

Senate Resolution 16

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Harrell of the 40th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Beach of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 49th 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 49 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 nearly \$8 billion in import and
14 export trade; and

15 WHEREAS, there are nearly 660 Japan affiliated offices now located in Georgia, employing
16 more than 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, the 2020 Summer Olympics were held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2021; and

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

24 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Georgia public school students are studying the Japanese language,
25 eight Georgia institutes of higher education have Japanese language programs, and since
26 1987, 534 Georgians have participated in Japan's Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET)
27 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 SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize the 49th anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta and the long and
34 steady friendship between this state and Japan and commend the efforts of the

35 Consulate-General to strengthen cultural, educational, political, and economic ties between
36 Georgia and Japan.

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