

RESOLUTION ON TAIWAN

2000 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Matt Throckmorton

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE CITIZENS OF TAIWAN FOR LOSSES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, 1999 EARTHQUAKE; URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN; URGING THE PRESIDENT TO SEEK A PUBLIC RENUNCIATION FROM CHINA OF ANY POTENTIAL USE OF FORCE BY CHINA AGAINST TAIWAN; AND AFFIRMING THAT TAIWAN'S FUTURE SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, on the morning of September 21, 1999, a devastating earthquake shook the counties of Nantou and Taichung, Taiwan, killing more than 2,000 people, injuring more than 7,800, and leaving more than 100,000 homeless;

WHEREAS, the earthquake has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused widespread damage, and destroyed highways and other infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the strength, courage, and determination of the people of Taiwan has been displayed since the earthquake;

WHEREAS, during Taiwan's last presidential election in 1996, the People's Republic of China held provocative military maneuvers, including missile launch exercises in the Taiwan Strait, in an attempt to intimidate the people of Taiwan;

WHEREAS, Taiwan will hold another presidential election on March 18, 2000;

WHEREAS, the state of Utah and the province of Taiwan have been sister states since 1986, and the people of Utah and Taiwan share strong friendship and mutual interests and respect;

WHEREAS, Taiwan has achieved significant political and economic strength as one of the world's premier democracies and as the 19th largest economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the seventh largest trade partner of the United States:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah expresses its deepest sympathies to the citizens of Taiwan for the tragic losses suffered from the

earthquake of September 21, 1999, expresses its support for the people of Taiwan as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities, and recognizes and encourages the assistance provided by the state of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the President and Congress to provide means to assist the people of Taiwan to rebuild their nation and hold a free and democratic presidential election in a peaceful and secure environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the President to seek a public renunciation from the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat of force, against the people of Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms its expectation, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, that the future status of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means and that the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should determine their own future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature considers any effort to manipulate or influence the future status of Taiwan by other than peaceful means a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific region and of grave concern to the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the long-standing commitment of the United States, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, to safeguard the security of Taiwan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be presented to the delegation from Taiwan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.