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1 H1NG68-1

2 By Representatives Shaw, Underwood, Lovvorn

3 RFD: RULES

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5 2023 Regular Session



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4 HR_____ RECOGNIZING THE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
5 BETWEEN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND THE NATION OF JAPAN.

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7 WHEREAS, Japanese companies have invested over 20
8 billion dollars in Alabama, making Japan the number one
9 foreign direct investor in the state; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2022, mutual trade between Alabama and
11 Japan reached nearly two billion dollars, with trade
12 including mineral fuel, aircraft, spacecraft, vehicles, wood
13 pulp, paper, organic and inorganic chemicals, machinery,
14 computers, vehicles, media equipment, ammunition,
15 pharmaceuticals, and financial services; and

16 WHEREAS, 20,000 jobs have been created in Alabama,
17 including 8,100 jobs since 2018, by investment from Japanese
18 companies, which include Honda Manufacturing of Alabama,
19 Mazda Toyota Motor Company, Protective Life, Toyota Motor
20 Manufacturing Alabama, Rheem Manufacturing, and Daikin
21 America, Incorporated; and

22 WHEREAS, Dai Ichi Life Insurance Corporation's 2.8
23 billion dollar purchase of Protective Life Insurance
24 Corporation in Birmingham in February 2015 was the largest
25 single Japanese investment in the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, for 40 years, the people of Alabama and
27 Japan have enjoyed rich and rewarding friendships through
28 sister city relationships, including Birmingham-Hitachi,



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29 Anniston-Tatsuno, Tuscaloosa-Narachino, Dothan-Sakado,
30 Mobile-Ichara, Montevallo-Echizen, and Birmingham-Maebashi;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, groups such as the Alabama Bonsai Society,
33 Alabama Okinawa Kenjinkai, Azalea City Bonsai Society in
34 Mobile, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Museum of
35 Art, Central Alabama Koi and Water Garden Society, the
36 Children's Hands-on Museum of Tuscaloosa-Japan, Hoover
37 Aldridge Gardens, Japan-America Society of Alabama, North
38 Alabama Japanese Business Association, and Sumi-e Society
39 Shibui Chapter in Mobile have worked extensively to share
40 the rich culture of Japan with the people of Alabama and to
41 extend a hand of friendship to the people of Japan; and

42 WHEREAS, students at Alabama universities and
43 colleges have greatly benefited from relationships with
44 Japan through study, including Birmingham-Southern College,
45 Samford University, University of West Alabama, The
46 University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of
47 Alabama, Auburn University, The University of Alabama in
48 Huntsville, Troy University, Talledega College, and Miles
49 College; and

50 WHEREAS, the state flower of Alabama, the Japanese
51 Camellia, has origins in Japan; the City of Satsuma was
52 named for the import of Japanese Satsuma plants in the late
53 1800s; and many parks such as Birmingham Botanical Gardens
54 Japanese Garden, Monte Sano Japanese Garden, Huntsville
55 Japanese Garden, Mobile Japanese Garden, and Hoover Sakura
56 Tree Grove reflect a shared appreciation for natural beauty



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57 in our respective cultures; now therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
59 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we recognize the unique and
60 special relationship between the State of Alabama and the
61 nation of Japan, and we look forward to a long future of
62 mutually beneficial commerce, and most importantly,
63 friendship.