

East-West Center

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.



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Mission ▶ The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

Vision ▶ East-West Center, in collaboration with partners, is a premier institution in the Indo-Pacific to convene, develop, and equip a network of leaders to solve challenges of common concern.

Values ▶ **RESPECT:** Be inclusive, listen openly and actively. Value expertise and forms of knowledge from many cultures and perspectives.
INNOVATION: Seek improvement and growth, and embrace change by being agile, adaptable, and comfortable in challenging the status quo.
COLLABORATION: Work as a team across the Center and across the region, benefiting from multicultural, multidisciplinary, and multisectoral approaches.

*Cover photo credits: Camera image-SrdjanPav/Getty Images;
Coral image-Stuart Westmorland/Getty Images.*

↓ Arriving students get acquainted at the Fall 2023 Community Building Institute for new participants. EWC was delighted to welcome its largest cohort of new degree students in more than 20 years.





Aloha kākou,

FOR US HERE IN HAWAI'I, BUILDING RESILIENCE HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS after the devastating wildfires on Maui this past summer. We know that it is a subject of critical importance as well for communities throughout our region and world as we face today's unprecedented global challenges. At the East-West Center, we have always believed that true resilience emerges from working together collaboratively to find solutions, as you can see reflected in the selection of outstanding activities highlighted in these pages.

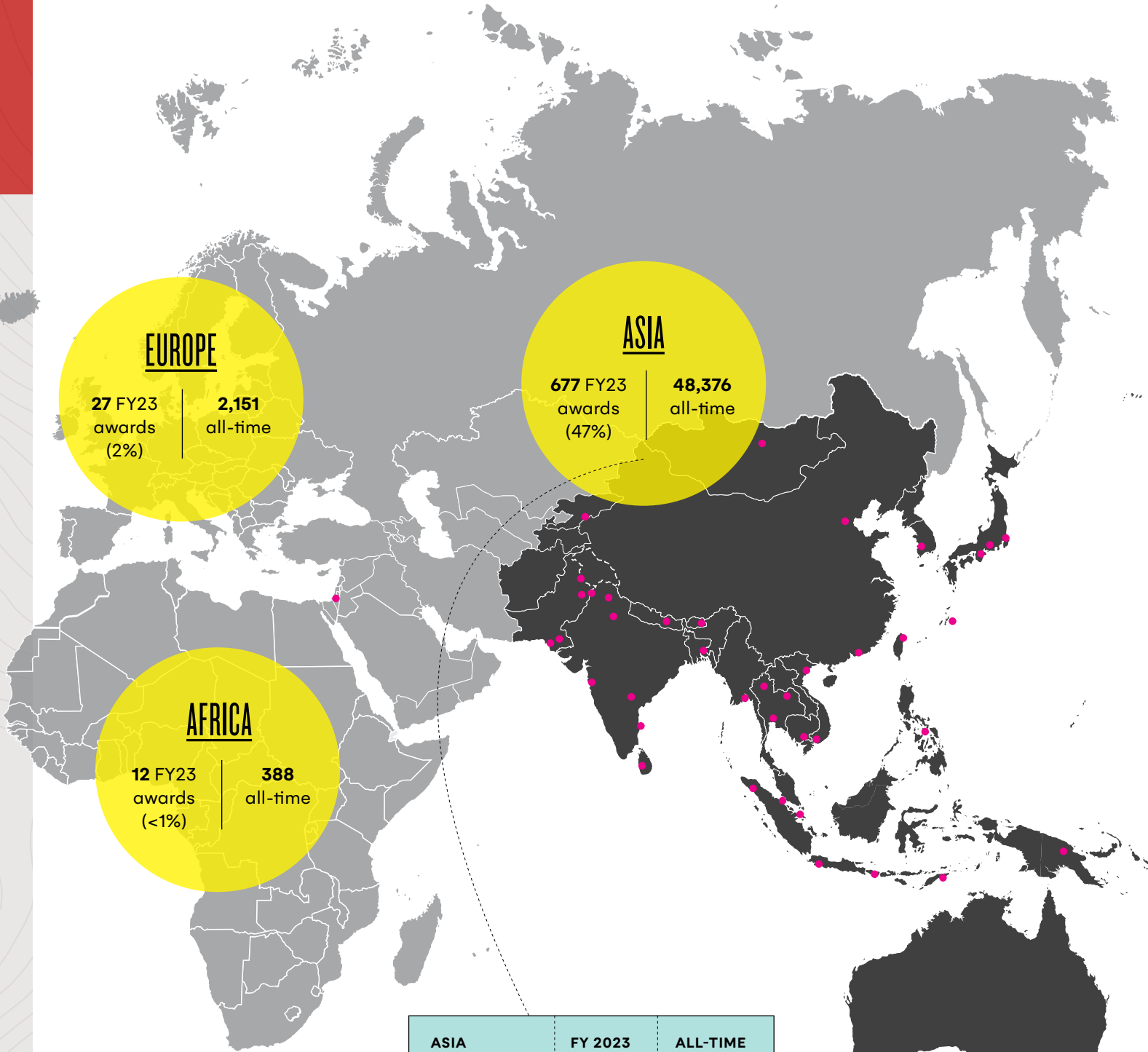
After developing a renewed strategic plan for the Center in 2022, EWC leadership and staff focused this year on translating the strategy's action plans into reality. We were thrilled this past fall, for example, to welcome nearly 150 new degree students, our largest cohort in more than two decades. Over the year, we also launched a range of new research and professional development fellowships, and stepped up our level of in-person engagement throughout the region by EWC leadership, researchers, and exchange groups.

