

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 52

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives and Senate are
2 honored to welcome His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, President of
3 the Republic of Madagascar, and his lovely wife, Lalao, to the Texas
4 State Capitol on February 8, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, He was received by the Honorable Bill White, Mayor
6 of Houston, and the World Affairs Council, as well as the Texas
7 Children's Medical Center during his visit to Houston on February
8 7, 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, He has enjoyed an official state visit with the
10 Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas; Roger Williams, Texas
11 Secretary of State; and will also meet with the Honorable Will
12 Wynne, Mayor of Austin; and

13 WHEREAS, We are delighted to have as a part of the President's
14 entourage the Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Rajaonarivony
15 Narisoa; Chief of Staff, Mr. Henri Ranaivoson; Presidential
16 Advisor, Dr. Joachim Ensslin; Special Advisor to the President, Mr.
17 Olivier Andrianarisoa; the President's personal physician, Dr.
18 Norotiana Hantasoa Andriantseheno; and assistants Mr. Jean-Marc
19 Koumba and Miss Dina Rakoto; and

20 WHEREAS, Born on December 12, 1949, President Ravalomanana is
21 a self-made man from humble beginnings; he was educated by
22 missionaries in his home village of Imerikasinina and began his
23 professional life selling homemade yogurt on the streets of the
24 country's capital city, Antananarivo; less than two years later, he

1 secured a loan and purchased his first factory, and today, his
2 company, TIKO Group, of which he was the president and CEO, is the
3 largest non-foreign-owned company in Madagascar; and

4 WHEREAS, This distinguished gentleman entered politics in
5 1999, and his bold campaign to clean up the capital city earned him
6 the support of the citizenry and the office of mayor; under his
7 leadership, Antananarivo experienced a noticeable transformation
8 to become a cleaner and more organized city; and

9 WHEREAS, The Honorable Marc Ravalomanana became president of
10 the Republic of Madagascar in 2002; his goals for Madagascar have
11 included construction of a new infrastructure, establishment of
12 efficient government operations, the fight against HIV/AIDS,
13 support for private sector economic growth, and education for all;
14 a staunch defender of the Malagasy language and culture, he often
15 delivers his speech in this lyrical dialect although he also speaks
16 French and English; and

17 WHEREAS, During his trip to Texas, President Ravalomanana
18 visited Abilene Christian University and the 24 Malagasy
19 Presidential Scholars enrolled there who been honored through a
20 highly competitive scholarship initiative funded by the government
21 of Madagascar and the World Bank; the president was instrumental in
22 the creation of this innovative program, which includes four years
23 of paid tuition for the fortunate students; and

24 WHEREAS, President Ravalomanana has proven himself a true
25 leader by working tirelessly to provide a brighter future for his
26 countrymen, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize him; now,
27 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby welcome Marc Ravalomanana, President of the Republic of
3 Madagascar, to the Texas State Capitol and extend to him sincere
4 best wishes for an enjoyable visit in the great State of Texas; and,
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for President Ravalomanana as an expression of high regard
8 by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.