

House Resolution 1277

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Neal of the 79th, Bonner of the 73rd, Kelley of the 16th, Paris of the 142nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 52nd anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta; and for
2 other 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 53 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 \$8.33 billion in import and export
14 trade; and

15 WHEREAS, there are more than 700 Japan affiliated offices now located in Georgia,
16 employing 40,000 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, Americus, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Dublin, Macon, and Rome have
20 sister-city relationships with cities in Japan, making Georgia the state with the highest
21 number of Japanese sister cities in the Southeast, and this state also has a sister-state
22 relationship with Kagoshima Prefecture; and the Port of Savannah has a sister-port
23 relationship with the Port of Shimizu; and

24 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,
25 thirteen Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and from
26 1987-2025, 590 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching
27 (JET) program; and

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

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize the 52nd anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan
34 in Atlanta and the long and steady friendship between this state and Japan and commend the
35 efforts of the Consulate-General to strengthen cultural, educational, political, and economic
36 ties between Georgia and Japan.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta.