

By Senator Calatayud

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of Japanese business, trade, and cultural cooperation with the State of Florida and encouraging increased diplomatic, business, and cultural ties with Japan.

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and Japan share a rapidly growing political and economic relationship, characterized by mutual benefits that underscore the importance of this partnership, and

WHEREAS, the historic ties between Florida and Japan date back to the early 20th century, beginning with the settlement of the Yamato Colony by Japanese immigrants in Delray Beach, which is now the renowned Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, and

WHEREAS, economic relations between Florida and Japan have always been good but have experienced many ups and downs, such as in the 1990s when many leading Japanese banks and companies that had been actively operating in Florida withdrew; however, Japanese corporate and financial interests have been returning, and today Japan is Florida's second largest source of imports and a significant investor in the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, despite the return of numerous Japanese banks and companies, there remains untapped potential for expanding economic relations between Florida and Japan, particularly given Japan's status as the largest source of foreign investment in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis, leading a high-profile trade mission, visited Japan in April 2023, reinforcing diplomatic and economic dialogues between Florida and Japanese

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30 officials and business leaders, and

31 WHEREAS, in October 2023, Florida hosted another successful
32 trade mission to Japan, during which Secretary of State Cord
33 Byrd and Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
34 Masahiro Komura signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to enhance
35 economic and trade collaboration between the two regions, and

36 WHEREAS, in December 2023, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella
37 Levine Cava led a trade mission to Japan, culminating in the
38 signing of a Sister Port Agreement between the Port of Miami and
39 the Port of Yokohama, further solidifying the maritime and
40 economic connections between the two regions, and

41 WHEREAS, these recent exchanges and agreements underscore
42 the accelerating momentum in Florida-Japan relations,
43 highlighting the significant strides made in business, trade,
44 and cultural cooperation over the past year, and

45 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature encourages strengthening
46 political, economic, and cultural ties between Florida and
47 Japan, ensuring continued collaboration and fostering long-term
48 benefits for both regions, NOW, THEREFORE,

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50 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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52 That the Senate recognizes the importance of Japanese
53 business, trade, and cultural cooperation with the State of
54 Florida and encourages increased diplomatic, business, and
55 cultural ties with Japan.