

Senate Resolution 293

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Watson of the 1st, Jackson of the 2nd, Hill of the 4th,
Cowsert of the 46th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Georgia's first state historical song, known worldwide as "Kumbaya"; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Library of Congress has documented American folk songs throughout the
4 nation's history; and

5 WHEREAS, the first director of the Archive of American Folk-Song at the Library of
6 Congress, Robert Winslow Gordon, pioneered early efforts to record folk songs by
7 transporting his heavy wax cylinder recorder by rail, car, horse, and boat to remote regions
8 of the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Gordon traveled to Darien and the Sea Islands of Georgia in 1926 to record
10 numerous folk songs in the Gullah Dialect, also known as the Sea Islands Creole Dialect; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. H. Wylie, an African American of Gullah-Geechee heritage, gave
12 permission for him to record the spiritual folk song "Come by Here"; and

13 WHEREAS, the Library of Congress states that this is the first known recording of "Come
14 by Here," a song that came to be known as "Kumbaya"; and

15 WHEREAS, "Kumbaya," first recorded in Georgia, has become a song with national
16 significance in American culture.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
18 recognize this historical song of Georgia and its significance to our state and to the
19 Gullah-Geechee culture.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
21 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the mayor of
22 Darien, the McIntosh County Commission, and the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.