

House Resolution 1162

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79th, Riley of the 50th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Setzler of the 35th, Jones of the 47th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan in the Southeast and
2 inviting the COUNSUL General to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Consulate General of Japan in the Southeast has strengthened the cultural,
5 political, and economic ties between Japan and Georgia and has worked to help and support
6 Japanese citizens and companies in the Southeast; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has become a model for welcoming Japanese companies to the
8 Southeast, and the region has grown to become an indispensable part of the Japanese-United
9 States relationship; and

10 WHEREAS, current trade between Japan and Georgia is nearly \$6 billion in import and
11 export trade; and

12 WHEREAS, there are 570 Japanese company affiliated offices now located in Georgia,
13 employing more than 30,000 people; and

14 WHEREAS, the Consulate General created Japan Fest in 1986 and helped grow it into the
15 largest Japanese cultural festival in the Southeast; and

16 WHEREAS, Americus, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Dublin, Elberton, Gainesville,
17 LaGrange, Macon, and Rome have sister city relationships with cities in Japan, making
18 Georgia the state with the highest number of Japanese sister cities in the Southeast, and
19 Georgia also has a sister-state relationship with Kagoshima Prefecture; and

20 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,
21 eight Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and, since

22 1987, 344 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET)
23 program.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize the 40th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan
26 in the Southeast, commend the Consulate General's efforts to strengthen cultural, political,
27 and economic ties between Japan and Georgia, and invite the Counsul General to be
28 recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time designated by the Speaker of
29 the House.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Consulate General of
32 Japan in the Southeast.