



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BILATERAL STRENGTH IN ACTION
CHARTING NEW PATHS FOR GLOBAL
PEACE AND PROSPERITY

OCTOBER 15, 2025 | HONOLULU, HAWAII



WELCOME LETTER FROM USJC LEADERSHIP



On behalf of the U.S.-Japan Council, it is an honor to welcome you to Honolulu for our 2025 Annual Conference, ***Bilateral Strength in Action: Charting New Paths for Global Peace and Prosperity***.

Last year in Tokyo, we stood at the threshold of a new era in U.S.-Japan relations. Today, we are living it—an era shaped by significant shifts in leadership and policy priorities, marked by both complex challenges and extraordinary opportunities for strategic collaboration. Amid global uncertainty, our call to action is clear: We must deepen cooperation in critical areas such as economic and energy security, geopolitical stability, and investment in our shared future.

It is especially meaningful to gather here in the home state of our co-founder, the late **Senator Daniel K. Inouye**, whose vision for people-to-people connections continues to guide our work. His belief that lasting peace and progress are built on **trust, respect, and shared values**—remains at the heart of everything we do. Whether you are here as a business leader, policymaker, entrepreneur, or emerging voice, your participation strengthens the bonds between our two nations.

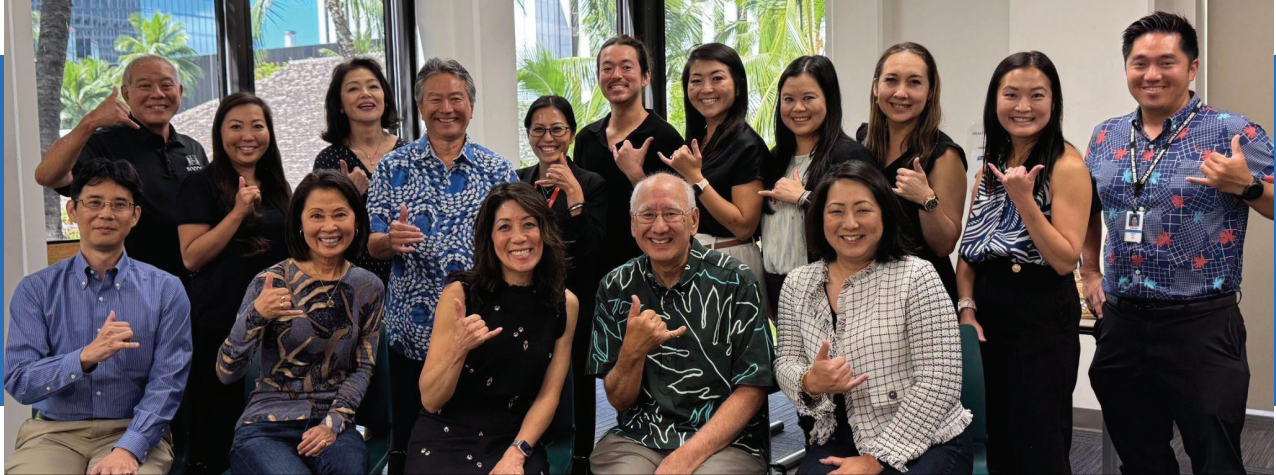
The ideas exchanged, partnerships forged, and relationships deepened in Honolulu will resonate far beyond this conference. Together, we are not only shaping the future of the U.S.-Japan relationship, but also empowering the next generation of leaders to create a more **inclusive, sustainable, and secure world**.

It will take leaders like you—**visionary, collaborative, and committed**—to turn these ideas into lasting impact. Let us use this moment to strengthen our bonds, expand our reach, and chart new paths together.

With warm regards,

**Sachi Hamai, Board Chair, USJC-U.S. & Henry Takata, Board Chair, USJC-Japan
Audrey Yamamoto, President & CEO**

ALOHA FROM OUR HOST COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Aloha and welcome to this year's Annual Conference! We are thrilled to have you here in Honolulu for an unforgettable time of learning, connection, and celebration. From dynamic sessions and thought-provoking discussions to receptions and island adventures, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Throughout the conference, you will find opportunities to reconnect with old friends, meet new colleagues, and share ideas that inspire action. This year's programs are a tribute to the **partnerships that unite us** across generations, sectors, and communities.

We are deeply grateful to our **USJC community, volunteers, staff, Host Committee, Board Members, and generous sponsors** for making this gathering possible. Most of all, we thank you for being here. We hope you enjoy the warmth of our island home, the **spirit of aloha** that surrounds you, and the many moments—big and small—that will make your time in Honolulu memorable.

