

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 669

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Houston Zoo is celebrating the opening of its
2 new Galápagos Islands exhibit with a preview event on April 3, 2023;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Since announcing its Keeping Our World Wild
5 Centennial Capital Campaign celebrating the facility's 100th
6 anniversary, the Houston Zoo has created a series of new exhibits
7 that includes the Hamill Foundation Black Bear Exhibit, a renovated
8 orangutan exhibit, the Kathrine G. McGovern Texas Wetlands, and
9 South America's Pantanal; and

10 WHEREAS, The largest initiative in the campaign, the
11 Galápagos Islands exhibit is the first of its kind to showcase the
12 unique wildlife of the famed island chain, such as giant tortoises
13 and sharks, as well as Humboldt penguins and California sea lions,
14 who represent their strictly protected Galápagos relatives; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to its impressive new habitats, the
16 exhibit also offers educational programming that emphasizes the
17 delicate balance of ecosystems and the pressing need for
18 conservation; the zoo has long demonstrated a commitment to
19 conservation efforts, and it supports Galápagos research and
20 conservation awareness programs focused on giant tortoise ecology,
21 wildlife protection, and ocean plastic waste removal and
22 mitigation; moreover, zoo veterinarian Dr. Joe Flanagan has
23 conducted conservation research regarding giant tortoises, sea
24 turtles, and land iguanas in the Galápagos for many years; and

1 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Houston Zoo has been
2 delighting and informing visitors about the wonders of the animal
3 kingdom, and this exciting new exhibit is sure to serve as an
4 invaluable asset to the city for years to come; now, therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the grand opening of the Houston
8 Zoo's Galápagos Islands exhibit and recognize all those involved in
9 bringing this project to fruition for their outstanding work; and,
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the Houston Zoo as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.