

BY: M. of A. Ramos

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 23, 2023, as Taiwan Heritage Day in the State of
New York

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share common values and a clear vision for the 21st Century, where freedom and democracy serve as the foundation for peace, prosperity, and progress; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the U.S. and Taiwan; thereafter, the TRA and Six Assurances have served as the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations and helped preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

WHEREAS, Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is crucial to the maintenance of a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific, and its importance has been highlighted in recent global events such as the QUAD, U.S.-Japan, U.S.-Korea, U.S.-EU, G7, NATO, and EAS summits; moreover, Taiwan is an indispensable partner in safeguarding peace and stability in the region; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Taiwan share a close, long-term economic relationship, including \$135.5 billion in bilateral trade in 2022, making Taiwan the 9th largest trading partner of the United States; and it is encouraged for the U.S. and Taiwan to further strengthen their bilateral trade and investment relationship by signing an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) and a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA); and

WHEREAS, The United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) will help bolster the economic potential of the region by defining shared trade objectives among partners and addressing standards for technology, supply chains, the digital economy, and clean energy; Taiwan supports this initiative and wishes to become a full member of IPEF; and

WHEREAS, The U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade is intended to develop concrete ways to deepen the economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovative and inclusive economic growth for our workers and businesses, including through new trade agreements; and

WHEREAS, The United States-Taiwan Education Initiative was launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation on international education and highlight Taiwan's ability to provide Mandarin language instruction, and given Mandarin's designation as a critical language for maintaining national security by the United States as well as Taiwan's plans to be bilingual by 2030, schools and institutes of higher education in both

New York and Taiwan are encouraged to enhance their exchanges; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a trustworthy partner in mitigating the impact of natural disasters by providing disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and medical assistance, and it is encouraged to establish a partnership between the New York National Guard and Taiwan under the State Partnership Program in order to facilitate cooperation on training preparedness and response strategies to future crises; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's inclusion in the United States' Visa Waiver Program and Global Entry, and the reciprocal travel facilitation enjoyed by U.S. citizens when visiting Taiwan, allow Taiwan and the United States to develop closer relations, and establishing a preclearance program in Taiwan will further strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations through additional trade, tourism, and business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and it will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York exported \$1.41 billion worth of products to Taiwan in 2022, making it New York's 18th largest foreign market, and bilateral trade and investment have created over 10,000 jobs in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Many of the United States' top 500 companies headquartered in New York have invested in Taiwan, while more than 300 Taiwanese companies have invested in the State of New York, contributing to a mutually beneficial relationship; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition pacts with 36 U.S. states since 2013, and almost 20,000 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of these pacts; were Taiwan and the State of New York to enter into a driver's license reciprocity agreement with each other, this would help increase the mobility of international students, businessmen, and academics from both sides; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to a thriving overseas ethnic Chinese community that supports the Republic of China (Taiwan), including organizations such as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Taiwan Center, the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc.; these organizations devote themselves to the harmony and development of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 23, 2023, as Taiwan Heritage Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

James K. J. Lee, Ambassador of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
in New York.