We are thankful for the \$2.3 million increase in our 2023 federal appropriation that made much of this growth possible, along with the generous donors who contributed a total of more than \$2.2 million in philanthropic giving, exceeding fundraising goals for the year. A further \$2.55 million in capital improvement funding from the State of Hawai'i has allowed us to begin work on a variety of critical infrastructure projects across our campus.

Truly inclusive resilience touches all aspects of a community, and this is something we see each day at the Center's facilities in Honolulu and Washington, DC, from our collaborative initiatives with partners across the region to our service-oriented 'ohana of more than 70,000 alumni and the dedicated community volunteers who help support our student residents. Mahalo for joining us in this important work! We look forward to sharing many further accomplishments together in the coming year and beyond.

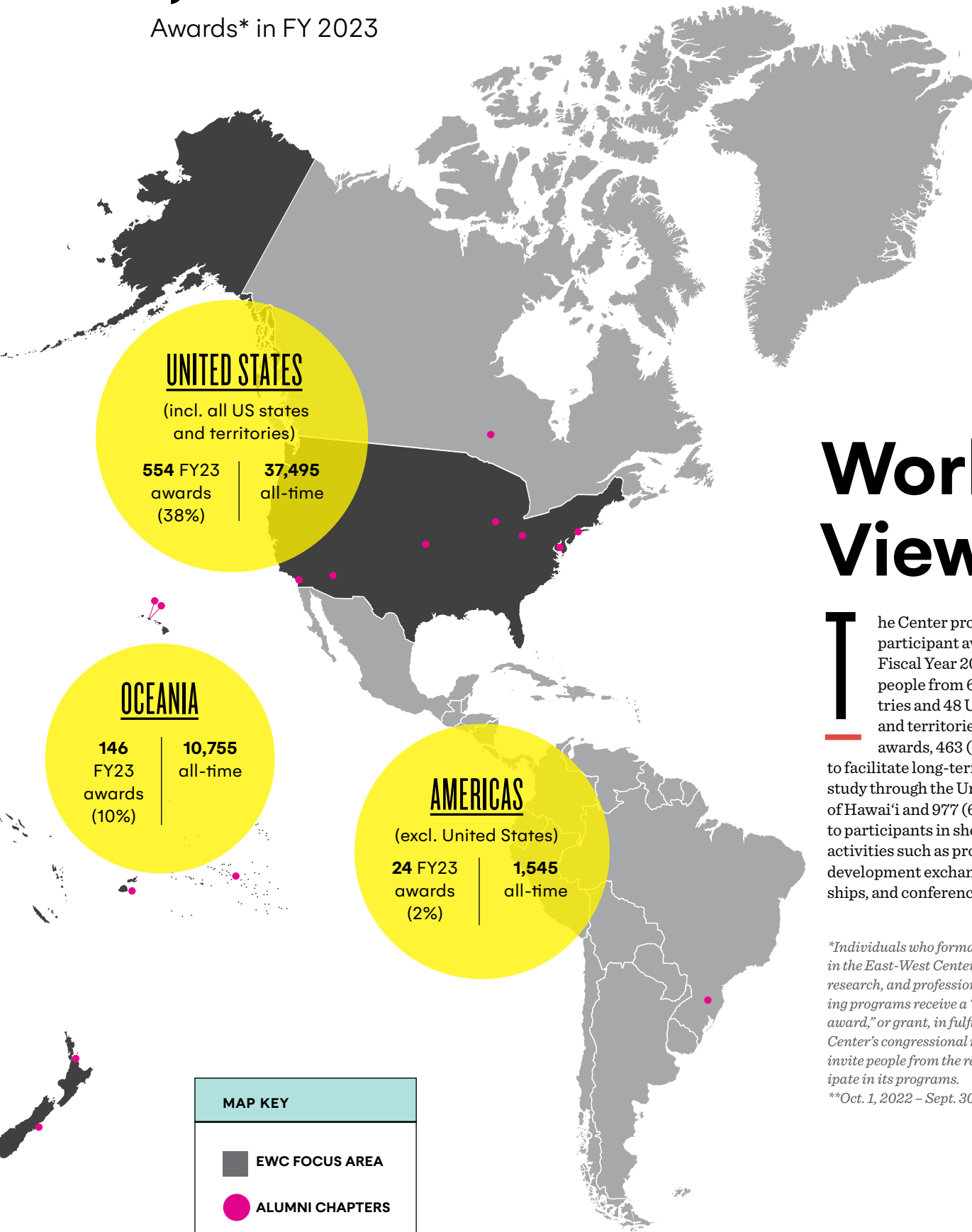
Suzanne Vares-Lum
PRESIDENT, EAST-WEST CENTER

Dr. James K. Scott
CHAIR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS



1,440

Awards* in FY 2023



World View

The Center provided 1,440 participant awards* in Fiscal Year 2023** to people from 66 countries and 48 US states and territories. Of these awards, 463 (32%) went to facilitate long-term degree study through the University of Hawai'i and 977 (68%) went to participants in shorter-term activities such as professional development exchanges, internships, and conferences.

**Individuals who formally participate in the East-West Center's educational, research, and professional training programs receive a "participant award," or grant, in fulfillment of the Center's congressional mandate to invite people from the region to participate in its programs.*

***Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023*



↑ Part of EWC's largest new cohort in recent years, incoming students are all smiles.

