

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H

**Simple
Resolution
Adopted**

HOUSE RESOLUTION 352
Adopted 3/22/23

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

8 Whereas, North Carolina remains committed to its friendship with Japan and to the
9 US-Japan alliance and peaceful trade between the nations; Now, therefore,

10 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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