Mahalo,

Susan Eichor & Tyler Tokioka
Host Committee Chairs



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

OPENING PLENARY | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Hawaii Ballroom (Maui/Molokai)

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Volatility and Opportunity:
**U.S.-Japan Investment in
a New Global Era**

📍 Kauai

From Island Roots to Global Reach:
**The Legacies of Family-Owned
Businesses**

📍 Lanai

Enduring Strength:
**Leading Together in a
Dynamic U.S.-Japan Alliance**

📍 Honolulu Suite

LUNCH PLENARY | 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM | Hawaii Ballroom (Maui/Molokai)

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Powering the Future:
**U.S.-Japan Accelerating
Climate Solutions**

📍 Kauai

Leadership Without Borders:
**Uniting for Innovation and
Opportunity**

📍 Lanai

Cross-Border Collaboration:
**Unlocking Potential Across
the U.S., Japan, and Hawaii
Start-up Ecosystems**

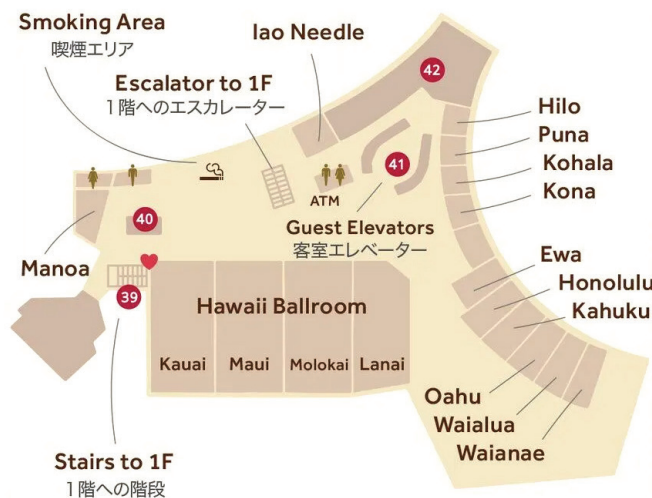
📍 Honolulu Suite

CLOSING PLENARY | 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | Hawaii Ballroom (Maui/Molokai)

CONFERENCE RECEPTION | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM | Helumoa Playground

MAP SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL

2ND FLOOR



PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

OPENING PLENARY | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Hawaii Ballroom (Maui/Molokai)

Opening Remarks: **Welcome and Introduction**

Yunji de Nies | Journalist, Hawaii News Now & PBS Hawai'i

Welcome Remarks: **Empowering Leadership for a Resilient Future**

Audrey Yamamoto (JALD '23) | President & CEO, U.S.-Japan Council

The Indo-Pacific and Beyond: **The U.S.-Japan Alliance for Global Peace and Prosperity**

Admiral Samuel Paparo | Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

Moderator: Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum | Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

Strategic Partnerships: **New Era of U.S.-Japan Economic Security**

Norihiko ISHIGURO | Chairman & CEO, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Paul K. Yonamine | Chairman Emeritus, Central Pacific Bank

Moderator: Julie Iskow | CEO & President, Workiva

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Volatility and Opportunity: **U.S.-Japan Investment in a New Global Era***

Kauai

Byron Gill | Managing Partner, Indus Capital Partners, LLC

Satoshi Miura | President, JETRO New York

Mark Uyeda (JALD '04) | Commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Moderator: Teruko WADA | Executive Director, Keidanren USA

* This session will be conducted under Chatham House Rule. Media attendance is not permitted.

From Island Roots to Global Reach: **The Legacies of Family-Owned Businesses**

Lanai

Russell Hata | Chairman, President, & CEO, Y. Hata & Co., Limited

Paul Kosasa | President & CEO, ABC Stores

Dana Tokioka | President, Tradewind Group Foundation | Vice President, Atlas Insurance Agency

Moderator: Emily Fukunaga (ELP '24) | VP, Servco Parts Center, Servco Pacific Inc.

Enduring Strength: **Leading Together in a Dynamic U.S.–Japan Alliance***

Honolulu Suite

Daizo Kosa | General Manager and Chief Corporate Representative, NTT Washington DC Representative Office

Tomoko Hosaka Mullaney (JALD '24) | Executive Director, U.S.-Japan Business Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Yoko Yamazaki | Senior Manager, Global Management Div., Government and External Relations Grp., Hitachi, Ltd.