Generation Next

Building a community of leaders

Growing community

IN FALL 2023, THE EWC EDUCATION PROGRAM was thrilled to welcome its largest cohort of new graduate students in more than two decades. Close to 150 students from 44 countries and territories, 14 US states, and 58 different fields of study participated in the Center's introductory Community Building Institute (CBI) in August. Thanks in part to enhanced support from numerous scholarship donors, we now have more than 340 current degree students living in our dorms, a 75 percent increase since 2017 despite two years of pandemic lockdowns!

Throughout the year, participants take part in student-led activities including the annual International Graduate Student Conference; the innovative weekly forum The Exchange; and the East-West Fest cultural celebration in the spring. "EWC's student experience gives participants the chance to share perspectives, gain essential leadership skills, and work collaboratively across cultural and disci-

plinary boundaries," elaborates Dean of Education Ann Hartman. "All while being immersed in an international residential community that is committed to positive change."

Women of inspiration

This year's edition of the Changing Faces Women's Leadership Seminar brought 14 remarkable women from 11 countries to Hawai'i for a two-week deep dive into leadership and entrepreneurial skills through nearly 200 engagements with speakers, trainers, and mentors on two islands. In turn, the participants served as mentors to 17 public school students from O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. With the support of donors like the Fish Family Foundation, this year's seminar and the affiliated #GalswithLEI public forum centered around building Indigenous values into entrepreneurship models.



↑ Around 200 attended this year's 7th annual #GalswithLEI women's entrepreneurship forum.



↑
Young Professionals Program participants attend a White House state welcome for India PM Modi.

Rising leaders

Each semester, East-West Center in Washington’s Young Professionals Program offers university students and recent grads a chance to gain first-hand experience in US-Indo-Pacific research and education. This year, 39 participants from the US and nine other countries from Mongolia to Ireland took part in the program, engaging in data research and article writing for the Asia Matters for America initiative, as well as attending issue-oriented seminars and delivering briefs.

At Imin Center in Mānoa, meanwhile, participants in Generation 21 of the immersive Asia Pacific Leadership Program had an opportunity to celebrate with supporters, EWC leadership, and staff who had made their APLP experience possible. “The East-West Center staff has so much passion,” said participant Joanne Mun from Malaysia (see Spotlight profile). “And I feel like the good friends I made in my cohort are the kind of cheerleaders everyone needs sometimes to share your successes and cheer you on when you’re down.”



By the Numbers

→ 340+ degree students in fall 2023, with a record 148 new students

→ 200 Changing Faces & #GalswithLEI engagements

→ 39 Young Professional fellows in DC

→ 22 APLP Gen21 fellows

SPOTLIGHT



Planting Seeds of Change

A COMMUNITY ARCHITECT FOSTERS GREEN SPACE AND OPPORTUNITY IN MALAYSIA’S CAPITAL CITY

► **Malaysian architect, urban designer, and planner Joanne Mun** had her first encounter with East-West Center leadership programming back in 2016, when she was selected for the former New Generation Seminar, a travel exchange geared toward early-career leaders in public policy and civic engagement. This past year, she doubled down on the EWC experience as a participant in the transformational, half-year Asia Pacific Leadership Program, or APLP, which includes several months of residency at the Center’s Honolulu campus.

In the intervening years, Mun had blossomed as a leader in community development through her involvement with two grassroots organizations in Kuala Lumpur. One works to literally change the landscape experienced by the city’s poor through an urban farm and green space, and the other is a YWCA program that provides education and career training for girls in need.

“The COVID-19 pandemic may be over, but the impacts it has had on our livelihoods are not,” Mun says of the underserved communities she works with. “I would like to see Malaysia evolve toward a more resilient society.”

Having risen to positions of influence in each organization, Mun began seeking out new approaches to her work, which led to her enrollment in APLP



I am now more confident in facing my future pathway in the social impact field, and I’m so thankful for those that have shared their knowledge and given me strength to continue to fight for the betterment of society.”

with support from two donor funds, the Eleanor and Hermann Haus Fellowship and the George R. Ariyoshi Scholarship. With its emphasis on developing workable strategies to effect change, Mun says, the APLP program “gave me the space to reflect on my career path, particularly the two-month residency in Hawai’i with lots of leadership education and professional support. I met many like-minded individuals that are making positive social impacts in their communities, and I have been highly inspired by them.”

Looking ahead, her organizations are now seeking to involve more young people as volunteers, she says. “We hope to train the next batch of change-makers.”

Matters of State to Matters of Faith

Bringing nations and cultures together

Hosting diplomacy

EWC WAS HONORED TO HOST a number of high-level diplomatic meetings this year, in keeping with the Center’s longstanding prominence as a trusted partner for official discussions and its institutional emphasis on hosting impactful dialogues. As a start, senior officials from the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, or APEC, met at the Center to map out regional priorities during the United States’ year as APEC host. This was followed by a series of three official dialogues in Washington, Honolulu, and Jakarta on the year-old US Indo-Pacific Strategy, as well as an informal “track 1.5” trilateral dialogue bringing together officials and experts from Japan, Korea, and the US ahead of a diplomatic meeting held

at the Doris Duke Foundation’s Shangri La Museum in Honolulu. And finally, the Center was delighted to host the signing ceremony for the long-negotiated Compact of Free Association renewal agreement between the US and the Marshall Islands.

