

## Senate Resolution 541

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Miller of the 49th, Jordan of the 6th, Gooch of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd 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 SENATE that the members of this body  
27 recognize the 46th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan in the Southeast and  
28 commend the Consulate General's efforts to strengthen cultural, political, and economic ties  
29 between Japan and Georgia.

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