

House Resolution 947

By: Representatives Mathiak of the 73rd, Knight of the 130th, Bonner of the 72nd, Silcox of the 52nd, Reeves of the 34th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the long and steady friendship between Georgia and Japan as shown by the 46th
- 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, the 52nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan Association was
- 10 held in Savannah, Georgia, in October 2019; and
- 11 WHEREAS, current trade between Japan and Georgia is nearly \$12.1 billion in import and
- 12 export trade; and
- 13 WHEREAS, there are 650 Japanese company affiliated offices now located in Georgia,
- 14 employing more than 40,000 people; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Consulate General created Japan Fest in 1986 and helped grow it into the
- 16 largest Japanese cultural festival in the Southeast; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the 2020 Summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo, Japan; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Americus, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Dublin, Elberton, Gainesville,
- 19 LaGrange, Macon, and Rome have sister-city relationships with cities in Japan, making
- 20 Georgia the state with the highest number of Japanese sister cities in the Southeast; Georgia
- 21 also has a sister-state relationship with Kagoshima Prefecture; and

22 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,
23 eight Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and, since
24 1987, 350 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET)
25 program.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize the 46th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan
28 in the Southeast and commend the Consulate General's efforts to strengthen cultural,
29 political, and economic ties between Japan and Georgia.

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