



FAPA NEWS

SUMMER 2025 | VOLUME XLII-II

FAPA.ORG



TAIWAN TREK: EMERGING LEADERS
WORKSHOP IN TAIWAN

TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

President's Corner

Dear FAPA Members and Friends,

As spring fades and summer comes into full swing, I'm excited to share several encouraging updates with you.

At our Board of Directors meeting last December, we established a **permanent Governance Committee** to strengthen board operations and functions. Under the leadership of our Board Secretary and Vice President, **Chia-Chun Chung**, the committee outlined clear goals for the year and has worked diligently toward achieving them. Their mission is to improve Board oversight and leadership effectiveness. To remain the leading voice for Taiwan in the U.S., FAPA must build upon a solid and sustainable foundation.

Since 1999, **Taiwanese Americans have come together each year to celebrate and share their rich cultural heritage** with the broader American public. Thanks to the dedication of many chapter presidents, this year's **Taiwanese American Heritage Week (TAHW)** campaign was one of the most successful yet. You can find a full report in the TAHW section.

Launched in 2010, the **Emerging Leaders Workshop** has long brought promising young Taiwanese to Washington, D.C., to gain a deeper understanding of how the U.S. government operates and how its Taiwan policies are shaped. This year, we reversed that journey—**bringing future American leaders to Taiwan** to learn, build connections, and gain firsthand insight into Taiwan's perspective on U.S.-Taiwan relations. I am pleased to report that the inaugural Taiwan Trek was a resounding success. One of the highlights was a special banquet where we reunited with Emerging Leaders alumni and had the incredible honor of hearing heartfelt remarks from Taiwan's Vice President, Hsiao Bi-khim. You can find the full recap in the Emerging Leaders Workshop section.

Among the many Taiwan-friendly bills currently in the U.S. Congress, one stands out: the **"Six Assurances to Taiwan Act."** Alongside the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the Six Assurances form a cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Taiwan. If passed, this legislation would formally codify the Six Assurances into U.S. law, reaffirming the United States' enduring security commitments to Taiwan amid growing threats from China. We are proud that **FAPA has played an indispensable and leading role** in advancing this historic legislation.

Finally, I'm happy to report that the **SYL Memorial Fund Campaign** continues to receive strong support and heartfelt feedback. This resounding affirmation of our internship program's value is deeply encouraging. Thanks to your generosity, we have reached a major milestone: **over \$500,000 raised** to date. To all who contributed, **thank you** for helping us invest in the next generation of advocates for Taiwan.



Su-Mei Kao (林素梅), Ph.D.
FAPA National President
2025.07.01

親愛的 FAPA 會員與朋友們，

隨著春天逐漸遠去，夏季正式展開，我很高興能夠與大家分享幾項令人振奮的進展。

在去年 12 月的理事會 (Board of Directors) 會議中，我們正式成立了一個常設的「治理委員會」(Governance Committee)，以強化理事會的運作與功能。在理事會秘書兼本會副會長鍾佳君的領導下，該委員會為今年訂立了明確的目標，並積極努力實現它們。該委員會的使命是提升理事會的監督能力與領導效能。若要持續作為美國推動台灣事務的領導力量，FAPA 必須奠基於穩固且可長久的基礎之上，不斷邁步向前。

自 1999 年起，台美人每年齊聚一堂，與美國社會共同慶祝並分享豐富多元的台灣文化。感謝眾多分會會長的積極投入與辛勞，今年的台美人傳統週 (TAHW) 活動成果斐然，堪稱歷年來最為成功的一次。詳情請參見 TAHW 活動報告。

FAPA 自 2010 年啟動青年領袖培訓營 (Emerging Leaders Workshop) 以來，長期致力於將深具潛力的台灣青年領袖帶往華府，讓他們深入了解美國政府的運作模式與對台政策的制定過程。而今年，我們首度反向推動——邀請美國未來的領袖前往台灣，進行實地學習與交流，親身體驗並理解台灣對於台美關係的觀點與立場。我很高興地向您報告，首屆 Taiwan Trek 活動圓滿成功。其中一大亮點是舉辦了一場特別晚宴，我們與 Emerging Leaders 校友重聚，並有幸聆聽台灣副總統蕭美琴精彩而感人的致詞。詳情請見 Emerging Leaders Workshop 專章的完整回顧。

在美國國會的眾多友台法案中，目前最受矚目的莫過於《對台六項保證法案》(Six Assurances to Taiwan Act)。六項保證與《台灣關係法》(TRA) 同為美國對台政策的基石。若此法案能順利通過生效，將使六項保證正式納入美國法律體系，並在中國威脅日益升高的當下，進一步鞏固美國對台灣的長期安全承諾。在推動這項具歷史意義的立法過程中，FAPA 始終扮演不可或缺的關鍵角色，對此我們深感自豪。

最後，我很高興地向大家報告，「李嵩義紀念基金」(SYL Memorial Fund) 募款活動持續獲得熱烈支持與感人回響，充分肯定了我們實習生計畫的價值與影響力。在各位的慷慨捐助下，我們已達成 50 萬美元的重大里程碑。對每一位捐款人，我謹致上最誠摯的感謝——謝謝您與我們攜手培育下一代的台灣倡議者。



ELW Alumni Reunion Banquet in Taipei

FAPA NEWS

FAPA News is a quarterly publication by the Formosan Association for Public Affairs, providing updates on U.S.-Taiwan Relations, FAPA HQ, and FAPA Chapter activities. This issue covers updates from April to June 2025.



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Advocacy Captains from FAPA's 2024 National Advocacy Conference

We are thrilled to announce the 2025 Advocacy Captains Program by FAPA HQ!

***Chapter Presidents:** Please consider joining or referring someone from your chapter. Help us build a powerful advocacy network by sharing this opportunity to potential leaders. If you are interested in joining, please visit [our official website](#) and fill out the interest form.*

About the Program

The **2025 Advocacy Captains Program** is designed to train community leaders nationwide in grassroots advocacy. We are looking for individuals who can:

- Organize and mobilize local chapter members for advocacy efforts.
- Dedicate time and effort to advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Schedule and lead meetings with elected officials.
- Participate in in-district events hosted by Members of Congress (MoCs) like attending town hall meetings.
- Communicate effectively with HQ and chapter members.

By the end of the program, Advocacy Captains will be able to:

- Communicate legislative priorities to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations.
- Lead and coordinate advocacy visits both in their districts and in Washington, D.C.

Save the Date

The workshops will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

Looking Ahead

This program seeks to connect advocates nationwide to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and eventually build a national network of Advocacy Captains. Mark your calendar—we look forward to seeing you there!



Join [the program](#) NOW!



#security #economic_policy #taiwan #democracy_in_action

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



washington,dc

2025
9.13 - 9.15





CAPITOL WATCH

April 1 – June 30, 2025

by Chih-Jung Huang
and Henry Tsai

U.S., EU, AND ALLIES DENOUNCE CHINA'S MILITARY DRILLS, OPPOSE COERCIVE CHANGE TO TAIWAN'S STATUS QUO

The United States and the European Union (EU) reaffirmed their opposition to any unilateral change to the “status quo” in the Taiwan Strait following China’s large-scale military drills around Taiwan on April 1 and 2. Japan, the United Kingdom (U.K.), Canada, and Germany also voiced concern, underscoring their shared interest in maintaining regional peace and stability.

During an April 1 briefing, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated that President Donald Trump emphasized “the importance of maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait” and reiterated “our opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.” Similarly, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce reiterated U.S. support for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and reaffirmed Washington’s commitment to Taiwan and other allies.

The European Union’s diplomatic arm echoed these sentiments, stating that the EU has “a direct interest in the preservation of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait” and opposes “any unilateral actions that change the status quo by force or coercion.” On April 2, Japan, the U.K., Canada, and Germany also issued statements voicing concern over China’s military drills around Taiwan and reaffirming their opposition to any unilateral or coercive change to Taiwan’s status.

TAIWAN CRITICIZES U.S. 32% TARIFF AS “UNFAIR” AND “UNREASONABLE”

On April 3, Taiwan’s Executive Yuan criticized the United States’ newly announced 32% tariff on Taiwanese goods as “unfair,” “deeply unreasonable,” and “highly regrettable,” stating that it would lodge a formal protest with Washington.

The criticism followed an April 2 announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump, who unveiled a 10% baseline tariff on all imports starting April 5. Countries with significant trade surpluses with the U.S. would be subject to higher “reciprocal tariffs” from April 9, with Taiwan among those targeted at a steep 32% rate.

Taiwan’s Cabinet spokeswoman Michelle Lee called the planned 32% tariff unjust, noting that many Taiwanese tech firms had relocated production from China to Taiwan in response to higher U.S. tariffs and tech restrictions on China during Trump’s first term. She stressed that Taiwan’s actions aligned with U.S. policy interests and that the country had made “tremendous contributions to the U.S. economy and national security.”

U.S. SENATE CONFIRMS “CHINA HAWK” COLBY AS DEFENSE POLICY CHIEF

On April 8, the U.S. Senate confirmed Elbridge Colby as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy in a 54–45 vote. A defense strategist and noted China hawk, Colby stated last year that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would “plausibly and gravely” threaten the United States.

Earlier on March 4, during his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, Colby warned that “Taiwan’s fall would be a disaster for American interests,” referring to a potential invasion by China.

Colby further reiterated his view that the United States’ primary goal should be “denying China regional hegemony,” and argued that U.S. military power must be overwhelmingly focused on countering China.

PRESIDENT LAI OUTLINES STRATEGY IN RESPONSE TO U.S. TARIFFS

In an April 9 opinion piece for Bloomberg, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te responded to U.S. President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariff measures by pledging to expand procurement of U.S. goods and arms and remove trade barriers. The article, titled “[Taiwan Has a Roadmap for Deeper U.S. Trade Ties](#),” outlined four key principles to guide Taiwan’s response and strengthen bilateral economic relations.

Just hours after the new “reciprocal tariffs” took effect on April 9, Trump announced a 90-day pause, while keeping a baseline 10% tariff on imports from most countries. China remained the exception, facing a steep 125% rate. Lai said Taiwan would initiate negotiations with the U.S. to resolve the tariff issue.

Lai’s roadmap includes: (1) restarting trade talks aimed at reducing all tariffs between Taiwan and the U.S.; (2) rapidly increasing purchases of American goods, including energy, agriculture, and arms; (3) forming a cross-agency “U.S. Investment Team” to boost Taiwanese investment in the U.S.; and (4) removing non-tariff trade barriers and addressing U.S. concerns over export controls and improper transshipment practices.

TAIWAN AMONG FIRST COUNTRIES FOR U.S. TARIFF TALKS

“We want everyone to know that Taiwan is on the first negotiating list of the U.S. government,” President Lai Ching-te said on April 11, as he sought to protect Taiwanese exporters from a proposed 32% U.S. import tariff.

In Washington, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said during a Fox News breakfast show on April 11 that he would speak with his Taiwanese counterpart later that day regarding the high tariffs announced by President Donald Trump the previous week.

TAIWAN IS A “CORE INTEREST” OF THE U.S.

On April 15, Taiwan’s Minister of National Defense Wellington Koo stated that a recent warning from the top U.S. Indo-Pacific commander about escalating Chinese military aggression highlights that peace in the region is a “core interest” to the United States, and that maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Strait is widely recognized as a global consensus.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee on April 10, Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, warned that any closure of the Taiwan Strait — a key global trade route — could trigger economic consequences worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s. He cautioned that a war in the Indo-Pacific could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths and long-term economic devastation in both Asia and the U.S.

Minister Koo also pointed to a leaked Pentagon memo as further evidence of the U.S. commitment to deterring a Chinese annexation of Taiwan. The document reportedly calls for prioritizing deterrence against Chinese aggression toward Taiwan above other conflicts, identifies China as the U.S. military’s “sole pacing threat,” and designates a potential invasion of Taiwan as its top strategic concern.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN’S DEFENSE AS PRESIDENT

On April 18, President Lai Ching-te said that Taiwan looks forward to strengthening cooperation with the United States in areas such as trade and technology during a meeting with a visiting U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE).

Ricketts, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, headed the bipartisan delegation to Taiwan from April 16 to 19, joined by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ted Budd (R-NC).

During the meeting, the U.S. delegation emphasized security issues across the Taiwan Strait. **“There is broad consensus in the U.S. Congress to support Taiwan’s self-defense,”** Ricketts said.

Meanwhile, **President Lai** called for a “secure and sustainable economic and trade partnership” between the two sides and **urged joint efforts to build “non-red supply chains” — manufacturing networks independent of Chinese involvement.**

U.S. WARSHIP MAKES SECOND TAIWAN STRAIT TRANSIT THIS YEAR

The USS William P. Lawrence (DDG-110), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, **transited the Taiwan Strait** on the evening of April 22. It marked the U.S. Navy’s second such transit since President Donald Trump’s return to office in January.

However, both the U.S. 7th Fleet — which typically issues statements on Taiwan Strait transits — and Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense did not comment on the operation.

Su Tzu-yun, a research fellow at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, said the **absence of official comment signaled the growing trend toward “normalization” of freedom of navigation operations in the Taiwan Strait.**

U.S. CONDEMNS CHINA’S MISUSE OF UNGA RESOLUTION 2758 AT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

On April 23, during a United Nations (UN) Security Council meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, **Ting Wu, Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Mission to the UN, criticized the People’s Republic of China (PRC) for “misusing” UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 to block Taiwan’s participation in the international organizations.**

Wu’s remarks were detailed in a transcript issued by the U.S. mission. Wu stated that the United States opposes “China’s misuse of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758.” She further criticized the PRC’s exploitation of the resolution “in its attempts to isolate Taiwan, mischaracterize other countries’ policies, and constrain their choices.” **“This resolution does not preclude Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the UN system and other multilateral fora,”** Wu emphasized.

NEW POLL: 82% OF AMERICANS VIEW TAIWAN AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, MAJORITY SUPPORT U.S. DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

According to a new poll by the U.S.-based Humanity for Freedom Foundation, **82% of Americans see Taiwan as an independent country, 68% have a favorable view of Taiwan, and 58% support formal U.S. recognition of Taiwan and the establishment of full diplomatic ties. About 88% of respondents said Taiwan is important to the U.S., including 32% who described it as “very important.”**

The results reflect **“significant bipartisan agreement on key issues related to Taiwan’s sovereignty and its importance to the United States,”** the foundation stated in [a press release](#) on April 28. Calling the results a “clear message,” Humanity for Freedom Foundation President Dane Waters said the U.S. **“must abandon the policy of strategic ambiguity and formally recognize Taiwan.”**

TAIWAN, U.S. HOLD FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING ON TARIFF ISSUES

Taiwan and the United States held their first in-person talks on tariffs on May 1 (U.S. time), according to a [May 3 statement](#) from Taiwan’s Office of Trade Negotiations. Led by Vice Premier Cheng Li-chiun and top trade negotiator Yang Jen-ni, the Taiwanese delegation met with U.S. officials in Washington, D.C. to discuss tariffs and broader trade issues, following an initial round of virtual talks held on April 11.

HOUSE PASSES TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ACT AND TAIWAN ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTATION ACT, STRENGTHENING U.S.-TAIWAN TIES

On May 5, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed two key bipartisan bills—the “Taiwan International Solidarity Act” and the “Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act”—to **strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan partnership. Supported by FAPA, the bills aim to counter China’s false sovereignty claims over Taiwan and eliminate outdated U.S. restrictions on bilateral engagement with Taiwan.**

The Taiwan International Solidarity Act ([H.R. 2416](#)) rejects China’s misuse of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 to exclude Taiwan from international organizations, clarifying that **the resolution does not address Taiwan’s international representation or territorial sovereignty.**

The Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act ([H.R. 1512](#)) directs the U.S. Department of State to regularly review and update its guidelines for engagement with Taiwan. It also requires the submission of recurring reports to Congress, highlighting efforts to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and **identifying opportunities to remove any remaining self-imposed restrictions.**

FAPA worked closely with the offices of the bills’ sponsors — Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Ann Wagner (R-MO), Young Kim (R-CA), and Ted Lieu (D-CA) — to advance the legislation.

