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## Secretary of State Clinton completes Hawaii visit

Story and photo by Tech Sgt. Cohen Young

Defense Media Activity Hawaii



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton completed a two-day visit in Hawaii on Oct. 28 after meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara at the Kahala Hotel and Resort on Oct. 27. On Oct. 28, she addressed Hawaii-based Hawaii military and civilian leaders at the hotel.

Clinton was in Hawaii to begin her two-week trip through the Pacific Region, including visits to Guam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa. During her visits, she will be discussing Asia-Pacific strategy with U.S. allies.

U.S. Pacific Commander Adm. Robert Willard and other Hawaii-based leaders greeted Clinton when she arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the afternoon of Oct. 27. She made her way to the Kahala Resort where she and Maehara discussed the Japan/U.S. alliance, the role of U.S. forces in Japan and the secretary's overall Asia-Pacific strategy.

"We are working together for peace and prosperity of the region," Maehara said. "Our meeting was very fruitful," he added.

Clinton delivered a major policy speech at the Kahala Resort on Oct. 28, stating that she was looking forward to this trip for some time as she has seven diverse destinations to visit.

"This itinerary reflects Asia's diversity and dynamism," Clinton said. "It complements the route that President Obama will take in just a few weeks when he visits India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea," she added.

According to Clinton, she and the president will cover a significant portion of this vital region at a pivotal moment after nearly two years of intensive engagement. The U.S. goals in the Pacific are to sustain and strengthen America's leadership in the Asia Pacific Region, to improve security, to heighten prosperity, and promote our values, the secretary said.

The United States has been practicing forward-deployed diplomacy, which means they have adopted a proactive footing.

"We've sent the full range of our diplomatic assets including our highest ranking officials, our development experts, our teams from a wide range of pressing issues, into every corner and every capital of the Asia Pacific Region," Clinton explained.

"We know that much of the history of the 21st century will be written in Asia. This region will see the most transformative economic growth on the planet," she said.

Clinton also discussed how important America has been as Asia has moved forward into the future.

"The progress that we see today in Asia has not only been the hard work of leaders and citizens across the region, but the American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines that protect borders and patrol the region's waters; the American diplomats that have settled conflicts and brought nations together in common causes; the American business leaders and entrepreneurs who invested in new markets and formed trans-Pacific partnerships; the American aid workers that have helped countries rebuild in the wake of disasters; and the American educators and students that have shared ideas and experiences with their counterparts across the ocean," Clinton noted.

The secretary spoke about underlying regional security and supporting stronger democratic institutions and the spread of universal human values. She also talked about how the bond with Japan, Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines remains a foundation for U.S. strategic engagement.

"These alliances have safeguarded regional peace and security for the past half century and supported the region's remarkable growth," Clinton said.

Many of those who listened to Clinton's remarks, including some university students, applauded and cheered as she addressed the group.

"Being from Thailand originally and being able to listen to the secretary of state's speech has broadened my will to understand the relationship that America has with Thailand and other countries," said Lalit (Cherie) Kanavivatchai, a communications major at Hawaii Pacific University.

"This has helped me as a communications major learn another way to present an important message as well," Kanavivatchai continued.

"I know how much Hawaii serves as that bridge to the Asia Pacific Region," Clinton said. "The very diversity and dynamism of Hawaii says so much about what is possible not only in our country, but in countries throughout the Pacific."

"It was inspirational to hear her speak in person of the different roles that Hawaii plays," said Kelly Sun Yong Park, a political science and economics major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus.

"It was inspiring, the role and duties that the U.S. will fill in upcoming events," Park added.

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