

Press Release

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2025

For inquiries:

Miranda Magana

Communications Manager

mmagana@usjapanCouncil.org



U.S.-Japan Council Launches Day on the Hill to Strengthen Alliance at the Highest Levels of Leadership

Washington, D.C. — September 12, 2025 — The U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) launched the *Day on the Hill* on September 8–9, building on the USJC delegations to D.C. led by our founders, Irene Hirano Inouye and Senator Daniel Inouye. The Day on the Hill brought together members of Congress, senior federal, state, and county government officials, senior diplomats, corporate executives, and business leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance at the highest levels of leadership.

The program opened in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo), underscoring the critical role of political leadership and partnership at both sub-national and federal levels. “As the former CEO of Los Angeles County, I know how local governments drive investment and community growth. The fireside chats showed how NACo’s partnership elevates those voices, reminding us that the U.S.-Japan relationship is strengthened not only in Washington, D.C., but in communities across the country,” said Sachi Hamai, Chair of the U.S.-Japan Council and Vice Chair of the NACo EDGE Board of Directors. State and county officials—Hon. Harry Coker, Secretary of Commerce for the State of Maryland; Hon. Ryan McMahon III, County Executive of Onondaga County, N.Y.— shared their perspectives on the future of foreign investments. Leaders at all levels—including Hon. Hester Peirce, Commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Mr. Dan Cintron, Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs at U.S. State Department; Mr. Ryan Whalen, Associate Partner, Albright Stonebridge Group, facilitated by Dr. Joshua Franzel, Senior Executive and Director at the National League of Cities — shared their insights on trade trends, opportunities, and strategic partnership in the bilateral relationship.

Building on this foundation, participants advanced to briefings and Q&A sessions on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress, offering their perspectives on trade, economic security, and the evolving U.S.-Japan relationship. Senator Bill Hagerty, Representative Adrian Smith, and Representative Jill Tokuda engaged with corporate leaders and stakeholders in candid discussions on bilateral priorities.

The initiative culminated in a Sushi & Sake Reception in the historic Mike Mansfield Room at the U.S. Capitol, where Senator Chris Coons, Representative Judy Chu, Representative Mark Takano, former Senator Chris Dodd, and Japanese Ambassador Shigeo Yamada delivered

remarks congratulating the long-lasting U.S.-Japan friendship. The speakers, U.S. State Department representatives, corporate leaders, and Council members continued dialogue and cultivated connections.

“The Day on the Hill reflects what USJC does best—bringing leaders together across sectors and across borders to address the most pressing issues of our time. By convening voices from government, business, and community, we are strengthening the U.S.-Japan alliance today and cultivating partnerships that will shape a more secure and sustainable future,” said Audrey Yamamoto, President & CEO of the U.S.-Japan Council. With the successful launch of Day on the Hill, USJC reaffirmed its role as a premier convener of leaders at the highest levels.

About the U.S.-Japan Council

Founded by Japanese Americans, the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) is the premier organization dedicated to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations through people-to-people connections. Through the U.S.-Japan Leadership Institute, USJC cultivates an unparalleled pipeline of global leaders and convenes them at the highest levels to address pressing bilateral issues. With members across the United States and Japan, USJC fosters a vibrant professional and personal network that drives meaningful impact for both nations.