

## 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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3  
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  
26 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.