

RESOLUTION NO. 1927

BILL NO. 36-0297

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2026

A resolution petitioning the United States Congress to express its support for and solidarity with Taiwan in its quest for meaningful participation in international organizations

---0---

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands recognizes Taiwan's advancement of the basic human rights of life, liberty, and security, and contributions as close strategic partner to the United States in East Asia with dynamic progress towards the promotion of education, humanitarian aid, healthcare, and technological innovation;

WHEREAS, a delegation from the Virgin Islands, led by Governor Albert Bryan, Jr., visited Taiwan in March 2023 to understand the development of Taiwan's technology, shipping, and tourism industries, while simultaneously advancing strategic cooperation and collaboration in critical sectors between Taiwan and the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, the concurrent celebrations of Taiwan's 30th year since its first direct presidential election and the United States of America's 250th year of independence in 2026, further embodies the shared-value diplomacy partnership between Taiwan and the United States;

WHEREAS, the administration of Taiwan continued with its signature Integrated Diplomacy proposed by President Lai Ching-te, demonstrating that Taiwan is a pivotal force for stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region;

WHEREAS, Taiwan's international undersea cables recently have faced repeated damage and disruption amid rising geopolitical tensions, raising concerns about efforts to cut off Taiwan's external communications and threaten the stability of the international digital network;

WHEREAS, the Foreign Minister of Taiwan, Dr. Lin Chia-Lung, proposed the RISK Management Initiative on International Undersea Cables, underscoring Taiwan's determination to work with the international community to ensure collective cybersecurity;

WHEREAS, the United States strongly condemned China for missing the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 in its attempt to isolate Taiwan in April 2025, and reiterated that Resolution 2758 did not preclude Taiwan's participation in the United Nations system or other multilateral fora;

WHEREAS, Taiwan seeks meaningful participation in international organizations, including the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while also maintaining its membership status in both the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the World Trade Organization, as well as participating, observing, and cooperating with more than 50 additional international organizations as reported by Taiwan's government;

WHEREAS, the economic bonds between the United States and Taiwan continues to flourish, embodied by the renewal of the Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue Memorandum of Understanding for an additional five years, and the reintroduction and passage of the United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act in January 2025 in the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, Taiwan's vibrant economy and its emphasis on innovation, international trade, and entrepreneurship align with the dynamic economic landscape of the Virgin Islands. Both Taiwan and the Virgin Islands value and celebrate cultural diversity, with their multicultural populations contributing to a rich tapestry of languages, cuisines, and traditions;

WHEREAS, the South Shore Trade Zone on St. Croix is a Jones Act exempt jurisdiction in the United States designed and built for trans-shipment;

WHEREAS, in light of the new global geopolitical and economic tariff market conditions and environment, the South Shore Trade Zone plays a critical role in fostering and mitigating the high cost of manufacturing, assembling/packaging, and warehousing storage in St. Croix, for foreign and international companies to do business with and in the United States;

WHEREAS, any foreign parts, goods, or commodities partially manufactured in the Virgin Islands are considered made in the United States with duties ranging from zero to no more than six percent;

WHEREAS, the South Shore Trade Zone has emerged as a key nearshoring hub for foreign companies doing business in the United States to couple its supply chain;

WHEREAS, establishing a South Shore Trade Zone office in Taipei, Taiwan, facilitates a more robust conduit for greater cooperation for economic collaborative exchange between Taiwan and the Virgin Islands in the Indo-Pacific region;

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands joins in support of efforts to encourage the development of better economic and cultural ties between the public and private sectors of the Virgin Islands and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands hereby expresses its support for and in solidarity with Taiwan in its quest for meaningful participation in international organizations; Now, Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands urges the United States Congress to express its support for and solidarity with Taiwan in its quest for meaningful participation in international organizations.

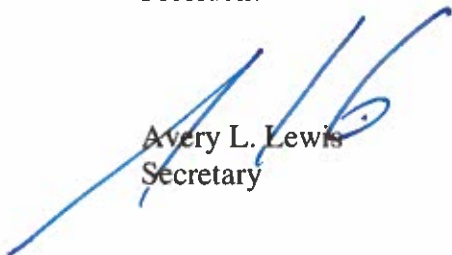
(b) A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami, Florida.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on May 28, 2026.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 29th day of May, A.D., 2026.



Milton E. Potter
President



Avery L. Lewis
Secretary