
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM AND THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT
PROGRAMS TO INCREASE VISITORS FROM TAIWAN, AND REQUESTING
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO EXPAND THE VISA
WAIVER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE TAIWAN.

1 WHEREAS, in 2007, 587,000 visitors from Taiwan arrived in
2 the United States, representing just 6.5 percent of the total
3 outbound travelers from Taiwan; and
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5 WHEREAS, this figure was a decline from 6.8 percent in
6 2006, and is a ten percent decline from the number of travelers
7 from Taiwan to the United States in 2005; and
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9 WHEREAS, the number of Taiwanese visiting Hawaii in 2006
10 was approximately 15,450 visitors, not a significant percentage
11 of all visitors to Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the data indicates that the Taiwan visitor market
14 is a huge potential source of tourists to Hawaii; and
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16 WHEREAS, promotion of diversification of Hawaii's tourism
17 markets is a logical and important public policy goal that helps
18 to mitigate the adverse impacts of a volatile tourism industry;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, Hawaii needs to be promoted in Taiwan as a tourism
22 destination to increase the number of visitors from Taiwan,
23 which coincidentally share many of the ethnic and cultural
24 traits of Hawaii residents; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Visa Waiver Program of the United States
27 allows citizens of certain countries to travel to the United
28 States for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days
29 without having to obtain a visa, with all participating
30 countries being developed countries; and



1 WHEREAS, Taiwan, though developed, is not a participant in
2 the Visa Waiver Program; and

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4 WHEREAS, the federal Secure Travel and Counterterrorism
5 Partnership Act of 2007, Public Law 110-53, directs the
6 Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to
7 expand visa waivers to qualifying countries; and

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9 WHEREAS, a visa waiver may be granted to a country if:

- 10
11 (1) The country meets all security requirements of the
12 Act;
- 13
14 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the
15 totality of the country's security risk mitigation
16 measures provide assurance that the country's
17 participation in the program would not compromise the
18 law enforcement, security interests, or enforcement of
19 the immigration laws of the United States;
- 20
21 (3) There has been a sustained reduction in the rate of
22 refusals for nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the
23 country and conditions exist to continue such
24 reduction;
- 25
26 (4) The country cooperated with the government of the
27 United States on counterterrorism initiatives,
28 information sharing, and preventing terrorist travel
29 before the date of its designation as a program
30 country, and the Secretary of Homeland Security and
31 the Secretary of State expect such cooperation will
32 continue; and
- 33
34 (5) The rate of refusals for nonimmigrant visitor visas
35 for nationals of the country during the previous full
36 fiscal year was not more than ten percent or the visa
37 overstay rate for the country for the previous full
38 fiscal year has not exceeded the maximum established
39 visa overstay rate;

40
41 and

42
43 WHEREAS, Taiwan meets each of the foregoing requirements;
44 now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii
5 Tourism Authority are requested to implement programs to
6 increase the number of visitors from Taiwan to the maximum
7 extent possible; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southern Taiwan visa office
10 is requested to find ways to allow people to receive visas
11 without having to travel to Northern Taiwan; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Citizenship
14 and Immigration Services and the United States Department of
15 Homeland Security are requested to add Taiwan to the list of
16 visa waivers; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
19 Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii Tourism
20 Authority are requested to assist and cooperate with the United
21 States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United
22 States Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the
23 inclusion of Taiwan on the visa waiver list; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
26 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to develop a list
27 of Hawaii-made products appropriate for exportation to Taiwan;
28 and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of
32 Homeland Security, Secretary of the State Department, Director
33 General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Governor of
34 the State of Hawaii, Director of Business, Economic Development,
35 and Tourism, Executive Director of the Hawaii Tourism Authority,
36 and each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

