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1 House Resolution 2 A resolution expressing appreciation for the sister 3 state relationship and bilateral economic and cultural ties between the State of Florida and Taiwan. 4 5 6 WHEREAS, April 10, 2021, marks the 42nd anniversary of the 7 enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, which codified in law the 8 basis for continued commercial and cultural relations between 9 the people of the United States and Taiwan, and 10 WHEREAS, since November 1, 2012, Taiwan has been a member 11 of the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which makes two-12 way travel for business and tourism more convenient, reflecting 13 the cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, and 14 WHEREAS, the launch of FORMOSAT-7/COSMIC-2 on June 25, 2019, a joint United States-Taiwan collaborative space mission 15 of a constellation of six satellites designed to enhance the 16 17 accuracy of atmospheric weather prediction, has demonstrated the 18 mutual benefit born of the relations between this country and 19 Taiwan, and WHEREAS, the first female president of Taiwan, elected in 20 21 2016 and reelected for a second term on January 11, 2020, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen was welcomed to the State of Florida in June of 22 23 2016, as were Speaker of Tainan City Council Kuo Hsin-liang and his delegation in February of 2020, further enhancing the 24 25 bilateral relationship between Taiwan and this state, as well as

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26 strengthening the common values Taiwan shares with this country, 27 and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan participates in international 29 organizations, including its bid for observer status in the 30 International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); its 31 involvement with the World Health Assembly (WHA), the 32 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United 33 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and its membership status in both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 34 35 (APEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and participates, 36 observes, and cooperates with over 50 international

37 organizations in total, and

38 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading 39 partner as of November 2020 and the State of Florida's sixth 40 largest trading partner in Asia, and

WHEREAS, several sisterhood relations exist between the State of Florida and Taiwan, including the sister relationships between Miami-Dade County and New Taipei City, formerly Taipei County; the Port of Miami and the Port of Kaohsiung; the City of Orlando and Tainan City; the City of Fort Lauderdale, the City of Miami, and the City of Pensacola and Kaohsiung City; and the City of Sunny Isles Beach and Hengchun Township, and

WHEREAS, to assist the State of Florida in its fight against the virus causing COVID-19, Taiwan has donated to the state and its local governments over 420,000 medical masks,

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51 demonstrating Taiwan's commitment to helping its international 52 partners in need, NOW, THEREFORE,

54 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of 55 Florida:

57 That the House of Representatives expresses its
58 appreciation for the sister state relationship between Florida
59 and Taiwan.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be 61 transmitted to President Tsai Ing-wen through the Taipei 62 Economic and Cultural Office in Miami and to the Executive 63 Office of the Governor as a tangible token of the sentiments 64 expressed herein.