

HR143 INTRODUCED



1 HR143
2 U5Y3GGX-1
3 By Representatives Shaw, Underwood
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 02-Apr-24



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HR_____ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA-JAPAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE GROUP.

WHEREAS, The State of Alabama and the Nation of Japan are established partners in the global economy, with mutual trade in 2022 between Alabama and Japan reaching nearly two billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's relationship with Japan transcends purely economic endeavors, with friendship expressed through sister city relationships between Birmingham and both Hitachi and Maebashi, Anniston and Tatsuno, Tuscaloosa and Narachino, Dothan and Sakado, Mobile and Ichara, and Montevallo and Echizen; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese Garden in the Birmingham Botanical Gardens is recognized by the government of Japan as an official Japanese Cultural Center, and many Alabamians take a lively interest in Japanese culture through organizations such as Bonsai and garden societies, exhibitions, events such as the Sakura festival in Tuscaloosa, and the Japan-America Society of Alabama (JASA); and

WHEREAS, students at Alabama universities and colleges have been enriched by visits to Japan for study, including students from Birmingham-Southern College, Samford University, University of West Alabama, The University of



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29 Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama, Auburn
30 University, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Troy
31 University, Talladega College, and Miles College; and

32 WHEREAS, Japan is a bulwark of democracy in a region
33 overshadowed by China and threatened by North Korea, hosting
34 approximately 55,000 American military personnel on more
35 than 80 bases; and

36 WHEREAS, in addition to being a regional ally, Japan
37 is a key partner of the United States on the international
38 stage, collaborating with our nation in many critical areas
39 that include global security, development assistance,
40 environmental protection, new energy technologies,
41 supercomputing, critical materials, and space; now
42 therefore,

43 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
44 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Alabama-Japan Legislative
45 Exchange Group is created to pursue friendship and
46 cooperation between the members of the House of
47 Representatives and the people, government, and businesses
48 of Japan.

49 (a) The Alabama-Japan Legislative Exchange Group
50 shall be comprised of the following members:

51 (1) One member of the House of Representatives
52 representing the majority party, appointed by the Speaker of
53 the House of Representatives.

54 (2) One member of the House of Representatives,
55 representing the minority party, appointed by the Minority
56 Leader of the House of Representatives.



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57 (3) Any member of the House of Representatives who
58 requests membership, with the approval of the Speaker of the
59 House of Representatives.

60 (b) (1) The initial meeting of the Alabama-Japan
61 Legislative Exchange Group shall be called by the Speaker of
62 the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2024,
63 at which time or thereafter the group may elect a chair and
64 any other officers as necessary to conduct the work of the
65 group. Meetings of the legislative exchange group may be
66 convened as often as is expedient, provided that the group
67 shall convene at least once per calendar year. The
68 legislative exchange group may meet by electronic means.

69 (2) The legislative exchange group shall provide an
70 annual report of its activities to the Speaker of the House
71 of Representatives no later than the tenth legislative day
72 of each Regular Session, along with any recommendations or
73 requests that may assist its work.

74 (3) The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
75 provide administrative and other assistance for the work of
76 the legislative exchange group as necessary.

77 (c) The work of the legislative exchange group may
78 include any educational, cultural, or outreach initiative to
79 pursue on behalf of the Alabama House of Representatives
80 with Japan.

81 (1) Nonprofit organizations, including the
82 Japan-America Society of Alabama, may be invited to share
83 knowledge and expertise.

84 (2) The group may inform the Government of Japan of



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85 its work, initiatives, or proposals through the Honorary
86 Consul General of Japan for Alabama and the Consul General
87 of Japan in Atlanta.

88 (d) The Speaker of the House of Representatives may
89 dissolve the group for any reason.

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