
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO WORK WITH 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 represented a decrease from the 6.8
6 percent posted in 2006, and also represents a ten percent
7 decline in the number of travelers from Taiwan to the United
8 States in 2005; and
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10 WHEREAS, the number of Taiwanese visiting Hawaii in 2006
11 was approximately 15,450 visitors, amounting to an insignificant
12 percentage of all visitors to Hawaii; and
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14 WHEREAS, data indicates that the Taiwanese visitor market,
15 a potentially large source of visitors to Hawaii, has been
16 constrained by the difficulties experienced by many Taiwanese in
17 obtaining travel visas to the United States; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Visa Waiver Program of the United States
20 allows citizens of certain countries to travel to the United
21 States for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days
22 without having to obtain a visa, with all participating
23 countries being developed countries; and
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25 WHEREAS, Taiwan, though developed, is not a participant in
26 the Visa Waiver Program; and
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28 WHEREAS, the federal Secure Travel and Counterterrorism
29 Partnership Act of 2007, Public Law 110-53 (Act), directs the
30 Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to
31 expand visa waivers to qualifying countries; and



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

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

32
33 and

34
35 WHEREAS, Taiwan meets each of the foregoing requirements;
36 now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
41 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
42 assist and cooperate with United States Citizenship and
43 Immigration Services and the United States Department of



1 Homeland Security to facilitate the inclusion of Taiwan on the
2 visa waiver list; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southern Taiwan visa office
5 is requested to find ways to allow people to receive visas
6 without having to travel to Northern Taiwan; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United States Citizenship and
9 Immigration Services and the United States Department of
10 Homeland Security are requested to add Taiwan to the list of
11 visa waivers; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
15 Secretary of Homeland Security, United States Secretary of
16 State, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural
17 Office, Governor of the State of Hawaii, Director of Business,
18 Economic Development, and Tourism, and each member of Hawaii's
19 Congressional Delegation.

