has served as the
18 cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and has helped to
19 preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

20 WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the
21 United States and Taiwan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on
22 health cooperation to strengthen cooperation on global health security,
23 control of infectious diseases, and the development of drugs and
24 vaccines, intended to battle COVID-19 and to prevent future
25 international health crises through further collaborations; and

26 WHEREAS, the Memorandums of Understanding recently signed by
27 the United States and Taiwan on scientific and technological
28 cooperation and international education cooperation support broader
29 exchanges between Taiwan and the state of Connecticut on innovation
30 and cooperation on critical supply chains and education; and

31 WHEREAS, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition
32 agreements with 34 states of the United States since 2013, and more than
33 16,000 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of the
34 aforementioned agreements, and were Taiwan and the state of
35 Connecticut to enter into a driver's license reciprocity agreement with
36 each other, such an agreement would help increase the mobility of
37 international students, businessmen, and academics from both sides;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the United States Visa Waiver
40 Program and Global Entry, and the reciprocal travel facilitation enjoyed
41 by United States citizens when visiting Taiwan, allows Taiwan and the
42 United States, including the sister-state of Connecticut, to develop closer

43 relations and to witness rapid growth in all areas of bilateral
44 development; and

45 WHEREAS, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in
46 the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation
47 Organization (ICAO) and the International Criminal Police
48 Organization (INTERPOL) and will continue supporting Taiwan's
49 participation in other international organizations; and

50 WHEREAS, the United States and Taiwan share a long-term and
51 close economic relationship, including 82.5 billion dollars in bilateral
52 trade in 2020, making Taiwan the ninth largest trading partner of the
53 United States; and

54 WHEREAS, in order to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with
55 the United States, the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has
56 expressed its wish to sign a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and an
57 Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) with the United
58 States.

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
60 Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize the twenty-second
61 anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister-State Relationship, and
62 reiterate its support of a closer economic and trade partnership between
63 the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House
65 of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to President
66 Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan) through the Taipei
67 Economic and Cultural Office in New York.

GAE *Joint Favorable*