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East-West Center to Honor the Past and Look to the Future at 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Gala Dinner

President Lyndon Baines Johnson's Daughters Among the Honored Guests

HONOLULU (December 9, 2009) – In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the East-West Center will honor the past and look to the future at a special gala dinner on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010.

Taking place from 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, the dinner will recognize the visionary founders of the Hawai'i-based institution, including then-U.S. Senate Majority leader (and later President) Lyndon B. Johnson, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and former Hawai'i Governors John Burns, William Quinn and George Ariyoshi and all those who have participated in its mission of contributing to a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific region. Among the special guests in attendance that evening will be President Johnson's daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson.

“We are delighted and truly honored that President Johnson's daughters are able to join us for this gala celebration,” said Dinner Co-Chair Joan M. Bickson. “Their father played a key role in the Center's establishment, with the foresight to recognize how the institution would serve the region and the world in the quest for peace, justice and freedom.”

The East-West Center was established in 1960 by Congress to promote cooperation and understanding among the people and nations of Asia, the Pacific and the United States. Since its founding, close to 60,000 students; scholars; journalists; and political, civic and business leaders have come together to learn from each other and to solve critical issues of common concern through cooperative research, education and dialogue.

Among the dinner highlights will be a cocktail reception, live entertainment, formal program with 50th anniversary dinner and recognition of honored guests. Premium tables of ten are available from \$2,500, with individual tickets priced at \$250 per person. For more information or to purchase a table, call (808) 944-7105 or visit www.EastWestCenter.org/giving.

The [EAST-WEST CENTER](#) is an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Center contributes to a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community by serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia Pacific region and the United States. Funding for the Center comes from the U.S. government, with additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations and the governments of the region.

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