

## HR252 INTRODUCED



1 H1NG68-1  
2 By Representatives Shaw, Underwood, Lovvorn  
3 RFD: RULES  
4 First Read: 25-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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HR\_\_\_\_\_ RECOGNIZING THE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND THE NATION OF JAPAN.

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

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

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

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

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



## HR252 INTRODUCED

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



## HR252 INTRODUCED

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.