



# JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF HAWAII

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Japan-America Society of Hawaii forms partnership with TOMODACHI initiative

**Honolulu** – The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) recently established a formal relationship with the U.S. Embassy Japan and U.S.-Japan Council-led TOMODACHI initiative to provide disaster relief to Japan. TOMODACHI is a public-private partnership, led by the United States Government and the U.S.-Japan Council and supported by the Japanese Government, that supports Japan’s recovery from the Great East Asia Earthquake and invests in the next generation of Japanese and Americans in ways that strengthen cultural and economic ties and deepen the friendship between the United States and Japan over the long-term.

JASH was invited to a press conference held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the U.S. Ambassador’s residence in Tokyo to announce the launch of TOMODACHI’s Educational Exchange programs. At that press conference, the TOMODACHI initiative and the projects it supports were introduced, to include JASH’s “Rainbow for Japan Kids” project. Rainbow for Japan Kids that brings children from the Tohoku region affected by the March 11 disaster to Hawaii for rest, recuperation, and physical/psychological relief through team-building and cultural activities is one of six Education and Academic Programs announced to be included in TOMODACHI. TOMODACHI provides funding support to Rainbow for Japan Kids. On hand at the press conference along with U.S. Ambassador John Roos and U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye were leaders of corporations whose generous contributions support TOMODACHI, including SoftBank, General Electric, and Coca-Cola (Japan) Company.

Also at the press conference, Susie Roos, wife of the U.S. Ambassador, announced that the entire proceeds of over 1.6 million yen from sales of her charity recipe book, “A Melting Pot of America and Japan,” will be donated to disaster-stricken Onagawacho in Miyagi Prefecture. The funds will be used to send students from Onagawacho on the “Rainbow for Japan Kids” program sponsored by JASH. Ambassador Roos and Susie Roos visited Onagawacho in July of 2011 to participate in the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office’s V5 relief efforts to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to an evacuation shelter there. Inspired by the unflagging spirit of the people of Onagawacho, Mrs. Roos created the recipe book with the aim of raising funds to support the youth of Onagawacho and inspire them to be part of the TOMODACHI generation. JASH’s Rainbow for Japan Kids project provided the perfect opportunity to support the youth of Onagawacho quickly and positively. JASH will be working with its partner in Miyagi, the Bikki Organization, to include Onagawacho students in the next Rainbow for Japan Kids visit to Hawaii in March.



# TOMO DACHI



*JASH President Ed Hawkins with Ambassador Roos and several other program recipients at press conference and reception launching TOMODACHI Educational Exchange programs*

More information on these programs can be found on JASH website at [www.jashawaii.org](http://www.jashawaii.org), or call JASH at (808) 524-4450 and on the U.S. Embassy website at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.