

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

20th. Legislative
Assembly

3rd. Regular
Session

SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

S. R. 480

April 7, 2026

Introduced by Mr. *Ríos Santiago* (By Petition)

RESOLUTION

To express the Senate of Puerto Rico's recognition of Puerto Rico's cooperative relationship with Taiwan and exhort the Government to strengthen the bilateral economic ties by promoting and expanding trading relations in 2026.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Taiwan Relations Act, enacted in 1979, provided the legal basis for the continuation of commercial and cultural relations between the people of the United States and Taiwan. Since then, Taiwan has played a key role in the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region, which has been strengthened by Lai Ching-te's Integrated Diplomacy policy.

The economic ties between the two countries keep getting stronger. The implementation of the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act in August 2023, followed by the signing of the United States-Taiwan Agreement on Reciprocal Trade in February 2026, attest to this dynamism. Taiwan is the United States' fifth-largest trading partner and Puerto Rico's sixth-largest bilateral goods trading partner in the Asia-Pacific region. Taiwan's economy, driven by the increasing global demand for high-performance

computing and artificial intelligence, experienced a Gross Domestic Product growth rate of over eight percent (8%) in 2025.

This boom has prompted several U.S. state governments to send high-level trade delegations to Taiwan to explore opportunities for advanced technological and industrial cooperation and to open overseas offices to strengthen bilateral communication and collaboration.

In addition to being a strategic economic partner, Taiwan has proven to be a solidary ally in difficult times. In 2018, the Government of Taiwan donated more than \$10,000 through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami (TECO, in Miami) to the “Unidos por Puerto Rico” relief fund to aid the relief efforts in the wake of catastrophic hurricanes Irma and Maria. Years later, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Taiwan donated 30,000 surgical masks to Puerto Rico to support the frontline healthcare workers fighting this virus.

Puerto Rico offers unique conditions for reshoring: a highly skilled workforce, competitive financial incentives, a solid infrastructure, and privileged access to the United States and Latin American markets. Its renowned manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors has attracted new investments, including a Taiwanese pharmaceutical company, which shall establish its operations in Puerto Rico this year.

Taiwan and Puerto Rico’s partnership has grown stronger since the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami opened in 1988. This relationship has always been appreciated, and we shall continue to foster them with a steadfast commitment to strengthen the economic and cultural ties between both peoples.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE PUERTO RICO:

1 Section 1.- We hereby recognize the existing cooperation with Taiwan and
2 exhort the Government to strengthen the bilateral economic ties by promoting and
3 expanding trading relations in 2026.

4 Section 2.- It is hereby provided that a copy of this Resolution, in both
5 Spanish and English, be delivered to President Lai Ching-te, through the Secretary
6 of this High Body, as an expression of the Senate of Puerto Rico's recognition of
7 the strong friendship between Puerto Rico and Taiwan.

8 Section 3.- This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.