

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 352**

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Sponsors: Representatives Reives, Bell, Penny, and Cervania (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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March 14, 2023

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO WORK MORE  
2 CLOSELY WITH JAPAN ON TRADE ISSUES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT,  
3 EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR THE UNITED  
4 STATES–JAPAN ALLIANCE AND REMORSE AT THE SLAYING OF FORMER  
5 JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER ABE SHINZŌ, CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED  
6 THIRTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NORTH CAROLINA AND JAPAN, AND  
7 REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
8 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND STATE OF JAPAN IN THE REIWA ERA.

9       Whereas, North Carolina and Japan have enjoyed 130 years of friendly relations since  
10 Japan sent its first student nationals, Mogi Shinzaburō, to attend the University of North Carolina  
11 at Chapel Hill in 1893, and Sugishita Teisaku, to attend North Carolina State University (then  
12 "North Carolina State College") in 1894; and

13       Whereas, Japan is North Carolina's second-largest foreign investor, with nearly \$5  
14 billion invested by Japanese companies in North Carolina's economy to date and nearly \$7 billion  
15 in investment announced since 2018; and

16       Whereas, more large companies investing in North Carolina come from Japan than  
17 any other foreign nation; and

18       Whereas, Japan employs over 24,000 North Carolina workers, or roughly 10% of all  
19 North Carolina workers employed by foreign companies, with over 5,000 additional jobs  
20 announced by Japanese companies since 2018; and

21       Whereas, trade with Japan annually accounts for nearly \$4 billion in economic  
22 activity for the State of North Carolina; and

23       Whereas, Japan and the United States have been close allies since 1952, safeguarding  
24 peace in the Pacific; and

25       Whereas, the post-war order of which both the United States and Japan have been  
26 resolute defenders and beneficiaries, an order which rests soundly on democracy and friendly  
27 trade, faces subversion by rogue actors and disaffected nations; and

28       Whereas, Japan is a vibrant, wealthy democracy and a model for democracies  
29 throughout Asia; and

30       Whereas, Abe Shinzō was a stalwart friend of the United States, an adamant supporter  
31 of the US-Japan alliance, and a leading voice for stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific  
32 region; and

33       Whereas, Abe Shinzō was the longest-serving prime minister in Japan's history, who  
34 worked alongside four Presidents of the United States—George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald  
35 Trump, and then-Vice President Joe Biden—on trade relations, peace, and security in Asia; and



1           Whereas, Abe Shinzō was assassinated in Japan on July 8, 2022, while campaigning  
2 in the oldest democracy in Asia; and

3           Whereas, the use of violence, whether by foreign nations or rogue actors, to attack  
4 democratically elected officials and disrupt international peace is profoundly evil; and

5           Whereas, North Carolina remains committed to its friendship with Japan and to the  
6 US-Japan alliance and peaceful trade between the nations; Now, therefore,  
7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

8           **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of  
9 the friendship and alliance between the United States and Japan.

10          **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives commends the people of Japan for their  
11 incredible achievements over 75 years of peaceful friendship with the United States, in building  
12 the oldest democratic system in Asia and the second-largest democratic economy in the world,  
13 and for serving as a valuable pillar of stability in Asia and for world peace.

14          **SECTION 3.** The House of Representatives applauds Japan for its continued  
15 commitment as a friend and economic partner to the State of North Carolina.

16          **SECTION 4.** The House of Representatives expresses profound grief over the death  
17 of former Prime Minister of Japan, Abe Shinzō, and condemns his killing as an attack on Japan's  
18 democracy and on its unparalleled friendship with the United States.

19          **SECTION 5.** The House of Representatives affirms the continuing friendship and  
20 cooperation between Japan and the State of North Carolina and expresses heartfelt optimism for  
21 deeper ties between the people of Japan and the people of North Carolina.

22          **SECTION 6.** The House of Representatives urges Congress to work more closely  
23 with the nation of Japan on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage the reciprocal flow  
24 of foreign direct investment and participation of Japanese and American companies in the  
25 economy of both the United States and Japan, respectively.

26          **SECTION 7.** The House of Representatives expresses to Congress its full support of  
27 the 70 year old alliance between the United States of America and Japan, which has served as a  
28 pillar of stability and security in the Indo-Pacific throughout the Cold War to the current day.

29          **SECTION 8.** The House of Representatives urges Congress to recognize the  
30 strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region to the economies of the United States and North  
31 Carolina and the necessity of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific to safeguard the sanctity of friendly  
32 trade and international law.

33          **SECTION 9.** The Principal Clerk shall transfer a printed copy of this resolution to a  
34 committee designated by the North Carolina Legislative Caucus on Economic Development and  
35 Foreign Trade to be hand-delivered to a representative of Japan in a ceremony in Raleigh.

36          **SECTION 10.** If the committee referenced in Section 9 of this act is unable to  
37 hand-deliver this resolution in the manner described above by March 31, 2023, the Principal  
38 Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., and  
39 the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta, Georgia.

40          **SECTION 11.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit copies of this resolution to each  
41 member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, to the Clerk of the United States House  
42 of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and to the President of the  
43 United States.

44          **SECTION 12.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.