SENATORS MERKLEY AND CURTIS REINTRODUCE TAIWAN RELATIONS REINFORCEMENT ACT

On May 5, U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and John Curtis (R-UT) reintroduced the bipartisan “Taiwan Relations Reinforcement Act” ([S. 1588](#)), reaffirming U.S. support for Taiwan’s democracy and international engagement.

The legislation prohibits any U.S. government department or agency from recognizing the PRC’s claims to sovereignty over Taiwan without the **explicit assent of the people of Taiwan, expressed through a democratic process.**

It also seeks to elevate the title of the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) to “Representative,” with the appointment subject to Senate confirmation, consistent with the requirements for all U.S. ambassadors.

More broadly, the bill directs the U.S. government to support Taiwan’s participation in international organizations, advance negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), and invite Taiwanese officials to high-level summits, military exercises, and economic dialogues.

TAIWAN CONDUCTS FIRST LIVE-FIRE DRILL OF U.S.-MADE HIMARS

On May 12, Taiwan’s military conducted its first live-fire drill using the **High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) purchased from the United States, marking a key milestone in Taiwan’s efforts to strengthen its defense against a potential Chinese invasion.**

The Army’s 58th Artillery Command held the exercise at Jiupeng Base in Pingtung County, launching 33 rockets — three from each of 11 HIMARS vehicles. **Taiwan has ordered 29 units, with 11 delivered in 2024 and the remaining 18 expected to arrive in 2026, ahead of schedule.**

Mounted on trucks, HIMARS launchers can fire either a pod of six 227mm guided rockets or a single Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), which has a range of up to 300 kilometers — enough to strike strategic targets in China’s coastal Fujian Province across the Taiwan Strait.

U.S. SENATORS INTRODUCE PORCUPINE ACT TO STREAMLINE ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

On May 13, U.S. Senators Pete Ricketts (R-NE) and Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced the “Providing Our Regional Companions Upgraded

Protection in Nefarious Environments Act,” or **PORCUPINE Act** ([S. 1744](#)), which aims to streamline the process for arms sales to Taiwan.

The bill would place Taiwan into the “NATO-Plus” category — a group that includes Israel, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand — enabling shorter Congressional notification periods and higher weapons value thresholds.

The legislation also requires the U.S. Secretary of State to establish an expedited decision-making process for transferring defense articles and services from NATO members or NATO-Plus countries to Taiwan.

LANDMARK BIPARTISAN BILL INTRODUCED TO CODIFY SIX ASSURANCES TO TAIWAN AND BOLSTER U.S.-TAIWAN DETERRENCE

On May 15, a bipartisan group of lawmakers — led by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), along with Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Young Kim (R-CA), Zach Nunn (R-IA), and Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) — introduced the “Six Assurances to Taiwan Act” ([H.R. 3452](#)), a landmark bill that seeks to codify the Six Assurances, a cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Taiwan, and mandates Congressional oversight of any future attempts to alter or undermine them.

“FAPA has long championed the Six Assurances as a cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Taiwan,” said FAPA National President Dr. Su-Mei Kao in [a press release](#). “The Six Assurances Act codifies long-standing U.S. policy and commitments, sending a clear and unmistakable message of deterrence: Taiwan is not up for negotiation . . . and Washington will not mediate cross-Straits sovereignty disputes,” she added.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS URGE HOTEL CHAINS TO DROP THE TERM “TAIWAN, CHINA”

On May 21, U.S. Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) sent [a letter](#) to the CEOs of Hilton, Marriott, and Hyatt, urging them to stop labeling Taiwan as “Taiwan, China” on their websites and promotional materials.

The lawmakers argued that the term “Taiwan, China” could be interpreted as “implicitly recognizing Taiwan as part of the People’s Republic of China (PRC),” which contradicts the position of the U.S. government.

FAPA has long championed name rectification, urging U.S. companies, government agencies, and organizations to refer to Taiwan simply as “Taiwan,” not as part of China or a Chinese province. Over the years, FAPA has successfully persuaded institutions such as Amtrak (2005), the U.S. Postal Service (2006), the Department of Homeland Security (2012), and Costco (2016) to correct similar mislabeling.

We appreciate the leadership of Representative Moolenaar and Senator Blackburn, and the House Select Committee on the CCP in urging these hotel chains to accurately represent Taiwan.

FAPA MOURNS THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN GERALD E. CONNOLLY, HONORING HIS LEGACY OF SUPPORT FOR U.S.-TAIWAN RELATIONS

FAPA was deeply saddened by the passing of U.S. Representative Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), who passed away on the morning of May 21, 2025. Throughout his distinguished career, Congressman Connolly was a steadfast advocate for Taiwan and its right to determine its own future, free from Chinese coercion.

In [a press release](#), FAPA National President Dr. Su-Mei Kao stated: “We deeply mourn the passing of Congressman Gerald Connolly, a steadfast and dedicated champion of Taiwan. As Co-Chair of the House Taiwan Caucus and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he played a key role in advancing bipartisan legislation to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations.”

U.S. LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE BILLS TO GRANT TAIWAN

“NATO PLUS” STATUS AND SUPPORT ITS IMF PARTICIPATION

On May 21, U.S. Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and Representative Scott Perry (R-PA), joined by cosponsor Congressman Tom Tiffany (R-WI), introduced the “Taiwan PLUS Act” ([S. 1824](#) & [H.R. 3563](#)), seeking to designate Taiwan as a “NATO Plus” partner of the United States, enhance U.S.-Taiwan defense cooperation, and streamline the U.S. arms sales process to Taiwan.

The bill proposes designating Taiwan as a “NATO Plus” partner, granting it the same privileges afforded to other trusted U.S. defense partners such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel — making it easier and faster for Taiwan to acquire U.S. weapons.

On May 22, Senators Dave McCormick (R-PA), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) introduced the “Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act” ([S. 1900](#)), aimed at supporting Taiwan’s return to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A House companion bill ([H.R. 910](#)), introduced on February 4 by Representatives Young Kim (R-CA) and Al Green (D-TX), was approved by the House Financial Services Committee on March 5.

AIT DIRECTOR GREENE: U.S.-TAIWAN TIES ARE KEY TO PEACE

Taiwan-U.S. relations are built on strong economic ties and shared values, American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Director Raymond Greenesaid on May 24, emphasizing that strengthening supply chain security, enhancing societal resilience, and deepening strategic partnerships are key to ensuring Taiwan’s long-term peace and stability.

Greene said his top priorities as AIT director are security, resilience, and connectivity, and that his recent trip to the U.S. was part of advancing those objectives, particularly by working to deepen economic ties between Taiwan and the United States.

He highlighted artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, and drones as critical sectors that align with AIT’s mission to promote security and resilience, as well as support the U.S. government’s broader vision of a stronger, safer, and more prosperous partnership with Taiwan.

PRESIDENT LAI MEETS U.S. HOUSE DELEGATION, URGES STRONGER BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES AND “NON-RED” SUPPLY CHAIN COOPERATION

On May 27, President Lai Ching-te welcomed a bipartisan U.S. House delegation at the Presidential Office in Taipei, reaffirming Taiwan’s commitment to strengthening U.S.-Taiwan economic ties and building democratic, resilient “non-red” supply chains free of authoritarian influence.

The delegation, led by Representative Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, included Representatives Celeste Maloy (R-UT), Harriet Hageman (R-WY), Nick Begich (R-AK), and Sarah Elfeth (D-MD). Westerman praised Taiwan’s substantial investment in the U.S. and expressed support for deeper collaboration to promote shared economic growth and prosperity.

President Lainoted that the U.S. is now Taiwan’s largest overseas investment destination, accounting for over 40% of outbound investment. He reaffirmed Taiwan’s support for U.S. re-industrialization and AI leadership, while stressing the need to deepen industrial cooperation and build “non-red” supply chains free from the influence of authoritarian, Communist China.

PRESIDENT LAI MEETS U.S. SENATOR DUCKWORTH, URGES SWIFT PASSAGE OF U.S.-TAIWAN TAX RELIEF BILL

On May 28, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te met with U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) at the Presidential Office in Taipei, reaffirming

Taiwan's commitment to deepening cooperation with the United States to promote shared prosperity and regional stability.

President Lai highlighted Taiwan's roadmap to expand bilateral trade ties, including plans to increase imports of U.S. energy, agricultural, and industrial products. **He also urged the U.S. Senate to swiftly pass the U.S.-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act to lower tax barriers and boost cross-border investment.**

Senator Duckworth, on her fourth visit to Taiwan, said her trip symbolized the enduring U.S.-Taiwan friendship and strategic partnership. She praised Taiwan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its self-defense capabilities and highlighted new opportunities for bilateral collaboration in areas such as **semiconductor manufacturing, agriculture, shipbuilding, and healthcare.**

HEGSETH WARNS A CHINESE INVASION OF TAIWAN WOULD HAVE "DEVASTATING" GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES

On May 31, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth urged Indo-Pacific nations to strengthen coordination to deter Chinese military aggression and ensure regional stability, warning that **a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would carry serious consequences for global security.**

"Every day you see it. China's military harasses Taiwan," Hegseth said at the Shangri-La Dialogue security forum in Singapore. "Any attempt by Communist China to conquer Taiwan by force would result in devastating consequences for the Indo-Pacific and the world," he added. "There's no reason to sugarcoat it. **The threat China poses is real, and it could be imminent.**"

"We will not let our allies and partners be subordinated and intimidated," he said, while **reiterating U.S. President Donald Trump's vow that "Communist China will not invade Taiwan on his watch."**

U.S. POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN UNLIKELY TO SHIFT AS TRUMP-XI TALKS FOCUS ON TRADE TENSIONS

The latest phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on June 5 focused mainly on easing bilateral trade tensions and **was unlikely to result in any major shift in U.S. policy toward Taiwan, analysts said.**

Richard Bush, former chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and now a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the Trump-Xi call was largely about preventing further deterioration in U.S.-China trade relations. Although Xi typically raises the Taiwan issue in such talks, Bush noted that the topic was likely only briefly mentioned in this call, as both leaders were preoccupied with trade issues.

U.S. NAVY CONDUCTS WAR GAMES TO DETER CHINESE INVASION OF TAIWAN

The U.S. Navy regularly conducts global war games to develop deterrence strategies against a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan, aiming to make the nation **"a very difficult target to take,"** U.S. Acting Chief of Naval Operations **Admiral James Kilby said** on June 11 before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee.

Admiral Kilby said the Navy is prioritizing five key areas: (1) **long-range strike capabilities;** (2) **countering China's command, control, communications, computers, cyber, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and targeting;** (3) **terminal ship defense;** (4) **contested logistics;** and (5) **nontraditional maritime denial tactics.** The Navy is actively investing in and testing new technologies in these areas, he added.

PRESIDENT LAI WELCOMES U.S. LAWMAKERS, URGES SWIFT PASSAGE OF DOUBLE TAXATION RELIEF ACT

On June 16, Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te welcomed a delegation of U.S. lawmakers and called for the swift passage of a bill aimed at eliminating double taxation between Taiwan and the United States, saying

it would strengthen trade and investment ties.

Speaking at the Presidential Office, **President Lai thanked U.S. Representative Ami Bera (D-CA), co-chair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, for leading the delegation, and expressed appreciation for their continued support in strengthening bilateral relations.**

Lai said **the Taiwanese government is prioritizing a special budget to raise defense spending to 3 percent of GDP this year, reaffirming efforts to bolster Taiwan's self-defense capabilities and uphold peace in the Indo-Pacific.**

The president also voiced hope that the U.S.-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act would be passed and enacted later this year, emphasizing the importance for deepening economic ties. The bill, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 15, is now under consideration in the Senate.

U.S. HOUSE PASSES BILL SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S IMF MEMBERSHIP

On June 23, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the **Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 910)** — a bipartisan bill led by Representatives Young Kim (R-CA) and Al Green (D-TX) — **to support Taiwan's return to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), underscoring Taiwan's vital role in the global economy.**

The legislation stipulates that **the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, who also serves as the U.S. Governor to the IMF, should "vigorously support the admission of Taiwan as a member" in the institution.**

SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS WARN OF CHINA'S GROWING MISSILE THREAT TO TAIWAN

On June 26, at [a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense](#), senior U.S. Air Force and Space Force officials warned of **China's expanding missile capabilities and its development of a sophisticated "kill web" — an integrated network of satellites and sensors that enables China to detect, track, and rapidly strike military targets across multiple domains, including Taiwan.**

POLL: MOST AMERICANS SUPPORT DEFENDING TAIWAN IF CHINA INVADES

A large majority (70%) of Americans say they would support U.S. military action to defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion or blockade, according to a recent survey released on June 22 by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute (RRPFI).

According to the survey, **three-quarters of Americans (75%) believe a war between China and Taiwan would impact U.S. security and prosperity. Support for the military defense of Taiwan is strong and bipartisan, with 75% of Democrats and 70% of Republicans expressing support, the survey found.**

**Your support fuels our fight for
Taiwan's voice on Capitol Hill**

Scan to donate now



Taiwanese American Heritage Week

From May 11 to 18, FAPA led the nationwide celebration of Taiwanese American Heritage Week (TAHW) — and we're proud to share that 2025 has become our most successful year yet!

Since 1999, when President Bill Clinton designated the week following Mother's Day as TAHW, Taiwanese Americans have come together each year to share their rich cultural heritage with the broader American public.

For more than two decades, FAPA and our over 40 chapters nationwide have led efforts to secure official proclamations recognizing the contributions of Taiwanese Americans to the diversity and prosperity of the United States.

This year's campaign achieved unprecedented success: 48 elected officials issued proclamations or letters of recognition, including 7 state governors, the mayor of Washington, D.C., 1 state senate president, 20 city and town mayors, 4 county executives, 1 city councilor, 8 U.S. Representatives, and 6 U.S. Senators.

Campaign Performance Comparison: 2024-2025

The highest-ranking officials who can issue TAHW proclamations are state governors and the mayor of the federal district. This figure doubled from 4 to 8 proclamations from 2024 to 2025.

Last year, only four top-level officials issued proclamations—Governors Maura T. Healey (MA), Tina Kotek (OR), Mike DeWine (OH), and Mayor Muriel Bowser (DC). This year, that number doubled to eight, with new proclamations from Governors Wes Moore (MD), Gretchen Whitmer (MI), Josh Shapiro (PA), and Bob Ferguson (WA).

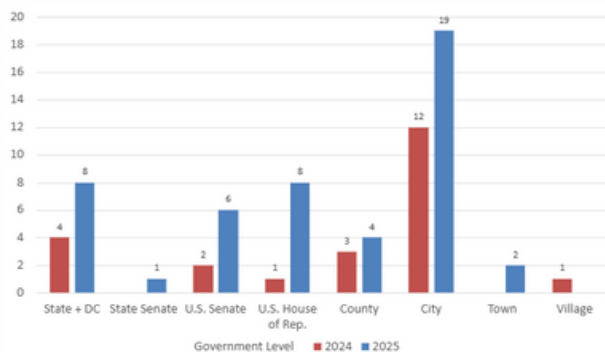
For the first time ever, the Maryland State Senate issued a TAHW resolution, sponsored by Taiwanese American State Senator Clarence Lam and recognized by Senate President Bill Ferguson.

We also saw a surge in federal recognition: U.S. Senate letters grew from 2 to 6, and House letters from 1 to 8.

At the local level, county executive proclamations increased from 3 to 4, while city mayor proclamations jumped from 12 to 19.

Levels of Government

Here is how our 2025 campaign compares to our 2024 campaign, which was one of our most successful years on record.



Graph 1: Across all levels of government, more public officials recognized TAHW.

Across our chapters, the year 2025 was a year of remarkable growth. The OR-SWWA chapter led the way, increasing from 8 recognitions in 2024 (red) to 11 in 2025 (blue). Massachusetts grew from 3 to 6, and OH-C from 1 to 4. Chapters like DC, NY-S, PA-W, IL, and NY-H also saw notable increases.

Several chapters—NJ, MD, WA, MI, NC, and OH-N—went from no proclamations at all in 2024 to successfully taking the first step, reflecting strong new engagement and outreach by FAPA chapter leadership.

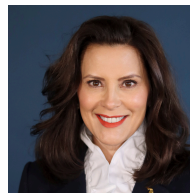
Elected officials across states issued more proclamations than the year prior. In 2025, Washington State public officials issued 8 proclamations and letters, up from 2 in 2024. Ohio rose from 3 to 7, while Massachusetts doubled its total from 3 to 6. Maryland increased from 1 to 4, and New York from 2 to 5. Pennsylvania and Illinois also saw modest but meaningful gains. (See Graph 2.)

Several states—including **Michigan, North Carolina, and New Jersey**—went from zero recognitions in 2024 to issuing their first in 2025, a testament to FAPA's effective subnational-level advocacy through the local chapters.



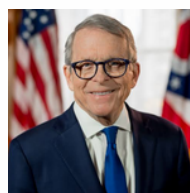
"Taiwanese Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society, consistently contributing to the promotion of democracy and security of their homeland."

Maryland Governor Wes Moore



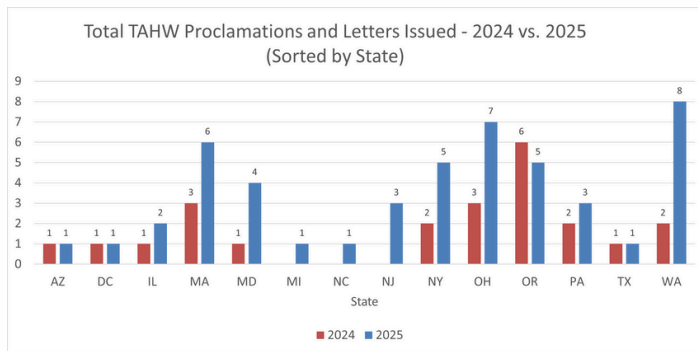
"Michigan is made stronger by the countless contributions of Taiwanese Americans across our state."

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer



"We extend our gratitude to the Taiwanese [American] community for their efforts to showcase their heritage and to increase the awareness of Taiwanese Americans' historic past."

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine



Graph 3: Proclamations and letters rose sharply across chapters in 2025 compared to 2024.

None of This Was Possible Without You

This historic milestone would not have been possible without you. Thank you to every chapter, volunteer, and advocate who made this year's TAHW campaign such a tremendous success.

Let's keep going—our goal remains to see all 50 states recognize Taiwanese American Heritage Week!



"I want to extend my heartfelt greetings and appreciation to New Jersey's Taiwanese American community ... Your [FAPA's] work on behalf of Taiwanese Americans across the State of New Jersey has touched the lives of so many."

Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)



"Taiwan and the U.S. have a relationship built on the shared ideals of democracy, freedom, and human rights. Our common values provide a strong foundation for the respect and support of the Taiwanese American community that has lasted for generations."

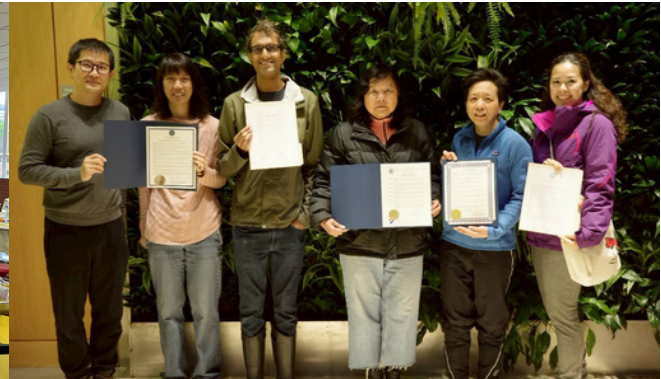
Congresswoman Deborah Ross (D-NC)



(1.1-1.2) FAPA AZ Chapter and the Taiwanese American Association – Arizona cohosted the International Tour of Taiwan Gourmet Cuisine, showcasing the richness of Taiwanese culinary culture.



(2) FAPA OH-N Chapter participated in a local Taiwanese American community event in Cleveland, showcasing the TAHW Proclamation issued by the city government.



(3) FAPA MA Chapter proudly showcased its collection of TAHW Proclamations, highlighting the widespread recognition of Taiwanese American heritage throughout the state.



(4) FAPA OR Chapter attended the TAHW Proclamation reading ceremony at the Vancouver, WA, City Council.



For more proclamations, letters, and photos, scan the QR code to read our full statement.



(5) FAPA NJ Chapter participated in the TAHW Proclamation reading ceremony at the Franklin Township Council, highlighting the achievements and heritage of the Taiwanese American community.



(6) FAPA TX-C Chapter joined the local Taiwanese American community at Austin City Hall to celebrate TAHW and promote Taiwanese culture.



(7.1-7.2) FAPA OR Chapter attended the TAHW Proclamation reading ceremony at the Tigard City Council, honoring Taiwanese American contributions and cultural heritage.



(8) FAPA PA-W Chapter visited the Office of the Mayor of Pittsburgh to receive the official TAHW Proclamation.



(9) FAPA OH-C Chapter received the TAHW Proclamation from the City of Westerville during the official proclamation reading ceremony.



(10) FAPA NY-Hudson Chapter received the TAHW Proclamation from Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino.



(11) FAPA DC Chapter participated in the TAHW Proclamation reading ceremony held at Rockville City Hall.



(12) FAPA NC Chapter visited the office of Congresswoman Deborah Ross. The office issued a letter recognizing TAHW.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week

Full List of Elected Officials

Below is the full list of elected officials who issued TAHW proclamations or congratulatory letters as recorded by FAPA HQ.

U.S. Governors and Mayor of Federal District of Columbia

1. Maryland Governor Wes Moore
2. Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey
3. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer
4. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
5. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek
6. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro
7. Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson
8. Mayor of Washington, D.C., Muriel Elizabeth Bowser

U.S. State Legislators

1. Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson, with the resolution sponsored by State Senator Clarence Lam

U.S. Mayors, City, County Executives

1. County Executive of Dutchess County, NY, Sue Serino
2. County Executive of Onondaga County, NY, J. Ryan McMahon II
3. County Executive of Allegheny County, PA, Sara Innamorato
4. County Executive of King County, WA, Shannon Braddock
5. Mayor of Cambridge, MA, E. Denise Simmons
6. Mayor of Malden, MA, Gary Christenson
7. Mayor of Revere, MA, Patrick M. Keefe Jr.
8. Mayor of Somerville, MA, Katjana Ballantyne
9. Town Administrator of Brookline, MA, Charles Carey
10. Mayor of Baltimore, MD, Brandon M. Scott
11. Mayor of Rockville, MD, Monique Ashton
12. Mayor of Franklin Township, NJ, Phillip Kramer
13. Mayor of Syracuse, NY, Ben Walsh
14. Mayor of Cincinnati, OH, Aftab Pureval
15. Mayor of Cleveland, OH, Justin M. Bibb
16. Mayor of Dublin, OH, Chris Amorose Groomes
17. Mayor of Powell, OH, Tom Counts
18. Mayor of Westerville, OH, Kenneth L. Wright
19. Mayor of Tigard, OR, Heidi Lueb
20. Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA, Ed Gainey
21. Mayor of Austin, TX, Kirk Watson
22. Mayor of Camas, WA, Steve Hogan
23. Mayor of Tacoma, WA, Victoria R. Woodards
24. Mayor of Vancouver, WA, Anne McEnerny-Ogle
25. City Councilor of Gahanna, OH, Trenton Weaver

U.S. Members of Congress

1. U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
2. U.S. Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)
3. U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
4. U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
5. U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
6. U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
7. U.S. Representative Andy Biggs (R-AZ)
8. U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
9. U.S. Representative Deborah Ross (D-NC)
10. U.S. Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
11. U.S. Representative John Mannion (D-NY)
12. U.S. Representative Andrea Salinas (D-OR)
13. U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
14. U.S. Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)



“From the first immigrants to today’s leaders in business, education and public service, Taiwanese-Americans exemplify resilience and innovation.”

Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)



“I am honored to celebrate the rich history of [the Taiwanese American] community throughout the United States and to recognize the impactful work of FAPA, its leadership, and members.”

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)



State of Maryland



State of Massachusetts



State of Michigan



State of Ohio

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: America has been continually renewed and enriched by the many different people who choose to come here and become our fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS: Generations of Asian Americans have helped make America what it is today; and

WHEREAS: There are more than 500,000 Taiwanese Americans in the United States, with a significant Taiwanese American population in Oregon; and

WHEREAS: Taiwanese Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society, consistently contributing to the promotion of democracy and security of their homeland; and

WHEREAS: This week recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS: During this special week, Taiwanese Americans are able to embrace America's diversity and celebrate the spirit of community that binds us together as one nation.

NOW,
THEREFORE: I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 11-18, 2025 to be

TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day April 17, 2025.



Tina Kotek

Tina Kotek, Governor

Tobias Read

Tobias Read, Secretary of State

State of Oregon

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 612,567 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders living in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have been making valuable contributions to every aspect of our Commonwealth for generations, in medicine, law, business, science, government, and sports; and

WHEREAS, folks of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with our neighbors and friends, while also setting examples as model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have brought with them their spirit of resiliency, commitment to family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for dialogue with representatives from all major Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities to continue to address the needs and concerns of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, no matter your race, religion, or background, you have a place in Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth is proud to honor the history and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our Commonwealth and throughout our nation.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2025 to be

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

and May 11 - 18, 2025, as TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to celebrate this important observance.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this fifteenth day of April two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Josh Shapiro
Governor Josh Shapiro

State of Pennsylvania

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington state and the United States have been continually renewed and enriched by the many different people who choose to come here and become our fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, each brought part of their own heritage, which over time became part of our common heritage; and

WHEREAS, generations of Asian Americans have helped make Washington state and the U.S. what they are today; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 500,000 Taiwanese Americans in the U.S., with at least 18,000 Taiwanese Americans in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society by consistently contributing to the promotion of democracy and security of their homeland; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, engineers, scholars, professors, human rights activists, and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese Americans are proud of their roots and of their vital role in the growth of our state and our nation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has consistently demonstrated resilience and perseverance in the face of ever-growing geopolitical challenges; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's voice is heard while it strives for membership in international organizations; and

WHEREAS, this week recognizes the longstanding friendship between the U.S. and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, during this special week, Taiwanese Americans embrace America's diversity and celebrate the spirit of community that binds us together as one nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 25-31, 2025, as

Taiwanese American Heritage Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 28th day of May, 2025

Bob Ferguson
Governor Bob Ferguson



State of Washington

Proclamation



TAIWANESE AMERICAN
HERITAGE WEEK

MAY 11-18, 2025

WHEREAS, we celebrate Taiwanese American Heritage Week each year to honor the invaluable contributions of Taiwanese Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese Americans have enriched the District of Columbia and the nation with their vibrant traditions, innovations, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering commitment to education, family, and public service; and

WHEREAS, during Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we honor our Taiwanese American communities and celebrate their vital contributions to our culture prosperity, and the democratic values that unite us as one nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim May 11-18, 2025, as "TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK" in Washington, DC.

Muriel Bowser



District of Columbia

Taiwan Trek

EMERGING LEADERS WORKSHOP IN TAIWAN



Meeting the Moment:

Meaningful Policy Begins with Meaningful Listening.

Chiao-Yun Hsiao

As Taiwan takes center stage in Washington, understanding Taiwan has never been more urgent.

Meeting the moment means recognizing when the world's attention and agendas are shifting, and acting with clarity and purpose before the window of opportunity closes. For Taiwan, that moment is now.

In recent years, Taiwan sits at the center of U.S. foreign policy conversations from economic strategy to national security planning. From efforts to de-risk semiconductor supply chains and accelerate innovation in emerging technologies, to enhancing deterrence in the Indo-Pacific, Taiwan is no longer peripheral to strategic discourse in Washington -- it is integral.

With Taiwan accounting over 90% of the most advanced chips, its role in the global tech ecosystem is irreplaceable. Meanwhile, the U.S. has ramped up diplomatic and legislative efforts to push back on Beijing's misrepresentation of UNGA Resolution 2758, most recently through public statements by the State Department and legislation such as the Taiwan International Solidarity Act and growing bipartisan support for strengthening deterrence through arms sales, training, and joint planning with Taiwan.

Yet as Taiwan's strategic visibility grows, so too does the imperative to cultivate a generation of U.S. policy professionals with the analytical depth and regional understanding to engage Taiwan on its own terms. It is in this context that FAPA launched the *2025 Emerging Leaders Workshop* (ELW): a program designed to provide early- and mid-career professionals with a direct, immersive introduction to the political, economic, and societal realities shaping U.S.-Taiwan relations.

To realize this vision, from June 1 to June 7, 2025, FAPA led a delegation of sixteen early- to mid-career American policy professionals on the inaugural *Emerging Leaders Workshop: Taiwan Trek*. Representing a wide range of fields, including diplomacy, economics, national security, and defense, the participants shared a common commitment to deepening their understanding of Taiwan's evolving place in

Taiwan's evolving place in the world. FAPA leadership President Su-Mei Kao, Executive Director Chiao-Yun Hsiao served as delegation heads and led the group of rising analysts, policy advisors, foreign service fellows, and graduate researchers across Taiwan from Taipei to Kaohsiung.

Meaningful policy begins with meaningful listening.

We remained grounded in a core principle: that meaningful policy begins with meaningful listening. Our goal was to create a space for future leaders to engage directly with Taiwan—not as observers, but as learners. There is no substitute for being on the ground: seeing, hearing, and interacting with the people whose lives are shaped by U.S. policy.

This is how we are meeting the moment: by creating the opportunity for future decision-makers to see Taiwan with clarity, to meet the people whose lives are shaped by U.S. policy, and to hear how Taiwan is navigating today's geopolitical storm. Decisions about Taiwan must not be made in a vacuum. They must begin with Taiwan's own voice—its experience, its expertise, and its vision for the future.

What We Did. Taiwan Trek

To achieve the goal we set out, over the course of seven days, we brought the opportunity of face-to-face with Taiwan's political, economic, and security leadership. From closed-door meetings with President Lai Ching-Te and former president Tsai Ing-Wen to policy briefings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security Council, and American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the delegation gained rare access to Taiwan's policymaking core.

We observed a live legislative debate on phasing out coal; met with the Taiwan Space Agency (TASA) to discuss satellite development and national security; and visited the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) to explore innovation in energy, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing. At AmCham Taiwan, we examined U.S.-Taiwan trade relations and tax policy. In Kaohsiung, the deputy mayor briefed us on how the city integrates AI and

By the end of the week, Taiwan was no longer abstract. For many participants, it became a place with names, faces, and stories.

policy. In Kaohsiung, the deputy mayor briefed us on how the city integrates AI and data systems into emergency response infrastructure, offering a model for municipal-level resilience.

We also engaged with leading researchers and policy analysts on some of the most pressing security issues facing Taiwan today—including PLA gray zone operations, disinformation campaigns, semiconductor supply chain, and drone and defense technology development. In a conversation with civil society leader Enoch Wu, resilience was reframed not as a strategic doctrine, but as a civic practice: trained, distributed, and collective in nature.

