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**TAIWAN CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Eric K. Hutchings**

Senate Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the Obama Administration to support Taiwan's inclusion in the United States' Visa Waiver Program and its meaningful participation in the United Nations.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the Obama Administration to support Taiwan's inclusion in the United States' Visa Waiver Program and its meaningful participation in the United Nation's specialized agencies, program, and convention; and
- ▶ expresses congratulations to President Ma Ying-jeou on the centennial year of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its achievements.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, 97 countries worldwide have granted visa waiver privileges to Taiwanese passport holders, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Japan, Ireland, Canada, and the European Union;

WHEREAS, as the first European country to grant visa-free privileges to Taiwan in 2009, Britain has seen the number of Taiwanese visitors increase 106% and bilateral trade has



28 also grown by up to 30%;

29 WHEREAS, the European Union will see at least a 30% increase in Taiwanese visitors  
30 with its visa exemption that took effect on January 11, 2011;

31 WHEREAS, the United States is an important destination for Taiwanese who travel  
32 overseas either for tourism or for business purposes, resulting in the United States being  
33 Taiwan's ninth largest trade partner;

34 WHEREAS, United States' passport holders are granted 30-day visa-free stays in  
35 Taiwan;

36 WHEREAS, with its reliable administrative system, Taiwan is able to issue a high  
37 quality "chip passport" and will shortly implement a new policy requiring in-person passport  
38 application submission, further preventing passport tampering and forgery;

39 WHEREAS, Taiwan's latest visa refusal rate for the fiscal year 2010 was 2.2%, much  
40 lower than the required 3% stipulated by the United States' Visa Waiver Program;

41 WHEREAS, with Taiwan joining the United States' Visa Waiver Program, the number  
42 of visitors to the United States for both sightseeing and business purposes is expected to  
43 increase dramatically;

44 WHEREAS, in May 2009, Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization raised  
45 the possibility that Taiwan would have meaningful involvement in other United Nations  
46 agencies, program, and convention;

47 WHEREAS, in 2009, the Airports Council International ranked Taiwan's Taoyuan  
48 International Airport as the world's eighth largest by international cargo volume and 18th  
49 largest by number of international passengers;

50 WHEREAS, exclusion from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
51 since 1971 has impeded the Government of Taiwan's efforts to comport with evolving  
52 international standards, resulting in an inability to contact the ICAO for up-to-date information  
53 on aviation standards and norms in a timely manner;

54 WHEREAS, Taiwan's exclusion from the ICAO has prevented the ICAO from  
55 developing a truly global strategy to address security threats based on international cooperation;

56 WHEREAS, 2011 marks the Republic of China's centennial year;

57 WHEREAS, Dr. Sun Yat-sen overthrew the Qing Court and founded the Republic of  
58 China, the first republic in Asia, in 1912 as a democratic republic "of the people, to be

59 governed by the people and for the people," grounding his Three Principles of the People on  
60 ideas shared between Americans and Taiwanese;

61 WHEREAS, at the end of World War II, the Republic of China played a pivotal role in  
62 restoring world order as a founding member of the United Nations;

63 WHEREAS, the Republic of China contributed to drafting the Universal Declaration of  
64 Human Rights, infusing Confucianism into the document;

65 WHEREAS, over the past six decades, the Republic of China's government has  
66 implemented reforms that have made Taiwan a paragon of political and economic progress for  
67 developing nations around the world and have dispelled the myth that democracy is unsuitable  
68 for a Chinese society; and

69 WHEREAS, as a member of the international community, Taiwan is more than willing  
70 to take on its responsibilities as a peacemaker, a provider of humanitarian aid, a promoter of  
71 cultural ties, and a creator of new technologies and business opportunities:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
73 Governor concurring therein, urge the Obama Administration to support Taiwan's inclusion in  
74 the United States' Visa Waiver Program and its meaningful participation in the United Nation's  
75 specialized agencies, program, and convention.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor offer their  
77 congratulations to President Ma Ying-jeou on the centennial year of the founding of the  
78 Republic of China (Taiwan) and its achievements.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Taiwan  
80 Embassy in the United States and to President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-7-11 2:37 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

# FISCAL NOTE

H.C.R. 10

SHORT TITLE: **Taiwan Concurrent Resolution**

SPONSOR: **Hutchings, E.**

2011 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH

STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this bill likely will not materially impact the state budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs for local governments.

DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.

2/14/2011, 11:52 AM, Lead Analyst: Bleazard, M./Attorney: JLW

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst