

HR 9021

2011

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution expressing Florida's deepest sympathies for  
3 and continuing solidarity with Japan in the wake of the  
4 country's recent disaster.

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6 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2011, an 8.9-magnitude offshore  
7 earthquake struck northeastern Japan and, as the most intense  
8 quake ever recorded for the region, unleashed a 23-foot tsunami  
9 minutes later, wreaking horrific destruction and indeterminate  
10 loss of life in the area, and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has enjoyed a strong  
12 relationship with Japan in the areas of finance, commerce,  
13 culture, military strategy, and education, and

14 WHEREAS, with trade steadily increasing, Japan is currently  
15 one of the state's two leading foreign investors, recently  
16 averaging \$4.16 billion; Japanese companies employ an estimated  
17 21,000 people in Florida in areas such as wholesale trade,  
18 retail trade, and manufacturing; Florida exports approximately  
19 \$781 million in goods and services to Japan, including civilian  
20 aircraft, motor vehicles, office machines, citrus, and  
21 fertilizer; and, at an average of \$3.9 billion, the state  
22 imports more from Japan than any other country except China,  
23 mostly in motor vehicles and aircraft, communications equipment,  
24 machinery, and medical supplies, and

25 WHEREAS, through the enactment of the Status of Forces  
26 Agreement (SOFA) in 1960 and various other agreements in the  
27 intervening years, the United States military works closely with  
28 Japan in defense coordination, peacekeeping operations,

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29 humanitarian relief efforts, intelligence sharing, and mutual  
30 military support, an alliance that continues to promote security  
31 and peace in the Far East region and throughout the world, and

32 WHEREAS, the number of American students studying in Japan  
33 has increased 57 percent over the course of the decade, and, as  
34 a result, Japan grants more student visas to Americans than to  
35 any other non-Asian country; conversely, the number of Japanese  
36 students currently in the United States approaches 25,000, and

37 WHEREAS, with Japanese travelers accounting for almost two-  
38 thirds of visitors from Asia to the United States in 2005, both  
39 the United States and Florida owe much of their success in  
40 tourism to the citizens of Japan, NOW, THEREFORE,

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42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
43 Florida:

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45 That in recognition of the United States' and Florida's  
46 close ties to Japan across a broad spectrum, including in the  
47 areas of commerce, military operations, education, and culture,  
48 and to express the state's deepest sympathies toward the nation  
49 in the wake of its most devastating natural disaster to date,  
50 the Florida House of Representatives hereby declares and  
51 demonstrates its strong solidarity with the Japanese people as  
52 they embark upon their recovery.

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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
55 presented to Ichiro Fujisaki, Japan's Ambassador to the United  
56 States, and to United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham  
Clinton, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.