“Through convening incredible events, dialogues, and people-to-people exchanges, the East-West Center is at the forefront of helping demonstrate to the American people why the Indo-Pacific matters,” US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Daniel Kritenbrink said at one of the convenings. “I think what we can conclude more than anything is that the East-West Center matters!”

Reporting across cultures

This year marked the 20th year of the Senior Journalists Seminar, a study and

↓
By the Numbers

EVENTS
 Each year, EWC presents a wide variety of discussions and events on topics of common concern to the Indo-Pacific region. Events are regularly held in Honolulu, HI; Washington, DC; in-region; and online.

211
 → TOTAL EVENTS*

24,000+
 → ATTENDEES/VIEWERS**

**125 in person; 49 virtual; 37 hybrid*

***Includes individuals who attended an in-person event or viewed a live stream, plus later video views.*

travel exchange founded in the wake of 9/11, which brings together journalists from the US and countries with substantial Muslim populations to help elevate public discourse regarding the role of religion and identity in the public sphere. This year’s cohort of journalists from nine different countries visited Washington, DC; Honolulu; Thailand; and Indonesia on a three-week journey exploring religion’s far-reaching impact on society from the viewpoint of diverse beliefs.



← Left: Top US diplomat for APEC Matt Murray leads a panel during the forum’s Senior Officials Meeting at EWC. Right: Senior Journalists Seminar fellows learn about Buddhist environmentalism in Thailand.



↑ Above: Jefferson Fellows don protective gear during a visit to Fukushima, Japan, site of the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster. Below: Korean journalists meet with Hawai'i Rep. Ed Case on Capitol Hill.

With the continued easing of pandemic restrictions abroad, EWC's journalism programs were also able to resume a full slate of other travel-study exchanges, including the flagship [Jefferson Fellowships](#) and the [Korea-US Journalists Exchange](#). And for the first time, the Center hosted a three-day dialogue in DC between [journalists from India and Taiwan](#). "Bringing together journalists from these two democratic countries led to some truly robust discussions and an array of reporting on issues of mutual concern," said EWC Vice President Satu Limaye, the dialogue's moderator. "The success of this bilateral exchange has led to plans for a wider convening of Indo-Pacific journalists."

SPOTLIGHT

Wide Angle Lens

A TV JOURNALIST FROM PAKISTAN GAINS BROADER PERSPECTIVE



▶ **As a senior broadcast journalist with Pakistan's GEO TV, Nasim Haider has interviewed** many of the country's most prominent officials, reported on national and international issues, and traveled widely. He was drawn to apply for EWC's 2023 [Senior Journalists Seminar](#), he says, because it was "meticulously designed" to engage international journalists and promised access to new viewpoints, cultures, and values.

As this year's 20th anniversary cohort of nine journalists from the US and countries with large Muslim populations traveled together to Washington, Honolulu, Jakarta, and Bangkok, they explored religion's role in society and its intersection with politics, government, and law. For Haider, the knowledge he gained about US religious and political dynamics was directly relevant to his reporting. "SJS broadened my understanding of US politics and the presidential elections," he says.

He was especially affected by his EWC experience in Hawai'i, where Haider says he found the program facilitators and local community to be impressively supportive and collaborative. This inspired him to pay it forward, "promoting mutualism," as he puts it. Upon returning to Karachi, he helped orchestrate a rare meeting between US and Pakistani diplomats and lawmakers to discuss a possible sister-state relationship between New York and the provinces of Sindh and Punjab. He told the assembled dignitaries that he had been inspired to help advance the proposal by his visit to the East-West Center and "the spirit of Hawai'i."

"I learned so much from all the important places we visited and the fascinating people we met," Haider says of his SJS experience. "It was a transformational tour, without a doubt."



I had read about the rich history of Hawai'i, but I didn't anticipate how my experience there would affect me. The serene atmosphere infused me with a sense of coming closer to nature, and closer to each other."



By the Numbers

→ **146 FY23 participant awards** across Oceania

→ **19 Young Economic Empowerment Leaders work placements** in Hawai'i, Alaska, New York, and DC

→ **16 Hawaiian exhibition events**, 754 total event attendance

← Participants in the new Resilient Pacific Islands Leaders Fellowship visit the US Capitol. While in DC, fellows engaged with experts on issues ranging from climate finance and food security to regional cooperation and US-Pacific relations.

Pacific Talent Empowered

From community advancement to the arts, embracing island stars

Three paths to Pacific leadership

IN JUNE, THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED the new, US-funded Resilient Pacific Islands Leaders Fellowship. The six-week curriculum for the first contingent of 24 rising leaders from 19 Pacific countries and territories included an online module, a residency in Hawai'i, and field immersion in Washington, DC—all centered around advancing goals and priorities of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In a similar vein, two cohorts totaling 19 young Pacific Islands professionals participated in the Professional Development Program's Pacific Islands Young Economic Empowerment Leaders exchange under the theme of "Post-Pandemic Equitable and Sustainable Economic Recovery." The five-week, State Department-funded fellowship offers hands-on work placement in a matched US organization, along with a range of educational and cultural activities in Hawai'i and DC. Additionally, three American fellows took part in an outbound exchange, traveling to share their expertise in diverse projects—ranging from museum administration to surfing tourism development—in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga.

Completing the trifecta, the 10-year-old Pacific Islands Leadership Program once again welcomed participants after a three-year pandemic pause. The group of 19 rising professionals from 13 Pacific nations spent two months learning about key regional issues and culturally sustaining leadership both at EWC and

in Taiwan, in cooperation with program funder the Republic of China (Taiwan) Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They join a [vibrant network](#) of more than 150 PILP alumni across the Pacific who are dedicated to shaping the region's future through informed, effective action.

Celebrating Hawaiian arts today

In a landmark season for the [Arts Program](#), the EWC Gallery presented two Native Hawaiian-themed exhibitions in 2023. The first show, *Hana Keaka: The Art of Hawaiian Theatre at UH Mānoa*, featured costumes, instruments, props, set models, and production photos from five groundbreaking productions by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Hawaiian Theatre Program. Events held in conjunction with the exhibition included readings of new works in progress and a Hawaiian-language performance of scenes from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Later in the year, the gallery cohosted the collaborative, multi-site exhibition *Ai Pōhaku, Stone Eaters*. Presented jointly by six educational gallery spaces, the initiative featured works in a broad range of media that, as the exhibition curators explained, "help tell a story of Kanaka Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) contemporary art that began during the archipelago-wide cultural reawakening of the 1970s and continues to unfold."

↓ Top: Pacific Islands Leadership Program fellow Grant Drecala from Tuvalu gives an interview in Taiwan about his experiences in the program. Bottom: Photo by Nick Masagatani of the 2015 production *Lā'ieikawai*, included in the EWC Gallery exhibition *Hana Keaka: The Art of Hawaiian Theatre at UH Mānoa*.



SPOTLIGHT

Amplifying Unheard Voices

A MEDIA CREATOR
ADVOCATES FOR ABILITY
INCLUSIVENESS IN PAPUA
NEW GUINEA



► **Clare Immaculater Elizabeth Guria**, a social entrepreneur and advocate in Papua New Guinea, experienced first-hand the impediments facing women living with disabilities in her country after she experienced a sudden, unexplained loss of her hearing at age 16. Undeterred, she sought training and education to bridge the ensuing communication gaps and social disadvantages, and won a scholarship to pursue instruction in Australian Sign Language and study design at the Queensland University of Technology. Back in PNG afterward, she freelanced as a graphic designer while expanding her advocacy involvement with groups like the PNG Women With Disability Network and consulting with the UN and other international programs.

In early 2023, Guria was selected to participate in EWC's intensive, five-week [Professional Fellows Program for Young Economic Empowerment Leaders](#), accompanied by a PNG Sign Language interpreter. The program's focus was on providing work experience and networking opportunities to boost participants' career strategies and help them prepare for leadership roles in their home communities.

“

I had not really seen myself as a leader until I attended this program. Now I consider myself a leader and role model alongside others who advocate for employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and education pathways for women with disabilities.”

Guria says her work placement with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York was particularly rewarding. "I was among Deaf professionals and students in a setting that is specifically designed for them, something I rarely encounter back at home," she recounts. "I felt inspired, motivated, and most importantly, challenged."

Tending the Grassroots

Environmental initiatives connect policy and community

Community-centered climate resilience

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, EWC brought together 37 community organizers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand in September for a dialogue on the impacts of climate change at the community level. The four-day convening in Chiang Mai, Thailand was the first of a series under the new [Building Bridges for Community-Centered Climate Resilience](#) project aimed at bridging gaps between broad climate policy and marginalized local communities who are often on the front lines of climate risk.

“In policy circles, climate change tends to get abstracted as a global phenomenon,” explains project co-lead Dr. Micah Fisher. “But communities overwhelmingly describe their climate issues in

terms of local problems like water and food security, health concerns, anxieties over livelihoods, and governance challenges. Without centering the perspectives of local communities, we risk alienating the very populations who are most vulnerable to climate adversity.”

Celebrating a decade of YSEALI

In February, more than a hundred accomplished young leaders and program partners convened for five days in Bali, Indonesia for the 2023 [YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Global Environmental Issues Alumni Workshop](#). Funded by the US Department of State and led by the East-West Center’s [Experiential Professional Development](#) program in collaboration with the University of Montana’s Mans-

field Center, the workshop centered on such topics as values-based leadership, scholarship opportunities, and a gallery of exceptional initiatives led by alumni. Attendees also participated in community service by planting trees, creating a wheelchair-friendly path, and working on a regenerative farm in collaboration with local organizations.

The gathering coincided with the 10th anniversary celebration of the YSEALI initiative’s founding. In that time, Center staff and regional partners have trained close to 2,000 Southeast Asian youth and counting, forming a vibrant alumni community throughout the region.

During the current five-week YSEALI Academic Fellowship program, which includes travel to EWC and several other US destinations, fellows focus on issues



↑ Participants gain first-hand experience in regenerative farming practices as part of the YSEALI Alumni Workshop in Bali.



← Far left: Community organizers and civil society representatives from six nations convene in Thailand to envision community-centered climate resilience.

Adjacent photo: EWC Board of Governors member Chris Kanter shares his wealth of experience with young leaders at the Bali YSEALI workshop.



such as climate change, renewable energy, ocean protection, sustainable development, and food security. They also learn how to impact these issues in their home communities through social-entrepreneurship strategies like innovation challenges, startup accelerator programs, digital media campaigns, arts initiatives, and more. Program staff and partners ran three separate YSEALI Academic Fellowships in 2023 totaling more than 60 participants, and they are ramping up even further to implement White House plans to double YSEALI programming over the next three years.

← YSEALI fellows visit San Francisco to explore innovation in environmental policy.



