



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)
KAKEHASHI Project
Tomodachi KAKEHASHI Inouye the 2nd Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 university students and supervisors from the United States visited Japan from March 24th to March 31st, 2017 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through visiting local governments, lecture by ministry, school exchange, observation of historical sites and other experiences, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences through SNS. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to their home country.

【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】

U.S.A. 25 Participants (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Kanagawa, Fukuoka

2. Program Schedule

March 24 th (Fri)	Arrival at Narita International Airport [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau “Japan’s Foreign Policy” [Orientation]
March 25 th (Sat)	[History/Culture] Oversea Immigration Museum [Historical Landmark] Japan Open-Air Folk House Museum [Observation of Commercial Facility] Queen’s Square
March 26 th (Sun)	Move o Fukuoka [Historical Landmark] Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine [Cultural Experience] Umegae Mochi (Sticky rice) Making
March 27 th (Mon)	[Courtesy Call] Fukuoka City [Nature/Culture] Ohhori Park [Regional Industry] TOYOTA Motors factory [Regional Industry] Yasukawa Electric Miraikan
March 28 th (Tue)	[Cultural Experience] Nho performance experience [School Exchange] Kyushu University
March 29 th (Wed)	[Cultural Experience] Tea Ceremony (Shofu-en) [Observation of Commercial Facility] AEON Mall Fukuoka

[Workshop]

March 30th (Thu) Move to Tokyo

[Cutting Edge Technology] Chiba Institute of Technology, Sky tree town Campus

[Historical and Traditional Culture] Edo Tokyo Museum

[Reporting Session]

[Exchange Program] TOMODACHI alumni from US Japan Council

March 31st (Fri) [Observation] Tokyo Metropolitan Government





[Observation] Odaiba Area

[History/Culture] National Museum of Japanese History

Departure from Narita International Airport







3. Program Photos

Tokyo

	
<p>3/24 [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau (Tokyo)</p>	<p>3/25 [History/Culture] Oversea Immigration Museum (Tokyo)</p>
	
<p>3/25 [Historical Landmark] Japan Open-Air Folk House Museum (Kawasaki City)</p>	<p>3/30 [Exchange Program] TOMODACHI alumni from US Japan Council (Tokyo)</p>

	
<p>3/30 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)</p>	<p>3/31 [History/Culture] National Museum of Japanese History (Sakura City)</p>

Fukuoka

	
<p>3/26 [Cultural Experience] Umegae Mochi Making (Dazaifu City)</p>	<p>3/27 [Regional Industry] Yasukawa Electric Miraikan (Kitakyushu City)</p>
	
<p>3/27 [Nature/Culture] Ohori Park (Fukuoka City)</p>	<p>3/28 [Cultural Experience] Nho performance experience</p>
	
<p>3/28 [School Exchange] Kyushu University (Fukuoka City)</p>	<p>3/29 [Workshop] (Fukuoka City)</p>

4. Voice from Participants

◆ KAKEHASHI Participant

I think that the foreign policy lecture was interesting because it covered many different aspects of Japan as a whole from the economy to the culture that the Japanese people wish to keep intact. However, I think it strange that one play is to increase the amount of women in leadership positions whilst simultaneously increasing the birth rate. These seem like conflicting goals. However, the lecturer assured me that both goals were being met.

I found the facilities of Kyushu University to be maculate in comparison to UH Manoa. I am curious as to whether this difference is the result of superior Japanese efficiency or lack of funding.

I found the manufacturing processes at Toyota Kyushu and Yasukawa Electric to be fascinating. I was amazed at how efficient the factories were. The JIT (Just-in-Time) practices used by Toyota were especially fascinating to watch. The quality of the infrastructure throughout the areas we visited was also surprising. What took me just a couple minutes by subway in Japan would have taken 3-5 larger in Hawaii. Furthermore, the cleanliness of the cities were a sight to behold. What I found especially strange was the lack of trashcans, yet there was little to no litter on the streets lastly. I was pleased by the amount of people walking around the streets at night. This was especially pleasing when compared to Hawaii where people generally drive everywhere.

◆ KAKEHASHI Participant

Our lectures were truly interesting and impressive. The comprehensive information contained in each lecture was amazing. I particularly liked the lecture from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as it provided a rare window into the foreign policy of Japan. It was interesting to compare the World War II stories/lessons from US side and Japan side.

I loved visiting Kyushu University and its students. The infrastructure and advanced specialization, campuses are astonishing. I feel that US Universities, especially university of Hawaii at Manoa would greatly benefit from a similar development of and investment in education.

The tour of various Japanese companies were absolutely shocking. The efficiency and work ethic of Japanese workers (ex. At the Toyota Motors Kyushu) are impressive. We were able to touch a glimpses of the incredible technological advancement in Japan (ex. Yasukawa Electric) that will further influence and improve health care and, standard of living and worker experience.

