

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

**STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA  
CHAIRMAN**

**before the  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Markup of H. Con. Res. 55, recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Taiwan Relations Act**

**March 19, 2009**

This legislation recognizes the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) which was enacted in 1979 following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and I commend Ms. Berkley of Nevada, and Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen of our full Committee, for their leadership on this historic initiative.

Since 1979, U.S. policy regarding Taiwan has remained unchanged. The Joint Communiques, together with the Taiwan Relations Act, are the foundation of our One China policy, which implies, as President Reagan once said, that "the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resolve."

This is why the TRA declares that its intent is "to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland", and I believe this should continue to be our primary focus.

As President Obama said, the United States is guided by principles that demand greater cooperation and understanding between nations. Hopefully, as we look to pass this legislation, we will do so in a spirit inherent of our values and respectful of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I now yield to the Ranking Member, to explain his views on the legislation.