By the Numbers

→ 17 YSEALI Academic Fellowship cohorts thus far, totaling 357 participants

→ 37 participants in a new initiative on community centered climate security

SPOTLIGHT



Right Place, Right Time

A CONSERVATIONIST'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVOLVES INTO GRADUATE STUDY

► As a current East-West Center **Student Affiliate** pursuing her master's degree in marine biology through the University of Hawai'i, Retno Kusuma Ningrum is concentrating her studies on researching sea turtles and Indonesian conservation efforts. Ningrum, who

is from Bogor in Indonesia, first came to the Center in 2022 as a participant in the YSEALI Academic Fellowship on Environmental Issues, an EWC-led component of the US State Department's sweeping Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative. Back in Indonesia, she used funding available to YSEALI participants to help EWC create the virtual Blue Tech Accelerator Program for Southeast Asian startups that use advanced technologies to make sustainable ocean or freshwater operations more viable.

The stars aligned when Ningrum got the news during her YSEALI visit that she would be receiving a Fulbright Indonesia scholarship for graduate study in the US, and she knew that UH is a leading institution in her field. "The timing was perfect," she says. "When I came to the Center for my YSEALI program, we had many activities on campus, and those experiences helped me see myself in Hawai'i for advanced study."

She was also excited to explore the outdoors, from the beach to the mountains. "I fell in love with Hawai'i instantly," she says, noting that when she went snorkeling in Waikiki for the first time she encountered a honu, or

sea turtle, which she took as an auspicious sign given her interest in studying leatherback turtles in Indonesia. "It felt like the universe was talking to me," she recalls, "saying that I have to stay."

After graduation, Ningrum envisions pursuing nonprofit work to design marine management strategies that incorporate economic opportunities for coastal communities. "My top goal," she says, "is to become a sea turtle expert in Indonesia and be able to improve the ecological condition of marine and coastal areas by incorporating sustainable economic development."





← At left and below: panelists and audience members at this year’s *Japan Matters for America* update launch on Capitol Hill. Bottom: Rep. Mario Rafael Diaz-Balart, co-chair of the Taiwan Congressional Caucus, gives keynote remarks at the *Taiwan Matters* launch.

Expertise in Action

Programs and publications help inform sound policy

Advising the advisors

EAST-WEST CENTER IN WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO GROW ITS successful suite of Congressional Staff Program certificate courses offering Capitol Hill staffers a deep dive into Indo-Pacific issues through engagements with a wide variety of expert speakers and officials. With three separate courses offered in the past year focusing on Japan, Korea, and Australia, close to a hundred congressional staff members have now gone through the programs since their inception.

This year, EWCW also expanded programming at the US state level, with the new Asia Matters for America Governors’ Staff Program. In addition to virtual activities, the fellowship brought gubernatorial staff members from Hawai’i, Nevada, North Carolina, and North Dakota on study travel to Japan, South Korea, and Washington, DC to deepen their understanding of how the Indo-Pacific impacts US communities. Participants interacted with officials, business groups, and universities, and explored opportunities to elevate their own state’s regional engagement.

More ‘Matters’

In another banner year, the Asia Matters for America/America Matters for Asia initiative saw five different publication launches, including a first-time APEC Matters for America report that was circulated widely at the APEC leaders’ summit in San Francisco. Other releases included a new report on Taiwan, along with updated reports on US interactions with ASEAN, Japan, and Korea. “America is paying so much attention to the Pacific,” House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi said at the APEC Matters launch event on Capitol Hill. “And you should be too.”



Building knowledge networks

The Center's [Research Program](#) launched a new fellowship during the year, the [Research Innovation Collaboration & Exchange](#), or RICE, to foster projects that help strengthen networks, partnerships, and shared outcomes in the region. Open to researchers, practitioners, policy experts, and journalists, the inaugural RICE Fellowships are covering work on Asia's role in the Arctic, the US-Australia alliance and Southeast Asia, and water resources in the Pacific.

In addition, the Center reintroduced the [EWC Occasional Paper](#) publication series exploring Indo-Pacific topics through substantive analytical research that also helps advance collaboration and exchange. The first edition in the rebooted series was [The West Versus Beijing?](#), an in-depth analysis by EWC Senior Fellow Marcus Noland and co-author Cullen Hendrix of the factors contributing to the 2022 United Nations Human Rights Council vote not to debate human rights conditions in China's Xinjiang region.



By the Numbers

→ 93 Congressional Staff Program participants all-time, 28 in 2023

→ Data on 12 countries & regions covered individually by the Asia Matters for America initiative

→ 1,145 attendees and online viewers for Asia Matters launches during the year

SPOTLIGHT



State of Awareness

AN AIDE TO HAWAII'S GOVERNOR
BUILDS REGIONAL TIES

▶ As a special assistant to Hawai'i Governor Josh Green, Cameron Deptula knows about the need for greater understanding of the Indo-Pacific region at the level of US state officials and their staff. So he was excited about the opportunity to be part of East-West Center in Washington's new [Asia Matters for America Governors' Staff Program](#), which brought together gubernatorial staffers from several states to explore state-level relationships with nations and subnational governments across the region. "It is critical for us to identify and pursue ways to ensure that Hawai'i can be an economic and diplomatic center of the Pacific, and even of the broader Indo-Pacific region," he says of his enthusiasm for the program that included travel to Washington, DC; South Korea; and Japan, along with virtual briefings and networking opportunities.

After growing up helping in his family's small clothing business in Central O'ahu, Deptula channeled his youthful passion for public policy into his studies as a history major at UC Berkeley, where he focused on Hawai'i's economic and political development. After graduating in 2022, he went to work for Gov. Green, who also serves as an ex-officio member of EWC's Board of Governors. That led to Deptula's participation in the Center's new program, which he describes as

"an incredible experience. The level of expertise and access we encountered in all of our program locations and activities was truly eye-opening."

As part of the program, he co-authored a [commentary](#) for EWCW's Asia Pacific Bulletin series that compared Hawai'i's response to last summer's Maui wildfires with disaster preparedness, recovery, and resilience

actions in Japan. The piece suggests that Hawai'i should leverage its extensive network of relationships with Pacific states and cities to collaborate on resilience-building, with potential economic benefits as an incentive.

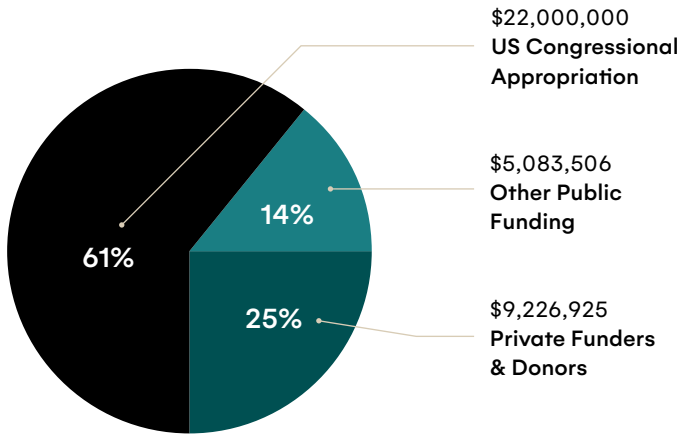
Deptula says the gubernatorial staff program's focus on building international and interstate connections holds great promise. "We can promote regional resilience, support desirable industries, and increase professional opportunities for residents," he says. "These are all issues that have meaningful, positive impact for our state's people."



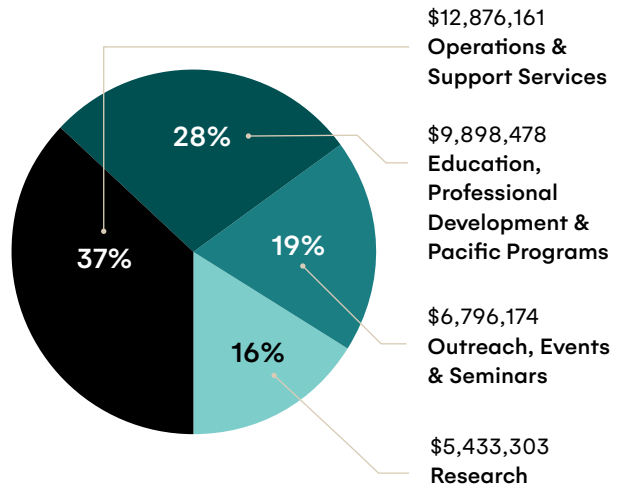
"Through strong relationship-building, we can help our state solve systemic challenges such as affordable housing. This is why the kind of long-term relationships that the East-West Center's programs build are so important."

Financial Overview

FY 2023 Revenue (Unaudited)



FY 2023 Expenses (Unaudited)



The financial graphs represent cash-basis data for EWC fiscal year 2023, beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. The standard accrual financial statements are currently being audited and are not equivalent to the reporting basis in the graphs. When audited financial statements are issued, they will be online at www.EastWestCenter.org.

Outreach



Publications

40

Center titles including *Asia Matters for America*, *AsiaPacific Issues*, *Asia Pacific Bulletin* and more

86

books, chapters, and articles published externally by researchers



Social Media*

4.2 million

impressions, 111,000+ followers/subscribers

News Media

1,100

mentions in local, national, and international news outlets

*Combined Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube accounts as of 9/30/23.

EWC Leadership

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Suzanne Vares-Lum
President

Dr. Satu Limaye
Vice President & Director of
Research and EWC in Washington

Tracey Omori
Chief Operating Officer

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Paul Adrians
Director of Human Resources –
Development & Implementation

Jonathan Chow
Administrator,
Information Technology Services

Ann Hartman
Director and Dean of Education &
Professional Development

Dr. Mary Therese Hattori
Director, Pacific Islands
Development Program

Carly Iwamoto
Director of Human Resources –
Operations & Administration

Christina Monroe
Director, Alumni Engagement

Jung Song
Chief Development Officer

Kris Thompson
Campus Operations Director

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Elisia Flores
Lynn Miyahira
Hon. John Waihe'e III

APPOINTED BY THE US SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. Caroline Casagrande, Vice Chair
Amb. Kelley E. Currie
Amb. Kenneth I. Juster
Hon. David R. Stilwell
Rep. Gene Ward, PhD

ELECTED MEMBERS

H.E. Hilda C. Heine, EdD
Chris Kanter
Dr. Yanghee Lee
Dr. Samir Saran

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Governor of Hawai'i Josh Green
(Designee: Jaime Kanani Green)
**Assistant US Secretary of State
Lee Satterfield**
(Designee: Acting Deputy Assistant
Secretary Marianne Craven)
**University of Hawai'i President
Dr. David Lassner**

INVITEES

Karen Knudsen
President,
East-West Center Association
Raoul Magaña
Chair, East-West Center Foundation
Chairperson
Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders

Notes: Current staffing and board membership as of January 2024. See also the EWC Alumni Association board on page 18 and the EWC Foundation board on page 19.



← EWC alumni reconnect at a reception in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, part of a string of Alumni and Friends events in Southeast Asia this past August.

Growing Together

Alumni engaging for good

THE EAST-WEST CENTER ALUMNI COMMUNITY GREW IN BOTH NUMBER AND IMPACT IN 2023. We were excited to add two new alumni chapters in Chiang Mai and Fiji, and to welcome new chapter leadership in Chennai, Seoul, Tokyo, and Washington, DC. Meanwhile, our chapters hosted more events than in any recent year, with terrific turnouts including 100 apiece at Alumni & Friends Receptions in Manila and Jakarta, and hundreds more at educational, cultural, and service events in Bangkok, Beijing, Chennai, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles, Mongolia, New York, Tokyo, Washington, DC, and beyond.

Thanks to our database system upgrade this year, we will now be able to keep in much better touch with our community of more than 70,000 alumni spread across the globe. Since the upgrade, hundreds of alumni have updated their information to receive region-based invitations and updates. Many asked to join chapters for the first time, from Ontario to Pakistan, including our newly refreshed Media Chapter. And we have gained new statistical insights, such as that over 10,000 EWC alumni have returned to the Center after their first experience, and that 10 percent are University of Hawai'i alumni as well.

The first ever EWC Association General Membership Meeting, held virtually and attended by more than 80 participants across multiple time zones, introduced exciting initiatives and new board members representing a greater diversity of EWC programs and places. The enthusiastic gathering was yet another indicator that our alumni, who live in 181 of the 195 countries in the world, continue to be committed to furthering the Center's mission globally.

→ By the Numbers

→ 70,000+ alumni in 181 countries

→ 53 alumni chapters, including new chapters in Thailand and Fiji

EAST-WEST CENTER ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

Karen Knudsen
President
Hawai'i, USA

Taine Duncan
Vice President for Participant Engagement
Arkansas, USA

Vannary L. Kong-Bui
Vice President for Chapters
Maryland, USA

Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi
Secretary/Treasurer
Suva, Fiji

Edward (Ned) Shultz
Vice President for Development
Hawai'i, USA

Glenn van Zutphen
Vice President for Programs
Singapore

BOARD MEMBERS

Ronny Adhikarya
Hawai'i, USA

Amanda Ellis
Hawai'i, USA

Subir Kole
Uttar Pradesh, India

Chan Namgoong
Seoul, South Korea

Shigeo Tonoike
Tokyo, Japan

Bich Thi Tran
Singapore

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Carl Hefner
EWCA Hawai'i Chapter Representative

Corwynn Madrone
EWCPA Representative (2023-2024)



← Left: Former President Obama offers videotaped congratulations to US Sen. Brian Schatz (lower right), who received the Center's Asia-Pacific Community Building Award at the 2023 "International Affair" gala. Right: EWC President Vares-Lum speaks to several hundred supporters and guests at the gala.

Elevating EWC Impact

The power of giving

RELECTING BACK ON THE EAST-WEST CENTER FOUNDATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR, I am so grateful for the opportunity to witness how the generosity of our donors is elevating the Center's impact. The more than \$2.2 million we collectively raised this year was higher than we have achieved in any of the past five years. And its impact is seen throughout EWC's work, in ways such as:

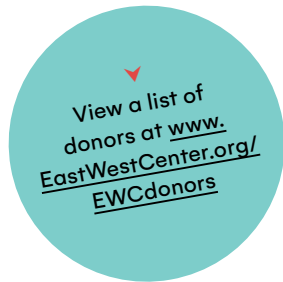
- Supporting the Center's largest new-student cohort in 20 years, including participants highlighted in these pages.
- Convening impactful dialogues, such as revitalizing a high-level speaker series that has funded addresses by such notable speakers as Nobel Peace Laureate Maria Ressa and, most recently, Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Samuel Paparo.
- Forming new partnerships that address critical issues of our time, such as the Building Bridges for Community-Centered Climate Resilience convening series with the Rockefeller Foundation, which aims to connect climate policy with vulnerable communities who are most directly affected by the crisis.

All of this was made possible by the generosity of our donors.

I am grateful to serve on the EWC Foundation board with incredible peers who share a commitment to connecting our donors with the passion and impact of the Center's programs. We are looking forward to driving more donor engagement and program support in the year to come.

Mahalo,

Raoul Magaña
CHAIR



EAST-WEST CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raoul Magaña, Chair
Charlene Lo Chan, Vice Chair

ELECTED MEMBERS

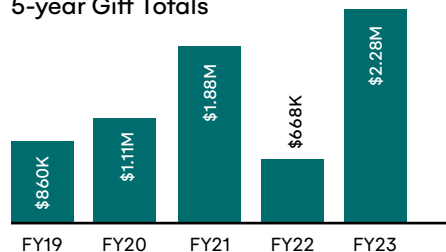
Avelino J. Halagao	Kathryn A. Nelson
Louise Ing	Jean E. Rolles
Karen Knudsen	Richard Turbin
Melanie Kosaka	
Jim Landers	
Jennifer Lau	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. James K. Scott
Edward (Ned) Shultz
Lynn Miyahira

By the Numbers

5-year Gift Totals





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CENTER

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HONOLULU, HI 96848
+1.808.944.7111

WASHINGTON:
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WASHINGTON, DC 20036
+1.202.293.3995

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