



## **KAKEHASHI Project (USA)**

### **Invitation Program for Japanese American Youth (JACL) Report**

#### **1. Program Overview**

【Objective】 While deepening their understanding of Japanese politics and foreign policy, Japanese American Youth chosen by the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) explored their own roots through interacting and exchanging views at the various locations they visited, and experiencing the charms of Japan. The main objective of the program was for the participants to widely disseminate and share lessons learned and insights gained during their visit from the perspective of Japanese-Americans, with the aim of playing an active role in future Japan-US relations.

【Participants】 Total: 74 Japanese American Youth (undergraduate students, graduate students, working youth) and members from scholastic institutions.  
(25 in Group A, 24 in Group B, 25 in Group C)

【Locations】 Group A: Tokyo, Okinawa  
Groups B and C: Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima

#### **【Program Schedule】**

##### **■ Pre-study Program (Online)**

Jan. 11 (Thu) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warning, COVID-19 precautions, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Video Viewing】 Lecture “Japan and the United Nations”,  
“Lecture on Japan” (selected from Web Japan)

##### **■ Inbound Program**

Jan. 16 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport and Narita International Airport

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Jan. 17 (Wed) 【Observation】 Tokyo National Museum

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ISHIHARA Hirotaka, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister

Jan. 18 (Thu) 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

January 18 (Thursday afternoon) – January 22 (Sunday morning)

Divided into two groups. Group A visited Okinawa, Groups B and C visited Yamaguchi and Hiroshima.

All groups traveled to Tokyo on January 22 after completing regional programs.

Group A: Okinawa

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. NAKAMA Hajime, Kin Town Mayor

【School Exchange】 The University of the Ryukyus

【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay, Farewell Party with the Host Families】 Yomitan Village

【Lecture, Experience】 Learning about the marine environment: “About the coral ecosystem”  
Lecturer: Mr. ISHIBASHI Nobuhiro, Natural Blue Inc.

Experience: Beach cleaning

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

Groups B and C: Yamaguchi, Hiroshima

【Observation】 White-walled streets of Yanai

【Observation】 Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii

【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 Suo-Oshima Town

【Experiencing Japanese Culture】 Original goldfish lantern crafting

Travel from Yamaguchi to Hiroshima

【Observation】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

Jan. 22 (Mon)           【Lecture】 “Recent Developments in U.S.-Japan Relations and Why Japanese Americans Should Pay Attention”

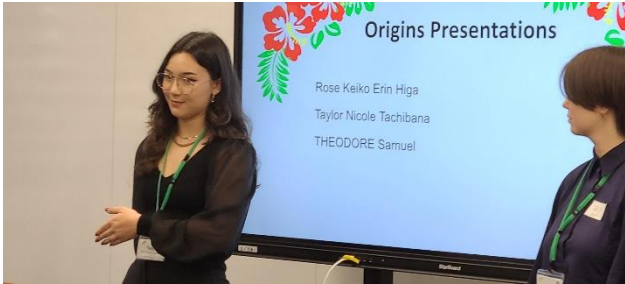
Lecturer: Mr. Glen S. Fukushima, Vice Chairman, Securities Investor Protection Corporation

Jan. 23 (Tue)           【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans  
Departure from Haneda Airport and Narita International Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Inbound Program

#### Group A: (Location: Okinawa)

|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   |
| <p>January 19【Courtesy Call】Mr. NAKAMA Hajime, Kin Town Mayor</p>                  | <p>January 19 【School Exchange】 The University of the Ryukyus</p>                   |
|  |  |
| <p>January 21 【 Farewell Party with the Host Families】</p>                         | <p>January 21 【Lecture, Experience】 “About the coral ecosystem”</p>                 |

#### Groups B and C (Locations: Yamaguchi, Hiroshima)

|                                                                                          |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       |  |
| <p>January 19 【Experiencing Japanese Culture】<br/>Original goldfish lantern crafting</p> | <p>January 19 【Observation】 Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii</p>              |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                            |                       |
| <p>January 20 【Homestay】 Suo-Oshima Town</p>                                                                                                                                                                | <p>January 21 【 Farewell Party with the Host Families】</p>                                              |
| <p>Shared Program (Tokyo)</p>                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                           |                      |
| <p>January 17 【 Courtesy Call 】 Mr. ISHIHARA Hirotaka, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister</p>                                                                                                            | <p>January 18 【 Courtesy Call 】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs</p> |
|                                                                                                                          |                     |
| <p>January 22 【Lecture】<br/>“Recent Developments in U.S.-Japan Relations and Why Japanese Americans Should Pay Attention” Mr. Glen S. Fukushima, Vice Chair, Securities Investor Protection Corporation</p> | <p>January 23 【Reporting Session】</p>                                                                   |

### 3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

#### ◆ Working Youth

I absolutely loved the home stay experience in Suo-Oshima! I think it's very amazing to be able to be immersed in the countryside and find beauty in the Japanese lifestyle. I fell in love with the island and its culture. Growing up, I studied Japanese for 13 years but was always so embarrassed to speak the language outside of school, so I never improved. However, through this homestay, I was able to use the Japanese that I've learned throughout the years and actually realize that I had it in me all along. I really was able to find a connection to Japan that I had never felt before as a 4th generation Japanese American.