Equally important were the historical and cultural experiences that grounded the delegation in Taiwan's democratic journey. The group began at Jing-Mei Human Rights Memorial Park, where we met with Mr. Yao Chia-wen. His personal reflections offered a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made to secure the freedoms Taiwan upholds today. Additional visits to the Chen Wen-chen Memorial and Lin Yi-hsiung's residence further illuminated Taiwan's authoritarian past and the hard-won path to democracy. Cultural explorations—from a walking tour through Tainan's temples to the layered historical district of Dadaocheng—helped the delegation connect Taiwan's past to its present, deepening their understanding of why Taiwan matters—not only in the context of U.S. strategic interests, but as a vibrant, self-determined democracy in its own right.

By the end of the week, Taiwan was no longer abstract. For many participants, it became a place with names, faces, and stories. Some left with more questions. And that's a good thing. Because lasting policy engagement begins with curiosity, and a willingness to keep listening. If that's what we sparked, then this was not just a successful program—it was the beginning of something much bigger.



Delegation Leads: President Su-Mei Kao and Executive Director Chiao-Yun Anny Hsiao

✱

Day 4: Touring ITRI's showroom to see their latest innovations firsthand.



On the Front Lines of Democracy: Reflections from the FAPA Emerging Leaders Workshop in Taiwan

James Halsell

In early June 2025, I joined a group of graduate students, policy professionals, and national security practitioners for the inaugural Taiwan Trek, organized by the Formosan Association for Public Affairs. As part of the Emerging Leaders Workshop (ELW), we spent a week immersed in the daily rhythms of a thriving democracy that lives under constant threat of coercion and invasion from its authoritarian neighbor. We met with senior leaders, visited cultural and strategic sites, and discussed Taiwan's geostrategic significance with scholars, civil society advocates, and government officials.

As a doctoral student focused on maritime sovereignty and strategy, I approached the trip with both professional curiosity and strategic interest. What I left with, however, was deeper than analysis. It was a renewed appreciation for democratic resilience, a clearer understanding of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and a personal conviction that our policy discussions must better reflect Taiwan's on-the-ground realities.

The following is a reflection on that journey. It offers observations on Taiwan's national resilience, regional security challenges, and strategic partnerships, along with personal insights on identity, history, and democratic purpose. The goal is not just to summarize what I saw and heard, but to translate those experiences into a deeper understanding of what Taiwan means for U.S. policy, and why it matters that we get it right.

Resilience Under Pressure

Meeting with President Lai Ching-te in the Presidential Office was a fitting way to begin our week in Taiwan. He was calm but firm, confident without pretense. He described Taiwan as a frontline democracy facing unprecedented pressure from authoritarianism abroad and polarization at home. Rather than appeal to American sympathy, he made the case for strategic, economic, and ideological partnership. Taiwan, he argued, could help the United States reindustrialize through semiconductor investment, reinforce a rules-based order, and demonstrate the viability of democratic resilience in a dangerous neighborhood. It was an argument not just for Taiwan's defense, but for its significance.



Day 1: Learning about Taiwan's dark history at the Jing-Mei Human Rights Museum

The concept of "whole-of-society resilience" came up in nearly every meeting thereafter. We heard it from a range of speakers, who laid out Taiwan's approach to crisis readiness with precision and urgency. Everyone we spoke to emphasized that resilience must be hazard-agnostic. Taiwan faces not only the risk of a Chinese invasion, but also typhoons, earthquakes, train derailments, and gas leaks.

At the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), U.S. officials framed this concept of resilience as a core strategic pillar alongside security and economic connectivity. They described it as Taiwan's greatest intangible asset, the population's willingness to prepare, to absorb shock, and to function under duress. The goal, as they put it, is not just to harden infrastructure but to harden society itself. That includes encouraging energy self-sufficiency, expanding food reserves, and increasing civic awareness about gray zone tactics. While public polling suggests a healthy level of support for self-defense, AIT officials were frank: Taiwan still has a long way to go. Resilience is about more than readiness. It requires sustaining political and social function under pressure, in the face of daily harassment.

A few days later, in Kaohsiung, we saw a version of this vision at the municipal level. The city government has begun converting underground parking garages and metro tunnels into dual-use shelters. It has implemented a carbon budgeting program to drive sustainable development while also integrating resilience into climate policy. Kaohsiung's leaders highlighted the importance of cyber readiness, emergency drills, and civilian-military partnerships. But they were also clear that resilience requires investment. National frameworks help, but most of the hard work happens locally. Taiwan's decentralized civil defense effort remains years behind where it needs to be.

Day 1: Meeting Mr. Yao Chia-Wen, one of the Kaohsiung Incident participants who spent time in the Jing-Mei prison.





Walking through the hallway of Jing-Mei Human Rights Museum

Taken together, these conversations painted a picture of a country trying to build muscle memory for a future it hopes to avoid. There is no delusion about what the stakes are. But Taiwan is betting that democratic values, local initiative, and international partnerships can serve as a foundation for resilience. It is an ambitious bet, but a necessary one.

Security Cooperation and Gray Zone Realities

Taiwan's security environment is shaped by daily pressure from an increasingly assertive People's Republic of China (PRC). While the threat of full-scale invasion often grabs headlines, what is unfolding each day is more insidious and constant. The clearest lesson from our meetings with Taiwan's National Security Council (NSC), the Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology (DSET), and the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) is that Taiwan lives in a constant state of gray zone confrontation.

These coercive actions that fall short of war, including cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, military intimidation, and economic coercion are a legitimate threat. We learned that Taiwan faces more than two million cyberattacks every day, many targeting government systems and civilian infrastructure. These are not hypothetical concerns. In recent months, hackers have shut down government websites, hijacked airport displays, and even manipulated screens inside convenience stores. Many of these attacks are believed to originate from PRC-aligned actors, though attribution is deliberately obscured.

China's air incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) have become a daily occurrence. What once would have triggered immediate military response has now become routine. Taiwan no longer scrambles fighters for every breach, choosing instead to preserve resources and readiness for more serious threats. That outcome is precisely the goal of gray zone operations: to shift the operational environment and strain defenses without crossing the threshold into open conflict.

At DSET, researchers highlighted the growing sophistication of Chinese disinformation campaigns. These operations, often enhanced by artificial intelligence, seek to undermine public confidence in Taiwan's leaders and cast doubt on U.S. commitment to Taiwan's defense. Some of the most damaging narratives are subtle, suggesting, for instance, that the United States is hollowing out Taiwan's semiconductor industry or that Taiwan's democracy is unstable and corrupt. These messages are amplified across digital platforms and reinforced through persistent online manipulation.

Security officials emphasized that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further destabilized Taiwan's security environment. The number of Chinese military flights across the Taiwan Strait's median line has surged, and large-scale military exercises increasingly encircle the island. During one such exercise in late 2024, the People's Liberation Army deployed over 100 ships and aircraft. According to one official we spoke with, the assumption

that the cross-Strait status quo still holds is rapidly becoming outdated.

In response, Taiwan has adopted an asymmetric defense strategy. This includes investments in mobile missile platforms, sea mines, and unmanned aerial systems. While Taiwan currently produces around 10,000 drones annually, this number remains small compared to Ukraine's wartime production, which has reached several million per year. A major constraint is Taiwan's commitment to keeping Chinese components out of its defense supply chains. Despite these limitations, the trajectory is clear: Taiwan is preparing to fight smart, not just hard.

U.S. officials at AIT confirmed that the United States is supporting this transition. Arms sales, joint training, and capacity-building efforts are all underway, although delays in the delivery of systems such as F-16s remain a point of frustration. A growing emphasis is being placed on making Taiwan "too difficult to invade," not simply by increasing the number of weapons, but by improving integration, resilience, and regional coordination. Yet Taiwan still remains excluded from many multilateral military exercises. Even observer status at exercises like RIMPAC would send a powerful message, both to Taiwan's people and to Beijing.

Security in Taiwan is not limited to missiles or aircraft. It depends on the population's belief that defense is possible and worthwhile. The gray zone is a battle for perception and endurance, where narrative control and political will are as vital as operational readiness. As one speaker put it, "If the people do not believe they can win, they have already lost."

Through asymmetric capabilities, cyber defenses, and coordinated messaging, Taiwan is building a deterrent rooted not only in firepower, but in the will to resist. Despite daily provocations, its democracy remains intact. That endurance may be the most powerful obstacle Beijing faces: a free, self-governing society that refuses to be intimidated.

Regional Diplomacy and Economic Ties

Taiwan's international space is limited by the People's Republic of China's insistence on diplomatic isolation. Yet what stood out throughout our meetings was how creatively Taiwan navigates those limits to build meaningful relationships, especially with democratic partners in the region and at the subnational level in the United States. Nowhere was this more evident than at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where diplomats briefed us on Taiwan's efforts to deepen economic ties and expand its unofficial diplomatic presence.

The most striking example was the focus on state and local-level engagement in the United States. Taiwan has welcomed an increasing number of U.S. governors, state legislators, and city officials, many of whom are seeking economic partnerships in fields like semiconductors, clean energy, agriculture, and education. These relationships often yield results faster than traditional diplomatic channels and carry less political baggage. One recent



Group photo with TASA turned out to be a full-circle moment: two TASA staff members are ELW alumni.

example involved a letter of intent signed with an Alaskan company to explore energy cooperation. Another initiative, called the Partnership Opportunity Delegation, aims to build networks with local officials across the Indo-Pacific.

Taiwanese diplomats emphasized how shared democratic values serve as a foundation for these partnerships. Leaders from visiting U.S. delegations consistently cite Taiwan as a reliable, values-aligned partner in critical supply chains. Taiwan's trustworthiness in this regard has become a diplomatic asset. According to MOFA officials, the top priority in the U.S.-Taiwan relationship remains security, but that priority cannot be separated from economic strategy. The semiconductor sector, led by TSMC, is the most visible example, but Taiwan's role as a major U.S. trade partner extends well beyond chips.

Taiwan is now the United States' seventh-largest trading partner, and the second-largest in per capita terms after Mexico. It also ranks among the top destinations for American agricultural exports. Despite these strong economic ties, Taiwan's companies still face a higher tax burden when operating in the United States compared to competitors from countries with formal tax treaties. That's why Taiwanese officials have been closely following the progress of the Avoidance of Double Taxation Act (ADTA), which passed the House and is now pending in the Senate. For Taiwan, this legislation is not just about fairer tax treatment, but about reinforcing long-term economic integration with the United States.

Our meetings also revealed Taiwan's evolving strategy toward other regional democracies, particularly the Philippines.

With Manila increasingly skeptical of Beijing's intentions and more willing to engage with like-minded partners, Taiwan sees a window of opportunity. Its diplomatic efforts now include outreach to Southeast Asian states that share similar concerns about economic coercion, maritime security, and regional stability. France, Japan, and Australia were also identified as key partners, especially as they develop their own Indo-Pacific strategies. Taiwan's challenge is to sustain momentum in building these relationships while managing the ever-present threat of Chinese retaliation.

The undercurrent in these conversations was clear: Taiwan may lack formal recognition from most of the world's governments, but it is far from isolated. Through economic reliability, democratic alignment, and soft power, it continues to strengthen its international partnerships. The more the PRC tries to cut Taiwan off, the more resourceful Taiwan becomes in forging new connections. Its diplomacy, though constrained, is proving both adaptive and effective.

Kaohsiung as a Strategic Case Study

In Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second-largest city, we saw a convergence of resilience, innovation, and geopolitical significance. Once defined by heavy industry and widespread pollution, Kaohsiung is now

undergoing a major transformation. The city is positioning itself as a center of clean technology, digital infrastructure, and national security planning. Our visit made it clear that cities, not just national governments, play a critical role in shaping Taiwan's ability to respond to complex, overlapping threats.

City officials described Kaohsiung's transition in two parallel tracks. First, the city is embracing a digital future through smart city initiatives, investments in artificial intelligence, and the development of a competitive technology sector. Second, it is pursuing environmental sustainability through carbon budgeting, green infrastructure, and support for low-emission industries. TSMC and Nvidia are among the major companies now investing in Kaohsiung, drawn by the city's growing potential as a hub for semiconductor production and advanced computing. In a global environment shaped by both strategic competition and climate change, Kaohsiung is adapting to both pressures simultaneously.

Local leaders were also focused on civil defense. They described how Kaohsiung is preparing for natural disasters and potential wartime scenarios by modifying infrastructure to serve dual purposes. Metro tunnels, underground parking garages, and school basements are being prepared for use as emergency shelters. In addition to these physical preparations, the city is investing in communications infrastructure, including satellite-based systems that can operate independently if normal networks are

disrupted. Routine emergency drills and coordination with national authorities ensure that city departments are not caught off guard during a crisis.

Kaohsiung's strategic location on the southwestern coast of Taiwan, along with its deepwater port and major naval facilities, gives it significant military and logistical value. The city would likely be a key node in any future conflict in the Taiwan Strait. It is also vulnerable. City officials recognize that Kaohsiung would be one of the first targets in a Chinese military campaign, both physically and through cyberattacks. As a result, they are integrating cyber resilience into municipal planning and emphasizing the protection of critical infrastructure.

Cybersecurity experts we met highlighted Taiwan's highly skilled workforce in this field, along with the growing role of civilian-military partnerships. Many of the technologies developed by Kaohsiung-based companies are designed for commercial use but can be adapted to defense needs. However, the challenges are considerable. Taiwan must track the origin of components, ensure clean supply chains, and guard against the loss of talent to Chinese firms. These tasks require sustained investment and coordination across sectors.

*Taiwanese leaders
are not asking the
United States to fight
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asking to be seen,
heard, and included.*

James Halsell, 2025 ELW delegate

Our visit also revealed how the Chinese Communist Party applies pressure at the local level. City officials shared examples of artists withdrawing from Kaohsiung events after receiving warnings from Chinese authorities. They described how sister-city agreements with international partners had been quietly severed due to PRC interference. In some cases, community associations with ties to Beijing have attempted to influence local messaging. These actions may not attract major media coverage, but they chip away at Taiwan's international engagement and weaken soft power over time.

Kaohsiung exemplifies how municipal governments can build layered resilience. The city is adapting to climate change, advancing strategic industries, defending against cyber threats, and preparing for the possibility of military conflict. All of this is being done with limited resources and under the constant pressure of authoritarian interference. For other cities in Taiwan and across the Indo-Pacific, Kaohsiung provides a model of how to balance ambition with pragmatism and how to prepare for crises without losing sight of long-term goals.

Identity, History, and the Human Element

Throughout the week, we focused on security, diplomacy, and strategic resilience. But some of the most powerful lessons came not from policy briefings or site visits, but from personal stories and historical reflection. Taiwan's democracy did not emerge from a smooth transition or international mandate. It was forged through civic resistance, political sacrifice, and a deliberate rejection of authoritarianism.

On the first day of the program, we visited the Jing-Mei White Terror Memorial Park. This site was once home to military courts and detention facilities used during Taiwan's martial law era. The holding cells and interrogation rooms have been preserved much as they were. Walking through them, we could sense the weight of history in the bare concrete walls, the metal doors, and the quiet stillness that remains. The presentation was understated. It did not rely on dramatization or spectacle. Instead, it invited visitors to confront the reality of what unchecked power can look like in the absence of political rights and due process.

Inside that facility, we met Mr. Yao Chia-wen, one of the "Formosa Eight," a group of pro-democracy activists arrested after the 1979 Kaohsiung Incident. Speaking in the very building where he had once been prosecuted and held, Mr. Yao shared his story with a calm



From Left to Right: Prospect Foundation Norah Huang, VP Chen-En Sung, Chairman Tan-Sun Chen, and Kuang-Shun Yang



Delegation leaders with ELW alum Wei-Ting Chen and DSET's CEO Jeremy Chang

dignity that made a lasting impression. He described the protest, the repression that followed, and the trial that led to his imprisonment. He served seven years in prison. What stood out most was his resolve. He spoke about responsibility, memory, and the hope that Taiwan's younger generations would continue the work he and others had started.

After his release, Mr. Yao went on to serve in public office, including as a legislator and later as President of the Examination Yuan. His path from political prisoner to high-ranking public servant mirrors Taiwan's own democratic journey.

The country's transformation was not inevitable. It was made possible by individuals who believed in a different future and were willing to endure hardship to make it real.

That moment, hearing his story in that place, connected history with identity in a way no policy panel could. Taiwan's democratic culture is not abstract. It is built on the memory of struggle and the belief that freedom is worth preserving. Many of the people shaping Taiwan today lived through times when speech was not free, when trials were conducted in secret, and when citizenship offered no protection from the state. That history is not distant. It is alive in the choices and institutions that define Taiwan today.

We heard throughout the trip that being Taiwanese is not determined by bloodline, language, or political party. It is defined by a commitment to democratic self-governance and a rejection of external domination. This identity is civic in nature. It is shaped by people who remember what it meant to live under martial law and who now insist that the island's future must be decided by its own citizens.

In the current strategic context, this identity matters. The People's Republic of China does not simply contest Taiwan's diplomatic status. It seeks to erase the idea that Taiwan can be distinct, self-ruling, and democratic. Preserving the memory of past repression is part of how Taiwan resists that effort. Leaders like Mr. Yao, and the history he represents, are as vital to Taiwan's resilience as any missile system or cyber capability. They remind us that democratic endurance begins with people who know what it means to lose their freedom and are determined not to lose it again.

Reflections and Recommendations

After a week of site visits, briefings, and conversations across Taiwan, several key themes became clear. Taiwan is not passively waiting for support. It is actively preparing and adapting to growing pressure from the People's Republic of China. The second is that the United States has an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with Taiwan



Meeting the DSET crew

Selfie time with former president Tsai Ing-Wen.



in ways that go beyond arms sales and high-level visits. True partnership means engaging with Taiwan's strengths, understanding its vulnerabilities, and investing in its long-term resilience.

Several practical steps can support that goal. The most obvious is to include Taiwan in multilateral exercises and security dialogues. At present, Taiwan remains excluded from many of the major regional exercises, including RIMPAC, which brings together navies from across the Indo-Pacific. Although political concerns often drive that exclusion, the strategic cost is growing. Allowing Taiwan to observe or participate in such exercises would improve interoperability, build confidence, and send a clear message of solidarity without requiring formal diplomatic recognition.

Another priority is to invest more directly in Taiwan's civil society. Organizations like Forward Alliance prepare civilians for natural disasters and national emergencies, equipping them with the tools needed to respond in a crisis. Expanding U.S. support for these efforts, including through NGO partnerships and training exchanges, would reinforce Taiwan's ability to sustain itself under pressure.

Taiwan's cybersecurity and information operations capabilities also deserve closer collaboration. We heard repeatedly that the gray zone is not defined by military thresholds, but by influence, perception, and endurance. The United States can do more to help Taiwan counter disinformation campaigns, improve digital hygiene, and build trusted communication channels during times of crisis. This work should involve not only government-to-government ties, but also academic and civil-society linkages that foster shared understanding and best practices.

It is also important to challenge the tendency to treat Taiwan as a passive object of policy, rather than as an active partner. Taiwanese leaders are not asking the United States to fight their battles. They are asking to be seen, heard, and included. Recognizing Taiwan's agency means listening to its perspectives, supporting its initiatives, and engaging it on equal terms. This includes pursuing legislation like the Avoidance of Double Taxation Act and removing barriers that make long-term U.S.-Taiwan economic integration more difficult than it needs to be.

Lastly, public messaging matters. Much of China's influence strategy revolves around undermining confidence in Taiwan's future, in U.S. commitment, and in the credibility of democratic governance itself. The best response is clarity. U.S. officials and public voices must be consistent in affirming that Taiwan's future should be decided peacefully and with the consent of its people. This message should be communicated not only to Beijing, but also to the American public, many of whom remain unfamiliar with Taiwan's strategic and moral significance.

Taiwan is not asking for guarantees. It is asking for seriousness. What I saw over the course of this trip was

a society that is preparing itself, not simply in the hope of avoiding war, but with the conviction that its way of life is worth preserving. The United States has an interest in helping Taiwan succeed. More than that, it has a responsibility to ensure that our policies reflect not just strategy, but values.

Conclusion

The Emerging Leaders Workshop was not simply a study tour. It was a strategic immersion into the realities of a democracy under pressure. Taiwan is not waiting to be saved.



Day 3: During our visit to the Legislative Yuan, we got to witness a live debate on phasing out coal

It is preparing to stand on its own. In a global contest between open societies and authoritarian power, Taiwan represents both a frontline and a test of U.S. commitment. The challenge before us is to move beyond abstract talking points and toward meaningful engagement that reinforces deterrence, strengthens democratic solidarity, and ensures that Taiwan's story continues to be written by its own people.

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Discovering Taiwan's Strength in the Face of Challenge

Isaac Finestone

Taiwan is often seen as a place facing many daunting challenges, including the external threat to its continued existence and way of life, managing an aging population with limited resources on a small island, and navigating international cooperation in a world where global instability and drastic political shifts are becoming the norm. However, our recent

trek to Taiwan as part of FAPA's Emerging Leaders Workshop helped remind me that the Taiwanese people are also full of solutions. Today's policymakers and great political minds in Taiwan have been deeply shaped by the turbulent tides of history they've experienced. Across the national and local government and Taiwan's active civil society, people are very aware of the multitude of challenges facing them. In response, Taiwan is trying to take action.

We learned about many current policy issues and priorities during our program. Among them, the efforts to improve whole-of-society resilience stood out for their potential to jointly address many of Taiwan's vulnerabilities. From the highest government offices to local governments and grassroots civilian organizations, momentum is growing in the efforts to prepare more of the public to help keep Taiwan running in the event of an invasion or other disaster scenarios. Strident efforts are also being made to improve resilience in energy, communications, and defense; however, we also learned of the recent struggles to fully invest and reform these critical areas due to disagreements in the legislature over key policy issues and resistance from local institutions.



Isaac Finestone and President Su-Mei Kao at the Kaohsiung Port

We also discussed the many ways in which Taiwan is a crucial partner for the US. Beyond the flagship chokepoint of TSMC, Taiwan is also home to many specialized small and medium-sized enterprises that are key parts of critical global supply chains. Taiwan also punches above its weight in terms of trade with the US, importing an outsized quantity of agricultural goods for a relatively small country, and more recently becoming a greater source of FDI into the US and creating new American jobs. These issues deeply impact people and businesses on both sides, showing how US interests in Taiwan extend much deeper than defending the first island chain or securing access to advanced semiconductors.

Outside of the core substance of our meetings, I was moved by the thoughtful planning and implementation of our trip and the warm and accommodating welcome we received from everyone who hosted us. Throughout the trip, we learned of Taiwan's dark history with human rights abuses and the complicated colonial past imposed on the island, contextualizing many of the ongoing struggles we see in the Taiwan of today. This historical backdrop gave a deeper sense of purpose to our trek across Taiwan, a sense that was also shared by the people on the ground supporting our trip. Even with a jam-packed schedule and a delegation of curious emerging leaders who like to ask a lot of questions, we were able to see so much and meet with so many important individuals, thanks to careful planning from the organizers and plenty of resilience and patience from local partners.

Above all, I will remember this trek for giving me the opportunity to share my growing knowledge and passion for Taiwan's affairs with FAPA and the other members of our delegation. I'm grateful for the conversations I had and the new connections they facilitated, and I hope this unique experience will help me continue to keep Taiwan close in my professional, academic, and advocacy endeavors.

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Cozy meeting in Legislator Wang Ting-Yu's office



Standing on the symbolic overpass where many legislators once stood in support of the Sunflower and Bluebird movements.



Meeting with the KMT legislators

On the Kaohsiung Cultural Cruise, Luke Navratil, Sandy Faure, Jackson Martin, and Sam Sawyers called themselves the future “Gang of Four”.



Taiwan is often seen as a place facing many daunting challenges, [...] However, Taiwanese people are also full of solutions.

Isaac Finestone, 2025 ELW delegate

Moving Beyond Surface-Level Narratives

David Dichoso

My experience with the Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) Emerging Leaders Delegation to Taiwan was truly a special opportunity I will never forget. Before embarking on this journey, my understanding of Taiwan—like that of many Americans—was primarily shaped by headlines and policy briefings: cross-strait tensions, semiconductors, and its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. I was eager to move beyond these surface-level narratives and engage directly with the people, institutions, and civic culture that define Taiwan's democracy. Upon my arrival to Taipei to join the Emerging Leaders Workshop, I quickly realized this was not just a policy-focused immersive experience; it was a masterfully curated itinerary that allowed me and my fellow delegates to engage first-hand with grassroots advocacy leaders, government officials, legislators, tech innovators, and even Taiwan's executive leadership. Thanks to the thoughtful planning by FAPA leadership and the generous hospitality of our Taiwanese hosts, we encountered a rich spectrum of voices that showcased the resilience and vibrancy of Taiwan's society. This experience became profoundly transformational—deepening my appreciation for Taiwan's democratic values and strengthening my commitment to supporting its global visibility and voice.

Throughout the week, we engaged in intellectually rigorous discussions on Taiwan's culture, civil society, and its critical geostrategic importance. At first, I questioned my ability to contribute meaningfully to our group conversations, given my limited background in Taiwan studies. However, I quickly realized that my experience in Indo-Pacific military affairs and U.S.–Japan relations offered a valuable perspective—one that enabled me to contribute key insights and support my fellow delegates in our shared learning journey. I vividly remember waiting anxiously for the orientation to begin, engaging in a conversation with FAPA National President Su-Mei Kao about how Japan and the Philippines view Taiwan not only as a potential

security flashpoint, but also as an increasingly important economic and military partner. That early moment of kindness, curiosity, and enthusiasm for Taiwan set the tone for my week and helped me shape my perspective in a collaborative learning environment. By viewing Taiwan through multiple lenses—cultural, strategic, and societal—our delegation was able to develop bold, pragmatic ideas together.

Visiting nearly every major institution shaping Taiwan's role on the global stage, I was especially drawn to the discussions on Taiwan's growing civil society and its efforts to build whole-of-society resilience amid persistent gray-zone coercion from

Day 7: final session where participants reflected on the highlights of the journey





Day 6: Meeting with Kaohsiung Deputy Mayor Lee Huai-Jen at the Kaohsiung City Council

In Taiwan, civil society is not merely a participant in democracy; it is an architect of resilience and stability.

David Dichoso, 2025 ELW delegate

China. I was particularly thrilled to hear from Enoch Wu of Forward Alliance and Yu-Hsi Liu of the Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee—two pioneers leading the charge in fortifying societal resilience. Their work underscored the vital role civil society plays in national security. Their insights, along with contributions from all our presenters, made it clear to me that whole-of-society preparedness must be a bottom-up effort—anchored in families, communities, and local institutions.

In Taiwan, civil society is not merely a participant in democracy; it is an architect of resilience and stability. As resilience becomes a core U.S. policy priority, I learned that bipartisan commitment and sustained support—through domestic reforms, international partnerships, and investments in local infrastructure—are essential. It is those families, communities, and local networks that are laying the foundation for a society capable of withstanding not only natural disasters but also authoritarian threats.

One key takeaway that will inform my future studies is this: success must be measured not just by capabilities, but by the will to prepare.

Lastly, I was deeply honored to have had the opportunity to directly engage with former President Tsai Ing-wen during this program. Having read about her leadership extensively during my undergraduate years, it was surreal to witness my fellow delegates ask thoughtful, timely questions on Taiwan's future, and to personally hear her reflections on leading the country and her insights on the evolving U.S.–Taiwan relationship. This rare and meaningful engagement—like so many others throughout the program—was made possible thanks to the incredible access facilitated by the FAPA team and the warm hospitality of the Taiwanese people.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to FAPA and to my fellow delegates. As this unforgettable delegation comes to an end, I leave not only with lasting friendships, but also with a deeper understanding and renewed commitment to supporting Taiwan from the United States. I fully intend to return to Taiwan—and who knows, perhaps one day, I may even call it home.



David Dichoso standing in front of the MOFA sign

Kicking Off



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for Public Affairs

the **FAPA EMERGING
WORKSHOP ALUMNI**

On June 7, 2025, in Taipei, FAPA marked a powerful milestone—bringing the past, present, and future of FAPA into the same room. As the Emerging Leaders Workshop: Taiwan Trek came to a close, we hosted a combined event to both celebrate the closing ceremony of the 9th cohort and to formally launch the **FAPA Alumni Network**.

It was a moment of convergence. The newest cohort of Emerging Leaders—having spent the past week engaging with Taiwan's political, economic, and security leadership—were officially inducted into the alumni network. Emerging Leaders from the past 8 cohorts, former FAPA staff and interns joined the celebration, making it the first time multiple generations of FAPA alumni gathered in Taiwan. The energy in the room was electric. New leaders met longtime advocates. Conversations flowed. Bridges formed. And our vision of a living, intergenerational alumni network began to take shape.

Our guests of honor were Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim, Dr. Mark Chen (former FAPA National President and later Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Yao Chia-wen and his wife Ms. Chou Ching-yu, Yang Huang Mei-Hsin, AmCham Chairperson Dan Silver and President Carl Wegener. We were also joined by other senior figures from Taiwan's policy, civil society, and technology communities, many of whom met with the Emerging Leaders throughout the week.

Vice President Hsiao's keynote address was a highlight of the evening. She returned not only as Taiwan's vice president, but as a proud former FAPA intern. She spoke candidly about her early days as a college student at Oberlin, in the middle of corn fields, when Dr. Masao Yu, a chapter president of Ohio-C Chapter, took her to local Taiwanese American events—where she experienced the warmth and purpose of the community. And, she joked, good food was guaranteed!

LEADERS NETWORK



1 | 2 | 3 (1) FAPA Executive Director Chiao-Yun Anny Hsiao (2) FAPA supporter 楊黃美幸 (3) 2025 ELW Guest Speaker Tony Hu
4 | 5 | 6 (4) Emerging Leader Sandy Faure reflecting on the ELW trip (5) Vice President Hsiao Bi-Khim (6) FAPA President Su-Mei Kao
7 | 8 | 9 (7) AmCham President Carl Wegner and Mr. Yao Chia-Wen (8) 2024 ELW alumni (9) Taipei City Councilor Miao Po-Ya

She recalled a formative road trip with Dr. Yu to meet then-FAPA National President Dr. Mark Chen—a man she would later reconnect with in a very different context: she, a legislator; he, Taiwan’s foreign minister.

Later, reflecting on her time as a FAPA intern, Vice President Hsiao offered a vivid memory living and working at FAPA—one that still echoes today. “**The FAPA office,**” she recalled, “**was small, but warm; it was full of activity; it is full of passion; it’s full of love for Taiwan; and full of energy that was promoting the Taiwan–U.S. partnership.**” She had lived in the building that summer, navigating Capitol Hill not as a visitor, but as part of a small, dedicated team working to give Taiwan a voice in the halls of Congress. At that time, Taiwan had not yet held its first direct

presidential election; democracy was still a destination, not a guarantee. But she saw how advocacy could shape outcomes. A core group of allies in Congress stood with Taiwan, and through FAPA, she witnessed how persistence, clarity, and moral conviction could translate into political will, action, and results.

Fast forwarding to today, VP Hsiao urges that the stakes are higher than ever. “Taiwan now faces a number of new—and even more challenging—issues,” she said. “**Defending democracy is no longer just about refining our system. It’s about protecting our survival.**” From PLA gray-zone aggression and mounting military threats to complex pressures in trade and technology, Taiwan is operating under intensifying strain. It is a race against time on the security front.