Moderator: Yuko Kaifu | President, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

LUNCH PLENARY | 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM | Hawaii Ballroom (Maui/Molokai)

Welcome Toast: **To Our Shared Vision and Community**

Roy Yamaguchi | Founding Chef, Eating House 1849, Humble Market Kitchen, GOEN Dining + Bar, Woven Seafood & Chophouse, Roy's

From Insight to Impact: **Leadership at the Intersection of Technology and Change**

Norishige Morimoto | Vice President & CTO, IBM Japan

Driving Change Together: **USJC Leadership Across Generations**

Kristin Alm (ELP '20) | Managing Director, Remedy Intelligent Staffing

Craig Ishii (ELP '13, ALC '23) | Product Marketing Lead, Software, Logitech

Christian Park (TOMO '22) | 2022 TOMODACHI Boeing Entrepreneurship Seminar Alumni

Moderator: Ann Teranishi (JALD '25) | President & CEO, American Savings Bank

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AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Powering the Future: **U.S.-Japan Accelerating Climate Solutions**

Kauai

Ayako Kameda | Executive Officer, Obayashi Corporation

Misato Kogure | General Manager of California Office, Vice President for Business Development and Environmental Affairs, Daikin U.S. Corporation

Scott Seu | President & CEO, Hawaiian Electric Industries

Moderator: Michael Kobori | Strategic Advisor, NationSwell

Leadership Without Borders: **Uniting for Innovation and Opportunity**

Lanai

Shelee Kimura | President & CEO, Hawaiian Electric

Jin Song Montesano | Director, Representative Executive Officer, Executive Vice President, Chief People Officer, LIXIL Corporation

Yoshimi Iyadomi Shinohara | Co-Founder, Digital, Data and Design Institute at Harvard Business School | Chair, Shinohara Foundation

Moderator: Lori Teranishi (JALD '23) | CEO & Founder, iQ 360

Cross-Border Collaboration: **Unlocking Potential Across the U.S., Japan, and Hawaii Start-up Ecosystems**

Honolulu Suite

William (Bill) Kazuo Bryant | Partner, Threshold Ventures

Kathy Matsui | General Partner, MPower Partners

Marcus Otsuji | Japan Country Manager, Geodesic Capital

Maya Rogers | Chief Executive Officer, Tetris | Co-Founder & Partner, Blue Startups

Moderator: David Kenji Chang (ELP '15, ALC '23) | General Partner, A-N Partners

WHO WE ARE



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**.

Driving our impact is USJC's **U.S.-Japan Leadership Institute**, which builds an **unparalleled leadership pipeline of global leaders** and addresses the most **pressing bilateral issues** of our time. Through this integrated network of transformative leadership initiatives, innovative exchange programs, and impactful in-person and virtual events, we connect leaders across generations and sectors. Our community of members across the United States and Japan forms a **vibrant bilateral network** that fosters **deep connections and a strong sense of community**.

WHY U.S.-JAPAN

We are in an era defined by complex challenges and extraordinary opportunities. Amid challenging geopolitical and economic shifts, our partnership—which is the world's most important bilateral relationship—must stand now more than ever as a **pillar of stability, peace, and progress**.

Built on shared values of trust, innovation, and resilience, the U.S.-Japan alliance drives economic growth, advances security, and fosters solutions to **global challenges**. Its enduring strength comes not only from government-to-government ties, but from the deep, **people-to-people connections** that allow us to adapt, collaborate, and lead together. As the world changes, this partnership continues to evolve, opening **new frontiers for cooperation** and shaping a better future for both nations and the world.



BUILDING A LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

Our **U.S.-Japan Leadership Institute** builds a dynamic pipeline of leaders across generations and sectors to strengthen the U.S.-Japan partnership for decades to come.

TOMODACHI GENERATION

TOMODACHI Initiative

The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship

Mineta Ambassadors Program

Youth Programs

*Invests in **high school and college students** through educational and cultural exchanges*

Alumni Programs

*Empowers young **alumni** to continue to build their skills and confidence as global leaders*

11,000+
leadership
program alumni



The **2025 TOMODACHI Next Generation Summit TOMO Voice Winners**, investing in the next generation of changemakers who embrace being 'derukui'.



The **Mineta Ambassadors Program Scholars** in Washington, D.C., connecting with U.S.-Japan leaders through dialogue and cultural exchange.

The inaugural **2025 TOMODACHI Kibou for LA** delegation with **Vice Governor Ito of Miyagi Prefecture**, marking the beginning of a powerful cultural exchange on resilience and recovery.



The **2025-2026 Watanabe Scholars** representing the next generation of U.S.-Japan bridge-builders, supported by **Mr. Toshizo Watanabe's \$10 million** endowment making international study accessible to students in financial need.

