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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. -- JAPAN TREATY OF PEACE
AND AMITY

Introduced By: Senator Linda L. Ujifusa

Date Introduced: May 30, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized as Asian American and Pacific Islander
2 (AAPI) Heritage Month in the United States, and is a time to recognize and celebrate the
3 contributions, achievements, and cultural heritage of AAPI throughout our nation's history; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island and Japan share a rich history of cultural
5 exchange, cooperation, and friendship; and

6 WHEREAS, The first official diplomatic contact between Japan and the United States
7 took place in 1853, when Commodore Matthew Perry, born in South Kingstown, led an
8 expedition of "Black Ships" to Japan under orders from President Millard Fillmore; and

9 WHEREAS, The Perry expedition eventually led to the signing of the Treaty of Peace
10 and Amity between the United States and Japan in 1854, which marked the beginning of formal
11 diplomatic relations between the two countries and paved the way for increased interaction and
12 trade; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, Japan is the United States' fourth largest trading partner, and for the
14 last four years, Japan has been the number one investor in the United States, and the United States
15 has been the number one investor in Japan; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, the relationship between the United States and Japan is marked by
17 mutual respect, admiration, and a commitment to promoting peace, understanding, and
18 collaboration; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island and Japan have established numerous partnerships in various

1 fields including commerce, education, technology, arts, and culture; and

2 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island-Japan connection is further strengthened by the presence
3 of Japanese companies investing in Rhode Island and contributing to the State's economic
4 vitality, as well as by Rhode Island-based businesses engaging in trade with Japan, promoting
5 global commerce and innovation; and

6 WHEREAS, Educational and cultural exchanges between Rhode Island and Japan have
7 provided invaluable opportunities for students, scholars, artists, and professionals to learn from
8 one another, share experiences, and build lifelong connections, thereby enhancing cross-cultural
9 understanding and fostering global citizenship; and

10 WHEREAS, Through festivities such as the annual Black Ships Festival by the Japan-
11 America Society of Rhode Island and the Cherry Blossom Princess Crowning Ceremony by the
12 Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Rhode Islanders continue to promote an appreciation of
13 Japanese culture and a warm friendship with Japan; and

14 WHEREAS, In Japan, tens of thousands of people continue to attend an annual Black
15 Ships Festival in Shimoda, a sister city with Newport, and a Perry Festival in Yokosuka,
16 celebrating connections with Commodore Perry and the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The Naval War College in Newport and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense
18 Force work closely together to promote national security and regional stability through shared
19 resources, strategies, and commitments; and

20 WHEREAS In April of 2024, President Joe Biden hosted Japanese Prime Minister
21 Kishida Fumio at an official Summit Meeting in Washington, D.C., wherein it was stated, "Our
22 two nations have never been more united as we work together to address the most pressing
23 challenges and opportunities of the future"; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates the
25 longstanding and meaningful relationship between the United States and Japan, recognizing the
26 contributions of individuals, organizations, and institutions that have worked tirelessly to promote
27 friendship, cooperation, and understanding between our two countries; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby honors the 170th Anniversary of the signing of the
29 U.S.-Japan Treaty of Peace and Amity, and encourages continued collaboration and partnership
30 between the United States and Japan, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening the ties that
31 bind us together and fostering a future of peace, prosperity, and mutual respect for generations to
32 come; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
34 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the

- 1 United States; Rhode Island's federal elected officials, Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon
- 2 Whitehouse, Congressman Seth Magaziner, and Congressman Gabe Amo, and the Honorable
- 3 Kotaro Suzuki, Consul General of Japan in Boston.

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