- 1 From Left to Right: (1) Isaac Finestone, Jim Halsell, Linda Zhang, Daniel Alvarez, Su-Mei Kao, Hsiao Bi-Khim, Ryan Rosa, Sam Sawyer, Luke Navratil, Sandy Faure (2) Michael Di Girolamo, Phoebe Pham, Arpitha Peteru, Su-Mei Kao, Hsiao Bi-Khim, Benie Kwarteng, David Dichoso, Bryce Barros
- 2

Referencing the war in Ukraine, Vice President Hsiao reminded everyone that **“We cannot take peace for granted. No matter who you are, we all share an interest in deterring invasion. Associations like FAPA continue to play an important role in forging those shared interests to preserve peace.”** Recognizing that at FAPA, we do public affairs work for passion of freedom, democracy and for passion in a belief that a strong U.S.-Taiwan partnership will contribute to the advancement of that.

The FAPA Alumni Network will continue to grow as a platform where emerging leaders from Taiwan and the U.S. can cross-pollinate ideas, collaborate across borders, and build lasting people-to-people ties that policy alone cannot forge. As the banquet concluded, the alumni was left wanting more.

Her closing message was both sobering and galvanizing:

“We must continue to build our democracy and forge a strong relationship that ensures our shared interests. A strong Taiwan is not incompatible with a great America. Ultimately, Taiwan needs America—but America also needs Taiwan.”

Special thanks to 許水鏡先生紀念基金 for supporting the Emerging Leaders Workshop Program

HQ ACTIVITIES

Summary

FAPA continues to be a strong advocate for Taiwan's interests in the United States and on the global stage. Below is a summary of FAPA's public statements and press releases from April to June 2025 to showcase our advocacy efforts:

- **Celebrated the House passage of the Taiwan International Solidarity Act and Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act**, two bills that strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and defend Taiwan's status in the international community.
- **Supported the introduction of the Six Assurances to Taiwan Act**, a landmark bill aimed at codifying the Six Assurances into U.S. law and reaffirm the United States' commitment to Taiwan's security.
- **Mourned the passage of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly**, a longtime co-chair of the House Taiwan Caucus, and recognized the impact of his dedication to democracy on countless Taiwanese and Americans.

These statements help shape media coverage and influence policy discussions surrounding Taiwan-related issues, demonstrating the continued significance of FAPA's work. We will continue to advocate for Taiwan's status as a respected, sovereign, and independent country.



House Passes Two Bills on FAPA's Legislative Priorities

On May 5, the U.S. House of Representatives passed two key FAPA legislative priorities to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations — the **Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act (H.R. 1512)** and the **Taiwan International Solidarity Act (H.R. 2416)**. The bills address the State Department's outdated self-imposed restrictions on exchanges with Taiwan and counter China's false sovereignty claims over Taiwan and its weaponization of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758.

FAPA actively worked with the sponsors of both bills to move them through the House. We also mobilized our nationwide chapter network to meet with Congressional offices and coordinate letter-writing campaigns. In 2024, our petition for the Taiwan International Solidarity Act alone mobilized more than 1,500 supporters who collectively sent over 3,000 letters to Congress. More than 80 FAPA members from across 15 states and 20 chapters also traveled to Washington, D.C. in September 2024 for the National Advocacy Conference to champion the bill as our top priority.

The passage of these bills reflects strong bipartisan support for Taiwan and reaffirms America's commitment to Taiwan's democracy. FAPA will continue urging the U.S. Senate to advance these bills and see them signed into law.



Introduction of the Six Assurances to Taiwan Act

On May 15, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced the **Six Assurances to Taiwan Act (H.R. 3452)**—a landmark bill that would codify the Six Assurances, one of the cornerstones of U.S. policy toward Taiwan, alongside the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The legislation reaffirms the United States' enduring security commitments to Taiwan at a time of intensifying Chinese aggression.

The bill was announced shortly after a hearing held by the U.S. House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) focusing on preventing CCP aggression against Taiwan. Lawmakers stressed the urgent need to reinforce deterrence in the Indo-Pacific at the hearing. Ranking Member **Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)**, who is also the lead sponsor of the bill, noted that "**A CCP attack on Taiwan would be unacceptable**" and that the U.S. "**will not tolerate actions that put peace at risk.**"

FAPA has long championed the Six Assurances as a cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, playing a key role in the passage of a prior congressional resolution reaffirming their importance alongside the Taiwan Relations Act. Prior to the introduction of the Six Assurances to Taiwan Act, we also worked closely with Ranking Member Krishnamoorthi on plans to advance this legislation and launched a nationwide petition campaign to rally grassroots support.

With strong bipartisan backing and overwhelming support from Taiwanese American communities across the country, the time to act is now. Let us work together to ensure this bill becomes law.



The Passing of Rep. Gerry Connolly

On May 21, FAPA issued a statement mourning the passing of U.S. Representative Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), a devoted champion of Taiwan in Congress.

In the press release, FAPA acknowledged the many ways in which Congressman Connolly supported Taiwan's democracy and strengthened U.S.-Taiwan relations. He was a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus.

Beyond his leadership, he was an avid supporter of pro-Taiwan legislation until his passing. In the 119th Congress alone, he was the co-lead sponsor of the Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act (H.R. 1512) and the Taiwan International Solidarity Act (H.R. 2416), as well as a cosponsor of the Taiwan Allies Fund Act (H.R. 2559) and H.Res. 148, which support Taiwan's international space and reject China's false sovereignty claims over Taiwan.

FAPA deeply mourns the passing of Congressman Connolly. The work he did set a high standard for principled foreign policy leadership—both in Congress and around the world. May he rest in peace.



CALL TO ACTION!

Urge Your Representative to Support the Six Assurances to Taiwan Act!

As threats from the People's Republic of China (PRC) escalate, Taiwan's security and the stability of the Indo-Pacific region are increasingly at stake. **Now, more than ever, the United States must reaffirm its principled and long-standing policy commitments to Taiwan.**

The bipartisan **Six Assurances to Taiwan Act (H.R. 3452)** seeks to codify into law the Six Assurances—cornerstone commitments that, alongside the Taiwan Relations Act, have guided U.S. policy toward Taiwan for decades. The Six Assurances are a series of guarantees the U.S. has made to Taiwan, which are as follows:

The United States:

- Has not agreed to set a date for ending arms sales to Taiwan;
- Has not agreed to consult with the PRC on arms sales to Taiwan;
- Will not play mediation role between Taipei and Beijing;
- Has not agreed to revise the Taiwan Relations Act;
- Has not altered its position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan; and
- Will not exert pressure on Taiwan to enter negotiations with the PRC.

Codifying the Six Assurances into U.S. law sends a powerful message of deterrence to Beijing, reinforcing that Taiwan is not up for negotiation. This bill strengthens peace, enhances regional stability, and bolsters U.S. credibility amid escalating Chinese aggression.

FAPA launched a nationwide petition supporting this legislation in May 2025. **We urge you to sign the petition calling on your Representative to support H.R. 3452. It is easy and takes only 3 minutes to complete. Please share this petition campaign to encourage more people to participate.**

We need to amplify our advocacy voices and stand together to push back against China's growing aggression toward Taiwan!

SIGN THE PETITION
NOW!



Ongoing Petitions:

We currently have three other active petitions, and your support is critical. By signing, you help send a strong, unified message to Congress that these bills matter to our community and deserve immediate action.

Call for U.S.-Taiwan Diplomatic Ties (H.Con.Res.8)



Urges the United States to establish official diplomatic relations with Taiwan and end the outdated and misleading "One China Policy." It also calls for negotiating a U.S.-Taiwan free trade agreement (FTA) and supporting Taiwan's membership in international organizations.

Counter China's False Claims over Taiwan (S.Res.86 & H.Res.148)



Counters China's claim that UNGA Resolution 2758 recognizes PRC sovereignty over Taiwan and clarifies that the U.S. "One China policy" is not an endorsement of the PRC's "One China principle." It also opposes China's efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations.

U.S.-Taiwan Double Taxation Relief Legislation (S.199)



Establishes provisions in the tax code to relieve double taxation on cross-border U.S.-Taiwan investments and income. It also authorizes the President to negotiate a comprehensive tax agreement with Taiwan to further strengthen bilateral economic ties.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

North American Taiwan Studies Association - 2025 Annual Conference

Established in 1994, the North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting scholarly exchange on Taiwan-related topics across disciplines. Operated by overseas Taiwanese and North American Ph.D. students and recent graduates, NATSA organizes **the largest annual academic conference on Taiwan Studies in North America**.

This year's NATSA Conference took place from **June 30 to July 2 at Stanford University**, and FAPA was proud to serve as one of the sponsors. **FAPA's Policy Fellow, Henry Tsai, also spoke on two panels at the event.**

The first panel, held on July 1, was titled **"Situating Taiwan in the U.S. and Global Discourses."** The session was moderated by Shu-An Tsai, Assistant Professor at Tunghai University, with Adrienne Wu, Program Manager at the Global Taiwan Institute (GTI) serving as the discussant. Henry presented his research, ***Analyzing Taiwan-related Legislation in the 118th U.S. Congress: Thematic Areas, Trends, and Implications.*** in a 15-minute talk. His presentation analyzed U.S.-Taiwan relations through the lens of the 118th Congress (2023-2024), outlining key legislative themes, tracking what bills passed, and offering reflections on the broader implications for U.S.-Taiwan relations. The panel concluded with an engaging discussion among panelists and attendees.

Sophia Chang, a former FAPA intern and current undergraduate student at Princeton University, also presented during this panel. As an Undergraduate Paper Award recipient, she shared her research titled ***"Taiwanese American Political Attitudes and Identity in the 2024 U.S. Election."***

Henry also participated in a second panel on July 2, organized by the Global Taiwan Institute and titled **"DC Careers Workshop: Think Tanks, Universities, and Advocacy."** Moderated by Adrienne Wu, this career-focused panel featured Henry alongside Benjamin Sando, GTI Research Fellow, and Richard Haddock, Assistant Director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at George Washington University. Each panelist spoke for five minutes about their current roles and how they got there.

This career-focused workshop addressed a challenge many early-career scholars face: how to apply Taiwan Studies research skills outside of traditional academic settings. The discussion explored how such expertise can be leveraged across various sectors—from managing grants and implementing programs to shaping policy and engaging in advocacy. The panel aimed to equip attendees with insight into navigating the Washington, D.C. policy environment and understanding how research can be a powerful tool in influencing public discourse and policymaking.

Finally, we want to recognize the incredible contributions of the local Taiwanese American community in making this year's conference a success. Special thanks to FAPA CA-N Chapter President Jeremiah Kevin Tu, Leona Chen (CA-N member and Editor-in-Chief of TaiwaneseAmerican.org), and many other dedicated volunteers who helped organize and support this meaningful event.



FAPA Policy Fellow Henry Tsai presented his research, *"Analyzing Taiwan-Related Legislation in the 118th U.S. Congress: Thematic Areas, Trends, and Implications,"* at the 2025 NATSA Conference.

NY-M Presents

Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa

FAPA's First Fully-Driven Art Exhibition

In 2025, the Formosan Association for Public Affairs New York Metro Chapter (FAPA NY-M) embarked on a groundbreaking initiative—the chapter's first-ever art exhibition titled “*Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa*.” As a grassroots advocacy organization traditionally focused on legislative and community-based efforts, this cultural project represented a bold new direction for FAPA NY-M.

The primary motivations behind organizing this event were twofold:

First, it aimed to reach and engage a broader spectrum of the Taiwanese-American community, especially young professionals and emerging leaders. While FAPA has long been recognized for its policy advocacy, we recognized the need to lower barriers to engagement and invite the community to connect with Taiwan's story through more accessible, resonant mediums. Art, as a universal language, provided the perfect vehicle for this outreach, enabling us to communicate the values of democracy, identity, and self-determination in a way that policy papers and legislative updates could not.

Second, the exhibition served as an essential fundraising effort. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, FAPA relies on small donors and membership contributions to sustain its advocacy work. Through *Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa*, we aimed to create new avenues for donations, sponsorships, and partnerships, all while deepening supporters' connection to our mission.

How It Started

Neither I (**Chi-An Wang**, Chapter President) nor our Vice President, **Kelly Ko**, had prior experience organizing a public art exhibition. Recognizing this, we took a collaborative approach from the outset. We reached out to numerous curators and cultural professionals—ultimately assembling a dedicated curatorial team of five: **Gin Lin (Lead)**, **Naomi Chen**, **Ping Ho**, **Maggie Wei**, and **Yang Hsu**.

From the earliest stages, these curators provided invaluable guidance in shaping the artistic vision, identifying artists whose work embodied the themes of migration, identity, resistance, and resilience, and ensuring that the project remained aligned with both artistic integrity and advocacy goals. We also drew upon the expertise of volunteers and supporters from our community who contributed insights on event planning, fundraising strategy, and outreach.



BETWEEN SHORES

Reimagining Formosa



The Planning Process: Four Months of Weekly Collaboration

Planning for *Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa* unfolded over four months, during which our team met weekly. These sessions covered a wide range of tasks—from selecting the venue (One Art Space in Tribeca) and securing artists, to designing the exhibition layout, creating promotional materials, planning event logistics, and developing fundraising mechanisms.

Each week's meeting included status updates, troubleshooting, and action items. Our small but mighty team juggled countless details:

- Coordinating with artists on artwork selection and transportation
- Drafting and refining curatorial statements and educational materials
- Recruiting and training volunteers
- Developing a guest list that included major donors, community leaders, media, and elected officials

Throughout this process, inclusivity and transparency were guiding principles. We ensured that voices from both the arts community and advocacy world were represented at the table.

The Two-Week Exhibition and Its Events

Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa ran from June 10 to June 22, 2025, at One Art Space. The exhibition featured works from eighteen Taiwanese and Taiwanese-American artists, spanning mediums including painting, sculpture, textile, mixed media, and performance. Thematically, the exhibition unfolded along two major currents: one that confronted migration, identity, and belonging through personal narrative, and another that envisioned . . .



all hands meeting

Private Opening Reception (June 10, 2025)

The Opening Reception was our signature event. It began with a private preview for major donors, dignitaries, and press, featuring a curator-led walkthrough and intimate networking. The formal program included welcome remarks from FAPA NY-M leadership, speeches by curators, a live artist performance, and a dynamic fundraising session that hit our fundraising goal. The most important message was that FAPA NY-M hopes to gather the community together more often in the future, and this is the time to do it.

Friends & Family Night

A community-centered celebration featuring music, Taiwan-inspired cocktails, and a performance by artist Way. This event drew a younger crowd, providing an accessible and festive introduction to the exhibition's themes. We had more than 150 participants that night.

Various Workshops

Throughout the exhibition, we hosted hands-on workshops including a Ribbon Collage session inspired by Taiwanese cultural motifs, a Color Mixing Tote Bag workshop that explored identity through wearable art, a Touching Computers session that invited participants to explore the intersection of digital technology and creativity, a Wine Pairing evening where Taiwanese flavors met curated wines to spark conversation, and an Art Therapy session designed to help participants reflect on identity and belonging through guided creative exercises, and a really interesting Woodblock Printing Name Tag workshop that allowed participants to create personalized mementos while learning about traditional printmaking techniques.



friends & family

Closing Celebration

Our closing event brought together the community one last time to reflect on the exhibition's impact, enjoy live music, and encourage final donations. This afternoon gathering included artist storytelling, a performance, and casual mingling over drinks.



opening



樊醫師 傳承

Art Pieces and Performances

Our curatorial approach emphasized the dynamic interplay of history, memory, and contemporary identity through compelling visual storytelling. The artworks invited viewers to engage deeply with Taiwan's complex narratives of belonging, resilience, and hope. Among the many standout pieces, we wish to highlight 鄭麗雲 (Leigh Wen)'s *Water Series*, which offers a contemplative meditation on Taiwan's relationship with the ocean—symbolizing identity, fluidity, and transformation—and served as the striking first piece upon entering the gallery.

