

Senate Resolution 438

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Harrell of the 40th, Brass of the 28th, Parent of the 42nd, Gooch of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta; and for other
2 purposes.

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

6 WHEREAS, a long and steady friendship has grown between Georgia and Japan, as shown
7 by the establishment of the Office of the State of Georgia in Japan 50 years ago; and

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

11 WHEREAS, the Japanese community has thrived together with all other communities to
12 make Georgia greater; and

13 WHEREAS, current trade between Georgia and Japan is \$9.76 billion in import and export
14 trade; and

15 WHEREAS, there are 885 Japan affiliated offices now located in Georgia, employing 49,344
16 people; and

17 WHEREAS, the consulate-general created Japan Fest in 1986 and helped grow it into the
18 largest Japanese cultural festival in the Southeast; and

19 WHEREAS, the 2020 Summer Olympics were held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2021 due to
20 COVID-19; and

21 WHEREAS, Americus, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Dublin, Gainesville, Macon, and Rome
22 have sister-city relationships with cities in Japan, making Georgia the state with the highest
23 number of Japanese sister cities in the Southeast; the State of Georgia has a sister-state
24 relationship with the Kagoshima Prefecture; and the Port of Savannah has a sister-port
25 relationship with the Port of Shimizu; and

26 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,
27 13 Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and since 1987,
28 545 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) program;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, more than 25 members of the Georgia General Assembly and other Georgia
31 officials were hosted in the autumn of 2019 on trips to Japan to meet with Japanese
32 government, business, and cultural officials in order to promote a deeper understanding and
33 to cement ties between Japan and Georgia.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize the 50th anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta and the long and

36 steady friendship between this state and Japan and commend the efforts of the
37 Consulate-General to strengthen cultural, educational, political, and economic ties between
38 Georgia and Japan.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta.