



2018 U.S. Advocacy Priorities

With looming trade frictions and the Trump Administration presiding in the spotlight, AmCham is strengthening its engagement in Washington DC to advocate for Hong Kong and its strategic role. We are committed to make the Chamber a strong voice for American and international businesses based in Hong Kong for Asia and the world.

Hong Kong is a Strategic American Hub

- Hong Kong is a preferred platform for U.S. businesses because of the **rule of law, free economy, open system and connectivity**.
- U.S. businesses see Hong Kong as a **strategic hub** for opportunities in Asia and the Greater China region.
- Hong Kong is an **ideal global tech and innovation center** because of its open model, freedom of speech, talent pool and world-class infrastructure and professional services.

The United States should include Hong Kong in the Visa Waiver Program as recognition of support for open and free trade and the 'Two Systems' under 'One Country.'

- Hong Kong would be a welcome addition to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program helping to facilitate commercial and business interactions, as well as boost much needed tourism to the United States.
- Inclusion of Hong Kong in the Visa Waiver Program could be accomplished one of 3 ways: (1) Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act; (2) Amend the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, or (3) Pass separate legislation to include Hong Kong in the program.

U.S. Taxation and Competitiveness Overseas

- AmCham commends the Trump Administration for passing vital tax reform, shifting to a territorial model for international taxation. This achievement strengthens the position of American business in Hong Kong.
- American citizens in Hong Kong are double taxed on income, reducing the competitiveness of American workers to be hired overseas and hindering U.S. market penetration, local influence and remittance of earned income. This has negative economic implications for the U.S., especially when American presence in Hong Kong has notable strategic implications. AmCham welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with Congress to advocate for a repeal of double taxation.



Interested in AmCham's 2018 Washington Doorknock?

Contact our Government Relations & Public Affairs (GRPA) Team:

- Agnes Tsang, GRPA Director (2530 6927 / atsang@amcham.org.hk)
- Queenie Tsui, GRPA Manager (2530 6914 / qtsui@amcham.org.hk)



U.S. - Hong Kong Relations Fast Facts

- The United States has the **single largest bilateral trade surplus** with Hong Kong at US\$28 billion in 2016. The United States is Hong Kong's second-largest trading partner after Mainland China.
- More than **1,400 U.S. firms operate in Hong Kong**. An estimated 85,000 U.S. citizens live in Hong Kong. Nearly 1.3 million U.S. citizens visited or transited Hong Kong in 2016. On average approximately 127,000 Hong Kong residents visit the United States each year.
- The United States has had a **consular presence in Hong Kong since 1843**, and U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong and Macau reports directly to the State Department in Washington, D.C. under the "one country, two systems" framework.
- **Hong Kong participates separately from Mainland China in a range of multilateral organizations and agreements**, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Financial Action Task Force, and the Financial Stability Board, with trade and economic policy objectives that generally align with the U.S.
- The United States and Hong Kong continue to have **valuable and successful law enforcement cooperation**, and U.S. law enforcement agencies maintain particularly strong relations with Hong Kong Customs authorities. The U.S. cooperates closely with Hong Kong on strategic trade control and counter-proliferation initiatives.
- Hong Kong ranks **21st** (4th on a per capita basis) as a **source of foreign students** in the United States. Hong Kong also hosts more than 1,500 American students each year.
- Hong Kong ranks **1st in per capita tourist spending in the U.S.**



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