

## House Resolution 1251

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 130<sup>th</sup>, Beskin of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the long and steady friendship between Georgia and Japan shown by the 45th  
2 anniversary of the Office of the State of Georgia in Japan; and for other purposes.

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

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

9 WHEREAS, current trade between Japan and Georgia is nearly \$12.1 billion in import and  
10 export trade; and

11 WHEREAS, there are 638 Japanese company affiliated offices now located in Georgia,  
12 employing more than 38,000 people; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,  
20 eight Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and, since  
21 1987, 344 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET)  
22 program.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 the members of this body recognize the 45th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan  
25 in the Southeast and commend the Consulate General's efforts to strengthen cultural,  
26 political, and economic ties between Japan and Georgia.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
28 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
29 Consulate General of Japan in the Southeast.