郭明哲 (Ming-Jer Kuo)'s PLA Aircraft installation powerfully illustrated the challenges Taiwan faces today, referencing the staggering figure of 5,741 military aircraft that crossed the Taiwan Strait over the past year. The arrangement of these aircraft formed the ominous shape of a typhoon—a visual metaphor that resonated deeply with viewers as it invoked a natural force familiar to Taiwanese people, evoking feelings of threat and unease tied to both nature and geopolitics.

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 1. art therapy workshop |
| 2 | 3 | 2. woodblock printing workshop |
| 3 | 4 | 3. touching computer workshop |
| | | 4. carrying taiwan: tote bag workshop |



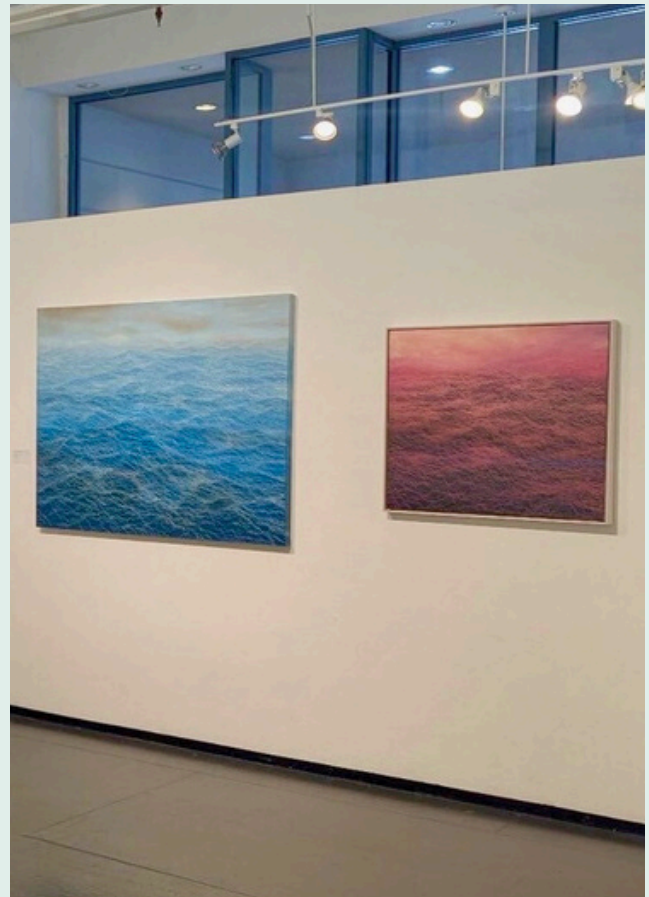
Finally, Ching-Wei (Way) Wang 王淨薇's performance art piece, *Maintain Status Quo Indefinitely*, delivered a haunting yet moving tribute to Taiwan's painful 228 history and enduring resilience.

Outcomes and Achievements

The outcomes of *Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa* reflect not only impressive numbers but also meaningful engagement and lasting impact.

Throughout the two-week period, our exhibition became a vibrant platform for dialogue, reflection, and advocacy. Beyond raw attendance data, the quality of conversations and connections forged





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2 </div> | 3 | 1. 郭明哲 (Ming-Jer Kuo)'s PLA Aircraft installation
2. Ching-Wei (Way) Wang 王淨薇's performance, <i>Maintain Status Quo Indefinitely</i>
3. 鄭麗雲 (Leigh Wen)'s Water Series |
|--|---|--|

stands out. Visitors frequently shared how the art deepened their understanding of Taiwan's geopolitical challenges, cultural richness, and democratic aspirations.

We are proud to report that over 600 guests attended in person, spanning a diverse audience that included not only Taiwanese Americans and members of the Asian American community but also local artists, collectors, journalists, educators, and policymakers. The exhibition's reach extended well beyond the gallery walls: our digital campaigns and media partnerships amplified Taiwan's story to thousands more across social media and cultural networks.

On the fundraising front, our innovative approach—integrating art sales, ticketing, drink sales, and direct giving opportunities—helped us raise vital funds for FAPA's mission. The auction of select works, paddle raises during the reception, and generous contributions from first-time donors were key highlights. Importantly, the exhibition fostered genuine relationships with donors and partners who have expressed interest in supporting future advocacy and cultural projects.

Perhaps most importantly, the event served as a bridge: connecting generations, linking advocacy and art, and uniting supporters in our shared vision for Taiwan. The exhibition inspired many attendees to inquire about FAPA membership, volunteer opportunities, and ways to get involved in advocacy.

The exhibition far exceeded our expectations in several key areas:

- **Attendance and Reach:** Over the two weeks, we welcomed more than 600 visitors to One Art Space, including community members, donors, artists, policymakers, and members of the media. Our digital outreach further extended our reach, with thousands engaging with our event content through social media and partner networks.
- **Fundraising Impact:** Through ticket sales, drink sales, direct donations, and sponsorships, the exhibition generated significant funds to support FAPA's advocacy mission. We successfully cultivated new donor relationships, including several major gifts that will have a lasting impact on our chapter's capacity.
- **Community Building:** The exhibition deepened connections within the Taiwanese-American community and built bridges to allies in the arts, cultural, and advocacy sectors. We also saw increased interest in FAPA membership and volunteer opportunities from attendees who were inspired by the exhibition's message and energy.
- **Advocacy Visibility:** By framing the exhibition around themes of identity, belonging, and resilience, we provided an accessible entry point for conversations about Taiwan's international status and the importance of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Future Outlook

Between Shores: Reimagining Formosa affirmed that art can be a powerful tool for advocacy and community engagement. Moving forward, we aim to build on this success in several ways:

- **Institutionalizing Arts Programming:** We plan to make cultural events a recurring part of our chapter's programming, exploring collaborations with artists, curators, and community organizations.
- **Strengthening Volunteer and Leadership Pipelines:** The exhibition attracted a new wave of young professionals who are eager to contribute their skills and energy to FAPA. We will focus on sustaining this momentum through more engaging events and community building.
- **Scaling Impact:** We hope to share our learnings with other FAPA chapters and explore possibilities for touring exhibitions or joint programs that amplify Taiwan's story on a national scale.

Together, we can continue to tell Taiwan's story, strengthen our community, and advocate for a future where Taiwan's voice is heard loud and clear on the global stage.

Bonus: Video Reflection: Why We Advocate

As a culminating gesture and fundraising effort, our core team came together to film a short video reflecting on our personal motivations for joining FAPA, our hopes for Taiwan's future, and the role of community-based advocacy.

In this video, members shared heartfelt reflections on what brought them to FAPA, what advocacy for Taiwan means to them, and how the strength of the community continues to inspire and sustain our work. More than just a promotional tool, the video serves as a powerful invitation for others to join the movement and invest in Taiwan's future.

It is publicly available [HERE](#):

view *Why We Advocate* by scanning the QR Code



group photo of the FAPA community

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Taiwan Independence and Anti-China's aggression rally

CA-LA

President Alex Chen

4/2-4/10 Moved our LA office from Taiwan Center of Greater Los Angeles 3001 Walnut Grove Ave, Rosemead, CA 91770 to 901 S Fremont Ave #118, Alhambra, CA 91803 in preparation for demolition of TC.

4/14 Chapter meeting to discuss financials and organizing events

4/18 Passing of former San Gabriel Councilmember and former FAPA-LA president Chin Ho Liao.

4/19 FAPA, FAHR, and TAA online event: 424 Assassination of Chiang Kai-Shek.

5/6 Chapter meeting to discuss financials and organizing events

5/17 FAPA-LA Booth at Taiwanese American Heritage Week event at Barnes Park, pass out flyers of FAPA LA fundraising speech tour on 7/20. Heritage Week Festival Children Drawing Contest Sponsor

CA-OC

President Harrison Cheng



王金壽教授演講

6/4 Chinese Consulate Los Angeles - Tiananmen Square Vigil. Chinese counter protestors tried to disrupt the Vigil but were chased away by the police.

6/13 Chinese-American Elected Officials Representative Laura Friedman of 30th District succeeded Adam Schiff

6/15 Chinese Consulate Los Angeles - Taiwan Independence and Anti-China's aggression rally sponsored by Pro-Democracy Chinese.

6/23 Local Diplomacy Brunch with 顏若芳 councilwoman and Yvonne Yiu (former mayor of Monterey Park), Thomas Wong (councilman of Monterey Park) and Ed Chen



Local Diplomacy Brunch

今年我們第一個節目是二二八紀念會，請到王金壽教授於三月四日前來橙縣演講。王教授現職成大政治系教授，今年到 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 任 Visiting Scholar。他是 UNC-Chapel Hill 的社會學博士，研究專長在司法政治、地方政治與選舉，並且在台灣的選舉和司法改革有廣泛的深入的長期的體驗。他的講題是「台灣司法獨立改革史：從二二八談起。我們和 Laguna Woods 台灣同鄉會合辦，共有170人參加這個盛會。演講後的討論也特別踴躍，獲益良多。



"尋找湯德章" 導演黃銘正，連楨惠夫婦

第二個節目是在三月二十七日舉辦的電影欣賞會。影片是“尋找湯德章”。同時導演黃銘正，連楨惠夫婦也來和大家交流。好多人感動得泣不成聲。尤其導演讓我們了解到拍攝的艱難與辛苦。許多人都願意捐款讓這影片在台灣各學校放映，並支持導演的下一個影片。

這次我們和柑縣及 Laguna Woods 台灣同鄉會合辦。同時又有罷免的連署活動一起進行，完成許多任務。



蔡振水教授致詞

第四月底到五月底有台灣傳統週的活動，現在已經成為傳統月，FAOA OC 是頂立支持的社團之一。今年的節目有棒球台灣日，音樂欣賞，醫學講座，攝影展，台灣觀光講座，小吃美食，布袋戲等等。在台灣傳統翅慶祝大會、十鼓擊樂團演出「台灣躍動」。節目非常豐富。

今年的夏天picnic, 在六月七日舉行，地點在爾灣的 Turtle Rock Community Park。有雄中雄女校友會前來參加，所以人數也特別多，約有 135 人參加。飯後有中研院院士蔡振水教授致詞勉勵。

DC

President Kevin Huang

Taiwan New Generation Forum | Washington D.C. Session (April 16, 2025)

The FAPA DC Chapter proudly co-hosted the “Taiwan New Generation Forum: Taiwan’s New Generation and the New Era,” featuring prominent young leaders and reform advocates. Held on April 16, 2025, at the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Washington, the event offered in-depth discussions on how Taiwan’s younger generation is shaping the future and driving societal reform. Distinguished speakers included Li Cheng-Hao, Chuo Kuan-Ting, Hung Tzu-Yung, and Yamada Mai. This collaborative effort, organized with the Taiwanese Association of America-Greater Washington Chapter, the Taiwanese American Cultural Center, and the DPP Mission in the U.S., fostered meaningful dialogue and inspired action among attendees.



Taiwan New Generation Forum hosted on April 16

Taiwanese American Heritage Week (May 12, 2025)

The FAPA DC Chapter was honored to receive the official proclamation declaring May 11–18, 2025, as Taiwanese American Heritage Week from the City of Rockville at City Hall. 2025年5月12日，FAPA華府分會於洛克維爾市政廳榮獲該市頒布的「台美人傳統週」官方公告，宣布2025年5月11日至18日為台美人傳統週。



Taiwanese American Heritage Week Proclamation Reading at the Rockville City Hall

FL-S

President Ming-Lon Young

Visit from National FAPA Standing Committee Members

Seventeen members and friends of the South Florida FAPA warmly welcomed nine FAPA Standing Committee members and their families:

- Su-Mei Kao (President)
- Chia-Chun Chung (Vice President)
- Chiao-Yun “Anny” Hsiao (Executive Director)
- Mark Kao (Senior Policy Advisor)
- Rita Ho (Northeast Region)
- Nancy Ho (North Central Region)
- Kevin Chou & Chih-Tzuan Yeh (South Central Region)
- Tony Lee (Southwest Region)

We shared meaningful conversations reflecting on the history and growth of our South Florida chapter, highlighting the visionary leadership of the late President Song-Yea Lee (李嵩義) and his lasting legacy of dedication and service.

President Su-Mei Kao provided an encouraging update on the Lee Song-Yea Memorial Fund, which has successfully raised over \$500,000 through generous donations. The fund is now fully supporting the FAPA Internship Program, which has already helped select and train three outstanding young interns this year—planting seeds of leadership for Taiwan’s future.

A special thank you to 惠玲, 玉英, and Joyce, who, although unable to attend, thoughtfully provided delicious Taiwanese dishes and snacks enjoyed by all.

Legislative Outreach & Meetings

- **Rep. Lois Frankel (FL-22):**
 - On March 23, Sufen and Ming attended her town hall in West Palm Beach.
 - On May 22, Paul Cordon, Chia-Chun Chung, and Ming held a productive Zoom meeting with her Foreign Policy Advisor Jennifer Miller.
 - Key takeaways:
 - a. As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Frankel typically refrains from cosponsoring appropriations-related legislation, as her influence is exercised through committee action.
 - b. We discussed FAPA’s five core House legislative priorities.
 - c. Regarding the TECRO name change, Jennifer inquired about its real-world impact. We explained how the current terminology creates confusion and advocated for usage consistent with U.S. practice—referring to “Taiwan” as such.
 - d. We highlighted H.R. 2370 – Taiwan Travel and Tourism Coordination Act, with Paul offering local perspectives. With China Airlines entering a codeshare agreement with Southwest Airlines, we hope to grow Taiwan-Florida tourism.
 - e. Jennifer welcomed a future in-person visit when we are in D.C. for the NAC in September.
- **Rep. Maria Salazar (FL-27):**
 - On April 30, Paul, Sufen, and Ming attended her fundraising event in downtown Miami. We thanked her for co-sponsoring H.Res.148, which addresses UNGA Resolution 2758 and critiques the conflation of the U.S. “One China Policy” with China’s “One China Principle.”
 - Rep. Salazar expressed interest in visiting Taiwan.

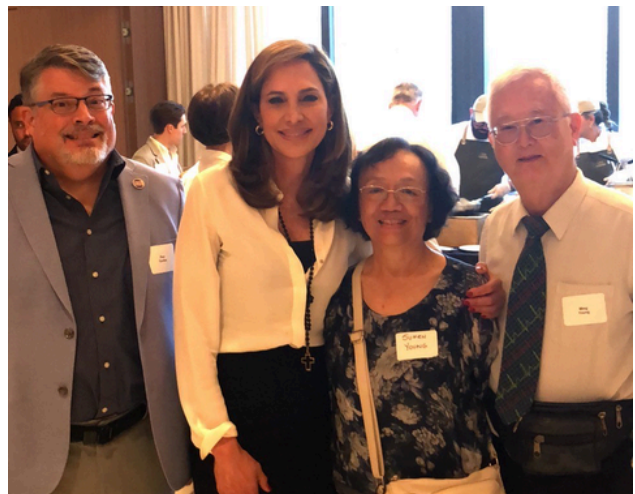
- We met her scheduler Brielle Appelbaum, who helped arrange Zoom meeting with her Chief of Staff TM, on June 19.

Unfortunately, he did not acknowledge the cancellation of our previously scheduled April 28 Miami meeting, and again he cancelled the June 19 Zoom call. However, he referred us to Austin Johnson, Director of Foreign Affairs, for future policy discussions. We plan to follow up with Mr. Johnson.

