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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

# Reflections on Elections as a Mechanism for Change

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Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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For a number of years the East-West Center, with support from the U.S. Department of State, has fielded multinational election observation teams to learn about and offer suggestions for improving the ways in which elections are conducted in various Asia Pacific nations. This year is the first time the Center is conducting a program hosting a multinational group within the United States. The purpose of this activity is to gain first-hand knowledge of our national, state and local electoral systems through direct observation and interaction with a diverse range of individuals engaged in the electoral process. It represents an effort to deepen and broaden participants' comparative knowledge of the U.S. electoral system, thereby contributing to a stronger and more vibrant community of Asia Pacific democracies. The overall objective is to create a network of individuals who understand and appreciate the principles and practices of holding free and fair elections as a key element of democratic governance.

This discussion will give the participants in the election observation seminar a chance to share their experiences in Hawai'i and reflect on how what they have observed relate to the electoral processes in their home countries. The participants include:

**Ms. Maria Goretti Belo,**

Deputy General Director, Secretariado  
Técnico de Administração Eleitoral (STAE),  
Timor-Leste

**Mr. Ioane Burese,**

Chief of Staff, Fiji Times,  
Fiji Islands

**Ms. Asenaca Kolinivala,** Acting Senior  
Electoral Officer, Fiji Elections Office,  
Fiji Islands

**Ms. Belinda Kora,**

News Director,  
PNG FM Limited  
Papua New Guinea

**Mrs. Salote Sisifa,**

Senior Journalist,  
Radio and Television Tonga  
Kingdom of Tonga

**Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend. Check out our WES blog - <http://mywes.info/>**