

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200369D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 815

Offered July 17, 2024

3 Commending the Association of Kannada Kootas of America.

4 Patron—  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Association of Kannada Kootas of America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to  
7 supporting the Kannada community and promoting and preserving Kannada language and culture in North  
8 America, will hold its 12th World Kannada Conference from August 30 to September 1, 2024, at the Greater  
9 Richmond Convention Center in Richmond; and

10 WHEREAS, the Kannada community, whose members are often referred to as Kannadigas, is a cultural  
11 group that speaks the Kannada language and that traces its origins to the state of Karnataka in South India;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) was founded in 1998 at the World  
14 Kannada Sammelana in Phoenix, Arizona, by prominent Kannadigas who felt a central organization would  
15 facilitate networking across the Kannada community in North America; and

16 WHEREAS, since its founding, AKKA has grown to include more than 40 chapters across the United  
17 States and Canada, connecting over 150,000 Kannadigas through various programs and activities in the areas  
18 of education, linguistics, culture, and business; and

19 WHEREAS, a major component of AKKA's outreach efforts is its World Kannada Conference, which  
20 was held for the first time in Houston in 2000; and

21 WHEREAS, AKKA World Kannada Conferences have previously included youth, business, and  
22 education forums to address specific issues and provide relevant skills for the benefit of Kannadigas of all  
23 ages, as well as arts showcases to provide artists from Karnataka with the opportunity to share their talents  
24 with those living in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, by advancing a number of education and disaster relief initiatives through its charitable  
26 foundation, AKKA has improved the quality of life of many people, particularly in the state of Karnataka;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, in recognition of its efforts to support the Kannada community both in the United States and  
29 abroad, AKKA was presented the Rajyotsava Award by the Karnataka government, one of the municipality's  
30 most distinguished honors; now, therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Association of Kannada Kootas of America hereby be  
32 commended on the occasion of its 12th World Kannada Conference in 2024; and, be it

33 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for  
34 presentation to representatives of the Association of Kannada Kootas of America as an expression of the  
35 House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's mission and best wishes for its continued success.

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