Additional - Another lecture I was particularly interested in was the lecture on Nikkei and emigration to other countries. We previously did not realize the large presence or impact of Japanese people in places such as Brazil. I was surprised by the change in connotation "Japs" and "Ainoko" terms (originally derogatory) to compliment to hardworking and reliable nature of Japanese descendants. This lecture helped to further show the international relations between Japan and other countries. I was moved by the hospitality and respect of everyone in Japan, especially the coordinators of this program and other people we encountered on this experience. Thank you for this unique trip that helped us strengthen US-Japan relations.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/ Host Families /Organizations

◆ University Student from School Exchange

I had been looking forward to seeing the Kakehashi participants from University of Hawaii, Manoa in Fukuoka. They are very cheerful and friendly and helped me understand their English by speaking slowly and converting to simple words every time I had difficulties to understand what they said. We really enjoyed talking about university life and own family each other. It was interesting to know that one of the students I met, since she is Nikkei (Japanese American), normally speak in English to her mother, while her mother speak in Japanese to her. Through the interaction with them, I felt strong connection between Japan and Hawaii. Hawaiian dance (hula) performed in their presentation gave me a strong impression. In addition, walking with them in town was a good opportunity for me to know more about Fukuoka where I live more than 20 years, which made me think deeper where they prefer to go and what I should introduce, as I have never guided foreigners before. I also found interesting how they see ordinary Japanese life with their perspective getting many questions about buildings, scenery and cultures in Japan while guiding them around Tenjin and Hakata area. Learning about other country's culture and history is important when communicating with foreigners, however it is also very important to learn about own country in order to explain it to others. It became a good memory that I could have a meaningful time with foreigners in the same generation. I wish I could have more time with them in Hawaii, too.



◆ University Student from School Exchange

The experience I spent a whole day with the students from Hawaii was really meaningful. Before I meet them, I had worried how I spend a time and what I talk with foreign students I have just met for the first time. However, once we met and had lunch together, we gradually got closer and naturally had conversation each other. It was not easy to express what I want to say since my English communication skill is not enough, but I learned that the positive attitude toward communication will help a lot understand each other. In addition, it became an opportunity to make me realize again what we see everyday as usual can be something curious for the foreign students, which means what we have in common among Japanese is not common in abroad. I found that guiding foreign people will be a good opportunity to reconsider what the attractive points in Fukuoka are. I would like actively to participate in this kind of exchange program to be a KAKEHASHI between Japan and foreign countries.




◆ University Student from School Exchange

When I visited Hawaii in this Kakehashi program, I couldn't actively talk with the students in English. Therefore, this time I encouraged myself to proactively talk and communicate with them, although I was not still confident in my English ability. However, once I spoke them in English, I found the conversation went well even with my poor English, and they also kindly made efforts to make me understand even though I asked them to repeat many times. They are so nice enough to make me confident in English communication. This experience also brought me a positive feeling in participating this cultural exchange activities with foreigners from now on. I deeply appreciate for this opportunity in communicating with students from Hawaii, and will make the best use of this experiences in the future.

6. Dissemination by the participants

	<h3>Kakehashi</h3> <p>PUBLISHED ON April 3, 2017 by Chelsea Tanaka Leave a comment</p> <p>Through the Kakehashi TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program, I had the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Japan, and the significance of the role that the scholars and I play in building a kakehashi between the US and Japan.</p> 
<p>The TOMODACHI KAKEHASHI Inouye program not only allowed me to learn about Japan's identity and form bonds, it gave me hope that there are many people out there willing to learn about one another in order to form harmony.</p>	<p>Through the Kakehashi TOMODACHI Inouye Program, I had the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Japan, and the significance of the role that the scholars and I play in building a kakehashi between the US and Japan.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<h3>Action Plan (cont.)</h3> <p>What: (What are you planning on doing?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing experiences at historical and cultural sites here in Japan - Cultural preservation -> cultural identity -> cultural sensitivity -> Global Citizens <p>How: (How will you implement your plan?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the blog - Social media posts, with captions - Creating a PowerPoint with information directly from the source with a personable aspect.  	<h3>Future (Miri)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Who: TOMODACHI Scholars & UHM Students serving Japanese American community in Hawaii ■ What: Volunteer as tour guides and event coordinators ■ When: Summer - Fall 2017 ■ Where: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii 
<p>Experiences at historical and cultural sites here in Japan will be shared through the social media, with focusing on the topic of cultural preservation and cultural identity as Nikkei, to bring the idea of cultural sensitivity and Global Citizens.</p>	<p>Tomodachi Scholars and University of Hawaii, M students will organize a Japanese American community in Hawaii, and will plan volunteering tour guides and event coordination in Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in fall 2017.</p>