

HR135 INTRODUCED



1 HR135
2 MSAGB11-1
3 By Representatives Shaw, Whitt, Moore (P), Chestnut,
4 Underwood, Hall, Shaver
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 17-Feb-26



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4 HR_____ HONORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE STATE
5 OF ALABAMA AND DESIGNATING MARCH 10, 2026, AS "JAPAN DAY" IN
6 THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

7

8 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama and Japan have worked
9 to develop a strong and enduring relationship grounded in
10 mutual respect, shared values, and decades of cooperation;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Alabama's ties with Japan are reflected in
13 robust commercial engagement; two-way trade exceeded \$2.8
14 billion in 2024, representing a 16 percent increase since
15 2022, according to data cited by the Alabama Department of
16 Commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, Alabama is home to approximately 100
18 Japan-based companies that contribute meaningfully to the
19 state's economy and communities, including major
20 manufacturers such as Toyota, Honda, Mazda, and Daikin; and

21 WHEREAS, Alabama's partnership with Japan is
22 strengthened through ongoing efforts to foster investment
23 and collaboration, including engagement through the
24 Southeast U.S.-Japan (SEUS-Japan) conference, which for
25 decades has served as a bridge between the Southeastern
United States and Japan; and

27 WHEREAS, in October 2025, an Alabama delegation
28 traveled to Tokyo for the SEUS-Japan joint meeting to deepen

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29 economic and cultural ties; the delegation included five
30 members of the Alabama House of Representatives, Prince
31 Chestnut, Kelvin Lawrence, Parker Moore, Mike Shaw, and Andy
32 Whitt; and

33 WHEREAS, the Alabama House of Representatives is
34 honored to welcome Kenichi Matsuda, Consul General of Japan
35 in Atlanta, and to express appreciation for his commitment
36 to strengthening the long-standing ties between Alabama and
37 Japan; and

38 WHEREAS, Consul General Matsuda assumed his post in
39 October 2025 and has expressed a desire to visit and engage
40 with communities across his region of responsibility,
41 including Alabama, to further advance friendship and
42 partnership; and

43 WHEREAS, Alabama's relationship with Japan also
44 promotes civic and cultural ties, with friendship expressed
45 through sister-city relationships between Birmingham and
46 Hitachi, Birmingham and Maebashi, Anniston and Tatsuno,
47 Tuscaloosa and Narashino, Dothan and Sakado, Mobile and
48 Ichihara, and Montevallo and Echizen; and

49 WHEREAS, Alabamians further strengthen these bonds
50 through community organizations and cultural programming;
51 one such program is the Japan-America Society of Alabama,
52 which supports economic, cultural, educational, and civic
53 exchange between Alabama and Japan; and

54 WHEREAS, members of the Alabama-Japan Legislative
55 Exchange have participated in site visits that strengthen
56 relationships and understanding through direct engagement

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57 with major employers and community partners, including
58 scheduled visits to Mazda Toyota Manufacturing in Madison,
59 Daikin in Decatur, High-Purity Silicon America Corporation
60 in Theodore, and Honda Development & Manufacturing in
61 Lincoln; and

62 WHEREAS, the Alabama House of Representatives
63 recognizes that the state's economic, civic, and cultural
64 bonds with Japan are beneficial in the present and serve as
65 a foundation for shared prosperity and mutual understanding
66 for future generations; now therefore,

67 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
68 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby honor the
69 long-lasting cooperation between the State of Alabama, this
70 body, and the nation of Japan; we designate March 10, 2026,
71 as "Japan Day" in the Alabama House of Representatives; and
72 we welcome Kenichi Matsuda, Consul General of Japan in
73 Atlanta, to the State House to celebrate this profound
74 relationship.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend the many
76 Alabama and Japan partners - public, private, and civic -
77 who strengthen the connection between Alabama and Japan
78 through trade, investment, education, cultural exchange, and
79 friendship.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage continued
81 engagement through forums such as SEUS-Japan and through
82 visits and exchanges that build practical cooperation and
83 lasting goodwill.