Emerging Leaders Program

Develops **early career** professionals as the next generation of global leaders



Advanced Leaders Collective

Supports **mid-career** professionals to advance in their careers and personal growth



Japanese American Leadership Delegation

Identifies accomplished leaders to engage with leaders at the highest levels in **Japan and the United States**



ENGAGING LEADERS TO ADDRESS KEY BILATERAL ISSUES

Women's Leadership Initiative

Fosters dialogue and networks to **advance women+ leaders** across sectors and generations



Climate & Sustainability Leadership Initiative

Develops sustainability-focused leaders and engages current leaders to **drive a sustainable future**



Government Relations Initiative

Builds relationships with **U.S. and Japanese government leaders** to address bilateral priorities



Photo Credit: Les Talusan

Signature Convenings

Brings together leaders through **flagship events** and **regional gatherings** in the United States and Japan



THE VALUE WE CREATE



This year marks a pivotal moment for the U.S.-Japan Council as we build on more than **15 years of impact**, embrace new opportunities to forge our future together, and shape the **world's most important bilateral relationship**. Your support directly drives our mission to **cultivate and connect leaders** who will strengthen the **U.S.-Japan partnership** for generations to come.

Together, we can **build on our legacy and create an even brighter future**. By becoming a sponsor, you gain access to **globally-minded talent**, develop connections with **senior government officials**, tap into **USJC's powerful multisectoral and multigenerational networks**, connect with **local communities**, and demonstrate your commitment to **addressing key bilateral issues** and **advancing shared priorities**. **Your partnership ensures that USJC remains the trusted platform where leaders come together to drive impact, foster understanding, and strengthen the enduring ties between our nations.**

Join us in forging our future together — contact us at development@usjapancouncil.org.



ACCESS TO GLOBALLY-MINDED TALENT

Engage the young leaders developed by USJC's programs to infuse your company with diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.



U.S. AND JAPAN GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS

Utilize this critical access to navigate regulatory landscapes in ways that benefit your business.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Tap USJC's multisectoral and multigenerational networks to expand your business operations in the United States and Japan.



COMMUNITY & CROSS-SECTOR CONNECTIONS

Leverage USJC's national networks of over 1,100 members to connect your organization and employees with their local communities.



ADDRESSING KEY BILATERAL ISSUES

Join conversations with pioneers in women's empowerment, sustainability, and security issues at signature convenings, including the Annual Conference.

OUR IMPACT



“At USJC, there are people who strive to serve as a bridge between the United States and Japan, always thinking about how to make both countries better. Interacting with them naturally makes you want to support USJC, especially if you’re a Japanese company based in the United States.”

— **Yosuke Jay O. Honjo**
President & CEO, ITO EN (North America) INC.



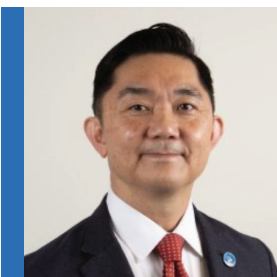
“Throughout my career, the U.S.-Japan Council has been an instrumental partner in fostering meaningful relationships between the City of Seattle and Japan, as well as inspiring my own personal reflection on my heritage as a Japanese American. From the Japanese American Leadership Delegation program to USJC’s Annual Conference, I am grateful for the **countless opportunities this organization has provided to learn from others, collaborate across borders, and strengthen bonds between the people of the United States and Japan.**”

— **Bruce Harrell** (JALD '16)
Mayor of Seattle



“The **Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** creates the space to build meaningful relationships and an incredible network of the 'next generation' thought leaders, decision makers and movers and shakers. The ELP program is unique in that it offers a **platform for individuals to grow in their leadership and careers, and connect with prominent, distinguished leaders in U.S.-Japan relations.**”

— **Amy Watanabe** (ELP '18)
Vice President, NakatomiPR



“Our engagement with USJC, including participation in programs like the Japanese American Leadership Delegation, has provided profound insights into the history and contributions of Japanese American communities, as well as **opportunities to connect with high-ranking Japanese government officials and business leaders** from organizations such as Keidanren and Keizai Doyukai, and initiatives like Hiroshima’s ‘Culture of Peace.’”

— **Akira Yamamoto** (JALD '25)
Japanese Services Group (JSG)/US Japan Corridor,
Americas Regional Leader and US National Leader, Deloitte LLP



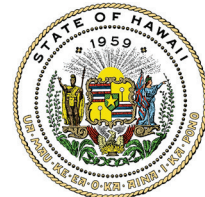
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The U.S.-Japan Council is supported by individuals, foundations, corporations and government grants that help us promote understanding and collaboration between the United States and Japan and that share our belief that strong U.S.-Japan relations are essential for global security and prosperity.

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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.

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