

HR 9025

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 destructive
9 tsunamis minutes later, wreaking horrific devastation and
10 indeterminate 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, security, 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 cooperative efforts such as the Status of
26 Forces Agreement (SOFA) and various other agreements, the Armed
27 Forces of the United States work closely with Japan in defense
28 coordination, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian relief

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29 | efforts, intelligence sharing, and mutual military support, an
 30 | alliance that continues to promote security and peace in the Far
 31 | 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, and

41 | WHEREAS, the people of Florida have been moved by the news
 42 | of the losses and suffering of the people of Japan and, through
 43 | their representatives, wish to express their feelings of
 44 | sympathy and solidarity, NOW, THEREFORE,

45 |
 46 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 47 | Florida:

48 |
 49 | That in recognition of the United States' and Florida's
 50 | close ties to Japan across a broad spectrum, including in the
 51 | areas of commerce, security, education, and culture, and to
 52 | express the state's deepest sympathies toward the nation and its
 53 | people in the wake of their most devastating natural disaster to
 54 | date, the Florida House of Representatives hereby declares and
 55 | demonstrates its profound sorrow at the loss of life and its

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56 | strong bond of friendship and solidarity with the Japanese
57 | people as they embark upon their recovery from this tragedy.

58 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
59 | presented to Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and
60 | Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America, and to
61 | United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, as a
62 | tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.