

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2011-4646, by Representatives Hunt, Reykdal, Finn, and Alexander

WHEREAS, 30 years ago, in 1981, Olympia, Washington and Kato (formerly Yashiro), Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, became sister cities; and

WHEREAS, The friendship between the two cities has flourished, grown steadily, and deepened over these 30 years; and

WHEREAS, During these 30 years, there have been regular, annual adult exchanges and, for the last 20 years, annual student exchanges, resulting in approximately 600 adult exchange visits and approximately 400 student exchange visits; and

WHEREAS, Steady and enthusiastic leadership for these exchanges has been provided by the Kato (formerly Yashiro) International Association, and the Olympia-Kato (formerly Yashiro) Sister City Association; and

WHEREAS, Many people's individual lives, and many community activities, have been enriched greatly, and sometimes altered significantly in positive ways, from learning about and participating in each others' cultures, histories, languages, educational institutions, and governmental processes; and

WHEREAS, Kato City has honored the City of Olympia in the naming of a major arterial, and the City of Olympia has honored Kato City in the naming of a major bridge; and

WHEREAS, The City of Olympia hosts a beautiful Japanese garden, and Kato City hosts a beautiful western-style garden, each in tribute to their great friendship; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of citizens of each community have volunteered over the years to assist in the exchanges and in deepening the friendships between the two communities; and

WHEREAS, The Hyogo Business and Cultural Center, in Seattle, and the Washington State International Protocol Office have each steadily encouraged and supported the development of this great friendship and other sister city relationships in Washington State and Washington's sister state, Hyogo Prefecture;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives congratulate Kato City and the City of Olympia for 30 years of sustained, active, enthusiastic sister city exchanges for both adults and students, and for the innumerable benefits it has created for each community and many individual citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives commend Kato City, the Kato International Association, the City of Olympia, the Olympia-Kato Sister Association, the Hyogo Business and Cultural Center, located in Seattle, and the Washington State International Protocol Office for their outstanding, sustained leadership in promoting strong ties of friendship and intercultural understanding and appreciation between the City of Olympia and Kato City, and between the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture, Japan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to: The Mayor of Kato City; the Mayor of Olympia; the President of the Kato International Association; the President of the Olympia-Kato Sister City Association; the Hyogo Business and Cultural Center; and the Washington State International Protocol Office.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4646 adopted by the House of Representatives
April 1, 2011

Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk