

On the occasion of the State Service being held today, I humbly offer my deepest condolences.

Ever since hearing the news of his passing in April, I have felt deep sorrow at the loss of a great leader who spent his life fostering the bonds between Japan and Hawaii—and, by extension, between Japan and the United States.

George Ariyoshi was the first Asian American to be elected governor in the United States. In the State of Hawaii, he opened the door to exchanges with Japan across a wide range of fields—including tourism, economy, education, and culture—and devoted himself to deepening mutual understanding and trust between Japan and the United States.

During his lifetime, Mr. Ariyoshi was honored with Japan's Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

This decoration stands as a symbol of Japan's profound respect and gratitude for his achievements.

We will never forget how Mr. Ariyoshi would often hum the song "One Pencil" by the Japanese singer Hibari Misora. We feel that his love for songs that yearn for peace and bring people's hearts together embodied the "Aloha Spirit" that Mr. Ariyoshi cherished throughout his life.

We will keep Mr. Ariyoshi's legacy close to our hearts and continue to strengthen and solidify the bonds between Japan and Hawaii, as well as between Japan and the United States, passing them on to future generations. We will devote even greater efforts to promoting people-to-people exchanges, deepening cooperation in culture, education, and economy, and building communities that support one another. May George Ariyoshi rest in peace, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

September 18, 2026
Prime Minister of Japan
TAKAICHI Sanae