

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

2 INTRODUCED BY V. COCCHIARELLA, DOHERTY, BALES, BARRETT, BECK, BERRY, BISHOP, BIXBY,
3 BOHLINGER, BOOKOUT-REINICKE, BRANAE, R. BROWN, BRUEGGEMAN, BUZZAS, CALLAHAN,
4 CARNEY, CHRISTIAENS, CLANCY, E. CLARK, P. CLARK, COBB, COLE, CRISMORE, CURTISS, CYR,
5 DAVIES, DELL, DEPRATU, DEVLIN, EGGERS, EKEGREN, ELLINGSON, ELLIOTT, ELLIS, ERICKSON,
6 FISHER, FORRESTER, FRANKLIN, FRITZ, FUCHS, GALLIK, GALLUS, GLASER, GRIMES, GROSFIELD,
7 GUTSCHE, HAINES, HALLIGAN, HARGROVE, HARRINGTON, HEDGES, HIMMELBERGER, L. HOLDEN,
8 JACKSON, JACOBSON, JAYNE, JERGESON, JUNEAU, KASTEN, KAUFMANN, KEANE, KITZENBERG,
9 LASLOVICH, LEE, LEHMAN, LINDEEN, MAHLUM, MASOLO, MATTHEWS, MCCANN, MCCARTHY,
10 MCGEE, MCNUTT, MUSGROVE, NELSON, NEWMAN, NOENNIG, O'NEIL, OLSON, PATTISON, PEASE,
11 A. PETERSON, K. PETERSON, PRICE, RASER, RICE, RIPLEY, ROUSH, RYAN, SCHMIDT, SHEA,
12 SHOCKLEY, SOMERVILLE, SPRAGUE, STAPLETON, STORY, TASH, TESTER, B. THOMAS,
13 F. THOMAS, TOOLE, TRAMELLI, TROPILA, WADDILL, WAITSCHIES, WALTERS,
14 WATERMAN, WHITAKER, WOLERY, YOUNKIN, ZOOK

15
16 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
17 MONTANA COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP
18 BETWEEN MONTANA AND THE JAPANESE PREFECTURE OF KUMAMOTO ON JULY 22, 2002.

19
20 WHEREAS, in 1979, Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield AND HIS WIFE MAUREEN began discussions
21 between the State of Montana and the Japanese Prefecture of Kumamoto, eventually leading to the
22 signing of a sister state agreement between Montana and Kumamoto on July 22, 1982; and

23 WHEREAS, the governments of Montana and Kumamoto have participated in a staff exchange
24 program since 1984, leading to the establishment of a Montana trade representative office in Kumamoto
25 in 1990 and the establishment of Kumamoto Plaza, a Japanese cultural resource center, in Helena in 1992;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, formal agreements have been created between institutions of higher education,
28 including The University of Montana-Missoula, Montana State University-Bozeman, and Carroll College,
29 numerous public schools, and radio and television stations in Kumamoto and Montana; and

30 WHEREAS, delegations traveling between Montana and Kumamoto since 1982 have included

1 citizens, government leaders, legislators, Native Americans, people with disabilities, college professors and
2 students, public school teachers and students, business and medical professionals, environmental
3 specialists, artists, performers, and journalists in the print and broadcast media; and

4 WHEREAS, private nonprofit and community service entities in Montana, including Rotary
5 International District 5390, the Japan Friendship Club, the Missoula Children's Theater, the Helena Youth
6 Choir, the Dillon Fiddlers, and the Helena Babe Ruth Baseball program, have sent delegations to Kumamoto
7 and, in return, welcomed Kumamoto delegations to Montana; and

8 WHEREAS, citizens in Montana and Kumamoto have opened their homes to visitors, housed
9 students, and otherwise demonstrated their friendship and generosity to people from their sister state; and

10 WHEREAS, the citizens of Kumamoto, especially those of the Montana Club, have made
11 extraordinary contributions to the sister state relationship by raising money for Montana forest fire relief,
12 by helping commission a statue of Mike Mansfield for the Capitol in Helena, and by facilitating the
13 decoration of Kumamoto city buses with images by Montana artist Monte Dolack; and

14 WHEREAS, Kumamoto has helped Montana broaden its presence in Asia by hosting the 2000
15 Mansfield Retreat, by promoting Montana-made products, and by facilitating Montana's new sister state
16 relationship with the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China; and

17 WHEREAS, it is important that the Montana Legislature act to commemorate the upcoming 20th
18 anniversary of the Montana-Kumamoto sister state relationship on July 22, 2002.

19

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 STATE OF MONTANA:

22 That the Montana Legislature sends its warm greetings and a message of sincere appreciation to
23 the people of Kumamoto Prefecture for the generosity, international assistance, and many other acts of
24 kindness they have extended to the people of Montana since the beginning of the sister state relationship.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of Kumamoto are encouraged to continue their
26 participation in exchanges, visits, and other communications with the government and the people of
27 Montana in order to foster an even greater appreciation and understanding of our cultures and people and
28 the natural beauty of our respective lands.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, by the passage of this resolution, the creation of the
30 Montana-Kumamoto sister state relationship in 1982 is celebrated by the Montana Legislature as Montana

1 and Kumamoto Prefecture approach the 20th anniversary of that relationship on July 22, 2002.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send an original copy of this resolution to
3 the Honorable Tsuyoshi Kurashige, Chairman of the Prefectural Assembly of Kumamoto Prefecture, with
4 a request that this resolution be brought to the attention of the Assembly, Governor Yoshiko Shiotani, and
5 the people of Kumamoto.

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