

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND TOURISM**

Introduced: 4/22/04

Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Sending a message of goodwill to President Chen Shui-bian, and reaffirming the Alaska**
2 **State Legislature's 2003 resolution urging the United States Congress to support the**
3 **granting of official Observer Status to the Republic of China and to support negotiation**
4 **of a free trade agreement with the Republic of China.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** President Chen Shui-bian has been reelected as President of the Republic
7 of China; and

8 **WHEREAS** Legislative Resolve No. 29, passed by the Alaska State Legislature in the
9 First Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Legislature, continues to reflect the view of the
10 legislature; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States, including the State of Alaska, and the Republic of
12 China, in Taiwan, have long been valued and close partners in trade and cultural exchanges;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** the Republic of China is the eighth largest trading partner of the United
15 States and is a significant trading partner of the State of Alaska; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Republic of China is showing signs of significant potential for
2 increasing trade with the United States and the State of Alaska as the world economy
3 continues to recover from recession; and

4 **WHEREAS** free trade among the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the
5 United States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

6 **WHEREAS** the importance of free trade is strongly acknowledged in Alaska, the
7 Municipality of Anchorage and the City of Taipei having signed a Partner Cities Agreement
8 to encourage trade and cultural exchange; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States and the Republic of China have, for decades, been
10 willing signers of mutual defense treaties; and

11 **WHEREAS** the health of the peoples of the world is of vital importance to the United
12 States, including the citizens of Alaska, and to the Republic of China; and

13 **WHEREAS** the people of the United States and the Republic of China have
14 generously contributed to programs that benefit the health of the peoples of the world; and

15 **WHEREAS** it would be mutually beneficial to the people of the United States,
16 including Alaska, and the people of the Republic of China to both assist and realize a
17 continuation of international efforts the goal of which is to expand and further develop health-
18 related knowledge; and

19 **WHEREAS** today there is a strong need for the rapid and complete international
20 dissemination of health-medical information and research results in view of the recent
21 outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), considered to be a worldwide
22 health threat;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature continues to encourage the
24 United States Congress to authorize the United States to endorse the request by the Republic
25 of China to be granted official Observer Status at the World Health Organization; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature again urges the United
27 States Congress to encourage the administration of President George W. Bush to negotiate a
28 free trade agreement with the Republic of China; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature sends a message of
30 goodwill to President Chen Shui-bian regarding his reelection and reaffirming the State of
31 Alaska's relationship with the Republic of China.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, President of
2 the Republic of China; the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the
3 Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Tommy Thompson,
4 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the World Health Assembly; the
5 World Health Organization; Jack K. C. Chiang, Director General, Taipei Economic and
6 Cultural Office, 2001 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2410, Seattle, WA 98121; and to the Honorable
7 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
8 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.