

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON
SENATE DISTRICT G

Sponsor Statement: Senate Joint Resolution 8

International Relations with Taiwan

Senate Joint Resolution 8 reaffirms Alaska's commitment to strengthening its relationship with Taiwan and recognizes the deep economic, cultural, and educational ties between our state and this vital international partner.

Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a strong partnership built on shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Taiwan is a key economic partner for both the nation and the state of Alaska, ranking as our eighth-largest export market in 2023 and our fourth-largest market in Asia. This resolution highlights the importance of expanding trade relations, particularly in Alaska's seafood industry, which benefits from Taiwan's status as a major consumer of high-quality seafood products.

Additionally, Alaska and Taiwan share a long history of cultural and educational exchanges, including sister-city partnerships between Fairbanks and Tainan City, Juneau and Chiayi City, and Anchorage and Taipei City. Reestablishing an Alaska Trade Office in Taiwan would further bolster these connections, enhance economic opportunities, and create a foundation for greater collaboration in technology, education, and tourism.

SJR 8 also supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations that promote global trade, health, and security, in alignment with the United States' longstanding support for Taiwan's presence in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and other key institutions.

By passing this resolution, Alaska can reaffirm its dedication to fostering a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with Taiwan, supporting economic growth, cultural exchange, and international cooperation.

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