

## House Resolution 142

By: Representatives Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Brooks of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Bell of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Jordan of the 77<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Representative Keisha Waites; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Representative Keisha Waites brings a broad record of civic involvement,  
3 strong business acumen, and fresh ideas to those she serves; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Representative Waites states that her greatest accomplishment to date is  
5 authoring and sponsoring legislation during the recent 2014 legislative session that brought  
6 Georgia's State Capitol and Legislative Office buildings into full ADA compliance,  
7 equipping them with tactile and braille placards and making them fully wheelchair  
8 accessible; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a native of Atlanta, Representative Waites chose to remain in Georgia to study  
10 political science and continued her education at Georgia Southern University, Atlanta  
11 Metropolitan State College, and Georgia Perimeter College, and she holds degrees in both  
12 criminal justice and political science; and
- 13 WHEREAS, at an early age, Representative Waites displayed leadership qualities; as a  
14 college freshman, she was selected from among an international pool of candidates to attend  
15 the Walt Disney World College Business Internship Program; most recently, she was  
16 selected from a global pool of candidates and is a proud alumnus of Harvard University's  
17 Kennedy School of Government: Senior Executives in State and Local Government  
18 Leadership Program and is a 2014 David Bohnett Fellowship recipient; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Representative Waites also has extensive experience and knowledge of  
20 emergency management and homeland security at the local, state, and federal levels of  
21 government; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2005 Representative Waites was tapped to travel to New Orleans and  
23 participated in the Long-Term Recovery Response and Operations for Hurricanes Katrina  
24 and Rita; and

25 WHEREAS, she helped to coordinate disaster assistance for evacuees from the coastal  
26 communities who fled to neighboring states and gained hands-on experience of FEMA's  
27 programs, response and recovery operations, and technical expertise to make  
28 recommendations and improve the capacity to build disaster resilient communities; and

29 WHEREAS, Representative Waites has served in numerous leadership positions within the  
30 Legislative and External Affairs Division, including Congressional Affairs Officer,  
31 Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, Community Relations, and Long-Term Recovery with  
32 FEMA supporting the eight Southeastern states and continental United States, and also  
33 served as a liaison to Members of Congress during numerous large-scale, presidential  
34 declared federal disasters and international incidents, including Hurricane Sandy, BP Oil  
35 Spill, Haiti Earthquake, H1N1 Pandemic, Hurricane Ike, and Hurricane Katrina, giving her  
36 a proven background in crisis management and problem solving; and

37 WHEREAS, in 2010 following the Haiti Earthquake, Representative Waites was selected by  
38 FEMA Headquarters to travel to Washington, D.C., to assist USAID's External Affairs and  
39 Public Affairs Team, where she worked on-site to disseminate information to Members of  
40 Congress and the FEMA Emergency Response Team deployed to help coordinate  
41 international United States response and recovery assistance; and

42 WHEREAS, Representative Waites also has served on numerous committees, task forces,  
43 advisory councils, and civic based organizations.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
45 the members of this body commend Representative Keisha Waites for her outstanding  
46 service to the State of Georgia.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
49 Representative Keisha Waites.