◆ **Working Youth**

I was most impressed by the visit to the Prime Minister's office and MOFA because of how symbolic and significant both interactions were. The special advisor and vice minister were very generous with their time and their thoughtful answers were very much appreciated. This inspires me to follow Japanese politics more closely. (Organization: House of Representatives, Office of Congressman)

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The exchange program at the University of the Ryukyus was one of the most impressive parts of the trip. Within my group with the students from the university, we discussed deeply about the immigration patterns of Japan and how it relates to our families, and with many of our families being in the Japanese incarceration camps during WWII, we were able to exchange those stories and explain the reality of life for Japanese Americans. The overall reception allowed for a learning experience for all involved.

**4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)**

◆ **Host Family**

Being Japanese American youth, each of them had a story to tell about how at the outbreak of World War II, their ancestors were forced to live under harsh conditions in internment camps and had no choice but to fight against various forms of discrimination and prejudice. They also showed us some valuable photos from that time. I plan to use this opportunity to learn more about the Japanese American community.

◆ **Host Family**

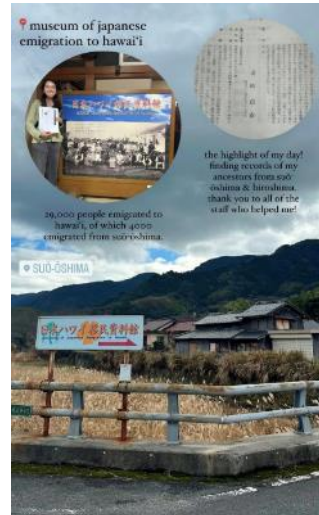
We hosted this homestay with the idea of having the participants meet and interact with the locals while getting a feel of the Japanese countryside. They practiced tai chi with the people in our community, talked about agriculture, and gained a mutual understanding of differences in culture and customs, making this very meaningful exchange for everyone.

**5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.**



January 19, 2024 (Instagram)

Our school exchange at the University of the Ryukyus was actually very fun, they all spoke pretty good English and took several hours out of their day even though It's quite literally finals week for them. We talked about Japanese immigration to other parts of the world and study abroad from Japan vs. the US.



January 19, 2024 (Instagram)

Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii. 29,000 people emigrated to Hawaii, of which 4000 emigrated from Suo-oshima. The highlight of my day! Finding records of my ancestors from Suo-Oshima & Hiroshima.



January 20, 2024 (Instagram)

My host family in Yomitan Village, the mochi they made for me, and the beautiful sea of Okinawa.



January 20, 2024 (Instagram)

Suo Oshima in Yamaguchi prefecture is famous for its oranges and fish. It seemed like almost everyone on the island had orange trees in their yard! All the food pictured here is straight from the island and super fresh. During our home stay, we peeled oranges and made orange juice, then cooked rice with the



## Group B (Locations: Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima) Report on all two plans



### 【Findings in Japan】

During the JACL pre-orientation program, we learned about "harmony, respect, purity and tranquility," the spirit of the Japanese tea ceremony, and after arriving in Japan, we were able to learn a great deal about the concept and its significance in depth.

### 【Differences and Similarities】

Although there are differences now in the Japanese culture and customs that we have inherited as Japanese Americans, we are proud of our Japanese roots as our second home and will continue to contribute to society with our Japanese American identity in mind.

### 【Action Plan】

We would like to speak out at universities, Asian clubs, and community gatherings after our return home in order to disseminate the attractiveness of Japan and share its information. In particular, there will be a program on Nevada KWNK radio on February 22 featuring Japan, and one participant would like to send out information about the KAKEHASHI program there,

## Group C (Locations: Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima) Report on all two plans



### 【Findings in Japan】

We are all Japanese Americans, but we have found that there are differences in our connections between Japanese Americans as well as our ties to Japan depending on whether we live on the west or east coast of the United States.

However, the culture, customs, and Japanese language have been passed down through the ages, and we were able to experience the daily lives of Japanese people on Suo-oshima Island, see the history of the people of Hiroshima who rose from the ruins at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and learn about the roots of the various virtues found in people of Japanese Americans, such as patience, tolerance, diligence, and religious views.

### 【Action Plan】

Each person will communicate the lessons learned through printed materials published by his/her

organization or school. In addition, information about the KAKHEASHI Program will be sent to Japanese Americans through workshops and social media, and participants will be recruited.

Examples:

- (1) Photo exhibition will be held at Chicago JACL's "Remembrance Day" (February 18).
- (2) Details will be published in the Seattle JAC newsletter.
- (3) The program will be published in the Newsletter of the Japanese American Student Union of the University of Washington.
- (4) A presentation will be given at Kizuna, a youth development NPO in Little Tokyo.
- (5) Will disseminate information as a director of the SELANOCO branch of JACL.

**Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)**