

**Japan RESPECTS America First Agenda. Not in Hawai'i**  
January 22, 2025

**ATTN:**

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Community and Military Officials

Aloha e friends ~

We start a new legislative year both in Hawai'i and nationally. Our country and world is unsettled by the extremist agenda from the White House. We enter a period of renewed American Nationalism. Democrats lost the trust of Americans with DEI programs and soft-power tactics. The new president demands an end what he considers the "decline in America."

This will be my 6th year working to restore RESPECT to our fallen heroes on America's Memorial Day Monday. This observation is dedicated to the valiant, courageous men and women in uniform who died in service to the United States of America and our people. Most of you remember last year's action. Ended in fireworks ... patience is running out. Pete Tingstrom asked to partner with our efforts, and we embarked on a Good Cop/Bad Cop strategy to motivate change. Once again, officials unfortunately rejected our pleas to put American HEROES FIRST. Pete promised to make headway over the year. He's not informed me of any progress.

Of interest, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya met with Secretary of State Rubio yesterday to begin strengthening ties between our two great nations and people (below). Democrats in Hawai'i and nationally refused to support our honorable request to convince Japanese Buddhist Order, Shinnyo-en, to host Lantern Floating Hawai'i on Sunday, rather than Memorial Day Monday. We seek peace and harmony by sharing a memorial weekend with our gracious Japanese friends. Shinnyo-en's continued refusal to respect our culture and traditions is disturbing. This obstinance does not appear to be in line with the inspirational teaching of the Buddha.

I make this final request of local officials and Shinnyo-en. If unsuccessful, will reach out to President Trump. Trampling on this memorial observation is not America or Americans First. Our nation is strong, and our nation assists the Japanese nation be strong as well, due in part to the enduring sacrifice and commitment by the American men and women in military uniform. Public

support can never waiver. We must place our heroic men and women first in our hearts and public admiration.

It's a simple request. Please Shinnyo-en, host Lantern Floating Hawai'i on Sunday. Leave Memorial Day Monday for America to honor and observe our fallen heroes. Let's end this conflict and shame. Let's bring our bilateral ties to new heights this year.

Thank you, mahalo and どうもありがとうございます 🙏