- **Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-25):**
 - Paul Cordon is coordinating with her aide, Anthony Bryant, to reschedule a previously postponed meeting.
- **Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20):**
 - Paul & Tina attended her Town Hall meeting. Tina spoke with Sheila, this is Tina’s second contact. We got the scheduler’s contact info and hope to schedule a meeting as soon as our FAPA member living in the 20th district has recovered from some medical procedures.



FAPA SC meeting 2025 in Ft Lauderdale welcomed by FL-S Chapter at Dr. Young's house



FL-S Chapter President Dr. Ming-Lon Young, Su-Fen Young, Congresswoman Maria Salazar (FL-27) and FL-S Chapter Vice President Paul Cordon

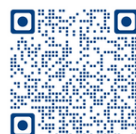
Media Feature: 三立電視 SET News – “消失的國界”

In April 2025, SET News aired a segment hosted by Li Wen-Yi as part of its “Borderless World” series, showcasing people and stories from Florida. It was an in-depth exploration of South Florida culture, economic opportunity, and the Taiwanese Americans who call South Florida home.

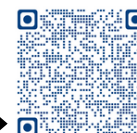
Of special interest to FAPA was the coverage of FAPA member Tina visiting the Mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, Dean Trantalis, to discuss the opportunities for Taiwanese yachts manufacturers in Florida once S.199 (U.S.-Taiwan Expedited Double Tax Relief Act) passes the Senate. They also discussed how to improve economic ties between Kaohsiung and Fort Lauderdale. On June 20, 2025, the Board of Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International voted to appoint Tina Chairwoman for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

We aim to use this footage as a compelling visual aid in advocacy with Senator Rick Scott and Senator Ashley Moody in support of Taiwan-U.S. Double Taxation Relief. Special thanks to Tina for organizing the reporter visit.

Miami Borderless World video clips.



← Visit to the Mayor's office with English subtitles



Completed version →

FAPA South Florida is acknowledged at the end of the video.

MA

President Chia-Tai Chi



Speech event featuring Dr. Wen Liu on Taiwanese American Identity

Chapter Speech Event by Dr. Wen Liu

MA Chapter held a speech event by Dr. Wen Liu on “Taiwanese American Identity amidst US-China Rivalry: Race, Political identity, and Social Movement.” Over 20 people attended in person on a Thursday night in Boston. We had meaningful conversations around Taiwanese American identity as well as shared FAPA’s mission and advocacy work (Pictured above.)

Monthly Vigil for Taiwan

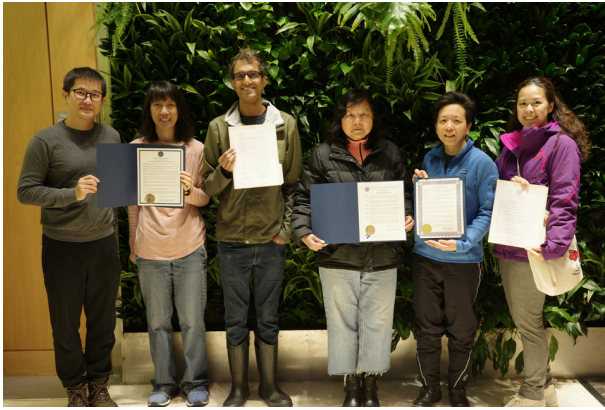
MA Chapter continues the tradition of holding the monthly outreach event at Harvard Square since 2010. We share the news and culture of Taiwan, tell stories to advocate for Taiwan and interact with people who stop by to show support for Taiwan. (Pictured left.)



Monthly Vigil for Taiwan

Proclamations

MA Chapter has 6 elected officials issued proclamations this year! We thank Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, and Secretary William Galvin for proclaiming Taiwanese American Heritage Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We also thank Chair Greene of Town of Brookline, Mayor Christenson of City of Malden, Mayor Simmons of City of Cambridge, Mayor Keefe of City of Revere, and Mayor Ballantyne City of Somerville for recognizing Taiwanese American Heritage Week and encouraging all residents to celebrate the contributions of Taiwanese Americans.



MA Chapter members showcasing TAHW proclamations

MD

President Tim Chng

Connecting with MD-02 Congressman Olszewski

In April 2025, members of our chapter attended a town hall with Congressman Olszewski in person and virtually. During the meeting, we asked him about his views on Taiwan as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He responded that he supports Taiwan's democracy and plans to visit Taiwan this summer.

On Congressman Olszewski's Instagram, we can see our member Tim Chng wearing a FAPA-logo jacket provided by Liam Keen of the Pennsylvania West Chapter.

Shortly after the town hall, we and FAPA HQ visited Congressman Olszewski's congressional assistants to introduce them to the various Taiwan legislation promoted by FAPA and provide complete information for his upcoming visit to Taiwan.

Then, on May 5, Congressman Olszewski spoke on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, expressing his support for the Taiwan Assurance Act (H.R. 1512) and the Taiwan International Solidarity Act (H.R. 2416).

Both bills passed the House of Representatives smoothly.

On June 26, he shared his visit to Taiwan on Instagram after meeting President Lai Ching-te and Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim publicly declaring his support for Taiwan.

Taiwanese American Heritage Week

FAPA Maryland participated in the national campaign to have Taiwanese American Heritage Week recognized by our elected officials. **Maryland Governor Wes Moore** and **Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott** both issued proclamations for Taiwanese American heritage week.

Exchange in MD Chapter roles

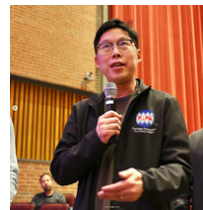
Our FAPA Maryland chapter had an election to ratify that our Vice President Tim Chng (莊騰程) will switch roles with our President Min Eu (游敏) due to her increased responsibilities in her professional life. Tim Chng (莊騰程) now serves as President of the FAPA Maryland chapter and Min Eu (游敏) will serve as Vice President of FAPA Maryland.



"Taiwanese Americans are proud of their roots and of their vital role in the growth of our nation."

Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey Proclaims Taiwanese American Heritage Week in 2025

“



Chapter President Tim Chng attending Representative Olszewski's town hall and posted on Rep. Olszewski's Instagram



Chapter President Tim Chng and FAPA Staff Henry Tsai, Anny Hsiao and Peyton Austin visiting Representative Olszewski's office



With TAA-GBC at Howard County APA Festival

Howard County Asian Pacific American Festival

Also in May, FAPA Maryland participated in the Howard County Asian Pacific American festival at the invitation of Taiwanese Association of America - Greater Baltimore and Columbia. There, we collected signatures for FAPA petitions and increased our grassroots visibility. We made sure Taiwan was represented among all the Asian American groups.

NC

President Jessica Strickland

今年4月24日我們一行五個人去拜訪北卡眾議員 Deborah Ross 辦公室。我們與Raleigh District Director, Caroline Spencer Sparks,見面, 請眾議員支持3個 Bills: Taiwan Allies Fund act, Taiwan assurance implementation act, and Taiwan International Act. 並邀請她加入 Congressional Taiwan Caucus. 也麻煩她寫一封台灣傳統周 proclamation 信給FAPA.

我們強調要加強台灣與美國的關係, 並討論如何促進台灣和北卡的經濟交流。Caroline非常友善而且極願幫忙, 我們有一個很好的visit。

5月19日我們4個人拜訪北卡參議員Ted Budd的辦公室, 我們和local 的 Director, Erin Wall, 見面。我們請參議員Ted Budd支持三個Bills: Taiwan Allies Fund act, Taiwan assurance implementation act, and Taiwan International Act. 因為參議員剛剛去拜訪台灣對台灣很有印象。我們約好9月再去拜訪參議員DC office 的foreign affairs 助理。

我們除了介紹FAPA組織也介紹了台灣同鄉會對當地的貢獻。強調台灣和美國關係的重要性, 並討論促進台灣和北卡經濟合作發展的機會。Erin也是很友善, 我們有很好的visit。



At Baltimore Pride promoting Miao Poya event

Promoting Miao Poya at Baltimore Pride

FAPA Maryland is also participating in the East Coast fundraising speaking tour of Miao Poya (苗博雅). To publicize this upcoming fundraiser, members of our chapter marched in June's Baltimore Pride parade. Through participating in our community and government we hope to continue building FAPA Maryland's grassroots advocacy for Taiwan.



Visiting the office of Congresswoman Deborah Ross



Visiting the office of Senator Ted Budd

NJ

President Ming-Tsung Ho

Taiwanese Language Table Lesson in partnership with Princeton TASA

The last Taiwanese Language Table session of Fall 2024 on 05/04/2025 concluded the biweekly series event started on 09/29/2024 by FAPA-NJ partnered with Princeton University Taiwanese American Student Association (Princeton TASA). We gave introductory Pêh-Ōe-Jī (POJ), one of the Romanized Taiwanese representations, and use informal language partner arrangement to conduct the language learning sessions.

TAHW Proclamation Hearing

On 05/13/2025, to observe 2025 Taiwanese American Heritage Week (the week of May 11, 2025), a few FAPA-NJ members and Franklin Township Taiwanese American residents received Taiwanese American Heritage Week proclamation from Franklin Township Deputy Mayor Ms. Shepa Uddin in a ceremony during the township council meeting.

NY-Hudson

President Chi-Lin (Mike) O'Young 歐陽吉林

Chapter's Grassroots Advocacy Activities

On April 11, 2025, four members of our Chapter visited the office of Congressman Pat Ryan (D-NY18) in Poughkeepsie, NY, and met with his aide, Dan Torres, Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director. Dan was very receptive and listened attentively to our statements and requests. We urged the Congressman to co-sponsor the following legislation:

- H.Con.Res. 8 – A resolution calling for a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement and diplomatic ties
- H.R. 1512 – The Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act
- H.Res. 148 – A resolution to counter China's weaponization of UN Resolution 2758

We also invited Congressman Ryan to join the House Taiwan Caucus. Since his first election in 2022, our Chapter has been working to establish a strong relationship with his team. We will continue to follow up on our advocacy efforts.

Meanwhile, Congressman Mike Lawler (R-NY17), also first elected in 2022, has co-sponsored all three pieces of legislation and joined the House Taiwan Caucus promptly. He has consistently demonstrated strong support for Taiwan.

Celebration of Taiwanese American Heritage Week, May 11–18, 2025

Continuing a valued tradition, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino issued a proclamation in honor of 2025 Taiwanese American Heritage Week. On May 7, a group of local Taiwanese Americans visited her office for a ceremony and accepted the proclamation. During the event, Executive Serino read the document aloud, highlighting the contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

In addition, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer sent a commemorative letter extending his warmest greetings in celebration of the week. He recognized and commended FAPA for its long-standing efforts to promote stronger U.S.-Taiwan relations.



Taiwanese Language Table Lesson in partnership with Princeton TASA



Franklin Township TAHW Proclamation hearing at the township council.



Visited Rep. Pat Ryan's (D, NY-18) Poughkeepsie Office, NY
Tek-iong, Thomas, Dan Torres, Dan, Mike



TAHW Proclamation Ceremony
Dutchess County, NY, May 7, 2025

NY-Syracuse

President Elizabeth Lin

FAPA Syracuse Chapter Annual Picnic 2025

FAPA Syracuse Chapter Annual Picnic was held on Jun 22nd at Sullivan Park, Chittenango, NY. We have moved our picnic location due to uncertain weather. Total of 13 members and friends joined us at this event.

Syracuse Chapter has received a letter of recognition from Congressman John Manion and two proclamations from Syracuse Mayor Ben Wash and County Executive Ryan MaMahon for “Taiwanese-American Heritage Week” in May.



FAPA picnic

OR-SWWA

President Sylvia Lin

Film Screening of *In Search of a Mixed Identity* (尋找湯德章)

On March 24, 2025, FAPA Oregon & SW Washington co-hosted a special screening of the documentary *In Search of a Mixed Identity* (尋找湯德章) in collaboration with local Taiwanese American organizations. The event took place at 5th Avenue Cinema in downtown Portland and brought together community members for an evening of cultural reflection, learning, and dialogue.

We were honored to welcome the film's director, Ming-cheng Huang, and producer Helen Lien, who traveled to Portland to attend the screening and engage with the audience. Their presence made the event especially meaningful, offering viewers the rare opportunity to hear firsthand about the creative process and the powerful story behind the film.

FAPA Chapter President Sylvia Lin moderated the post-screening discussion, guiding a thoughtful conversation around identity, history, and justice through the lens of the life and legacy of Taiwanese human rights lawyer Tang Te-chang. Audience members asked questions, shared reflections, and engaged in dialogue that



Documentary screening of *In Search of a Mixed Identity* (尋找湯德章)

highlighted the film's emotional and historical impact.

Following the screening and discussion, attendees gathered for a group dinner, continuing conversations and building connections across generations. It was a heartfelt evening that deepened our shared understanding of Taiwanese identity and history.

TX-C

President Angela Yarbrough

May 13th 台美人傳統週公告 活動報告

臺灣人公共事務會在總部的鼓勵之下，40多個分部，試著申請聯邦以下的「台美人傳統週公告」儀式。

結果：❤全美遍地開花❤

德州中分會 3 - 5 月份，與奧斯汀市政府來回約 28 封信和 4 通電話，台美人傳統週公告儀式在2025年5月13日下午，圓滿結束。

今年我們選擇不在奧斯汀市政府的議會場宣讀，而是在優雅的市府的大廳。我們通知、聯繫臺灣十多個社團，讓他團也能來分享此份榮耀，並“鼓勵”他團也發言，因為我們海外遊子就是一個大家庭！

我必須要說，計畫趕不上變化，市政府因應運作，會隨時更改設備或時間。但我們臺灣人就是韌性強，我們也隨時變更來完成此活動。

首先，我們的會員一到場立刻開始幫忙佈置，行動力一級棒。幕後我也要對我們的財務長Tina Liu表達萬分的感謝❤她工作繁忙之時，不但主動幫忙接需要交通工具的會員，也為了幫我們分會做外交，還接別的團體的人來參加。感謝前財務長淑德那條超級棒的 TAIWAN 布條💖。感謝淑貞提供一部份的點心，也給會後很棒的建議。感謝素敏主動幫照相、感謝顧問碧珠幫忙招呼他團派的代表！



台灣人公共事務會中分會邀請奧斯汀市內各大臺美團體，一同前往接受2025年「台美人傳統週公告」的榮耀

活動開始，當天市長Watson要開一個緊急會議無法主持，公告儀式由第六區市議員 Laine 正式宣讀。宣告裡，除了提到臺美人對美國的貢獻之外，也提到台灣和德州經由德州轄下的「臺灣辦事處」為「自由之下」的21世紀的經濟增進更緊密的合作關係！接著由我替大家接受公告的證書，並代表臺灣人公共事務德州中分會致詞。除了講到台灣與德州的雙邊貿易數字，更表達台灣正在對抗不友善的極權政權的挑釁入侵，及臺灣和美國是共享一樣的核心價值：民主，自由，人權及（很重要的）資本主義！（感謝前會長Pearl Wu 事前建議要加上“資本主義”）

之後，我們給議員一友誼小物，是表框的、臺灣總統府發的「六順和春」春聯。議員很認真，當場問解釋。我：Six、Smooth、Peace、Spring (said as I pointed each character from the top down), and together they mean: Council Laine, whatever policies you would like to push forward for the city, they will all go in your favor. 議員聽了相當開懷，又驚又喜的說她要掛在辦公室！我私下也給她的幕僚，臺灣總統府發行的「壹圓」紅包，她超開心的。

接著我們請它團的代表——致短詞，其中德州大學的臺灣同學會最後無法出席（都回台灣了或去實習了），感謝顧問碧珠幫忙述說最早一批臺灣來德州大學奧斯汀分校唸書的小故事。由她說再適合不過了（先生 Peter Wu 就是第一批來的台灣學生！）

再來我們準備了「臺灣歌大連唱」。唱前，我也跟議員和市府人員講述在臺灣有許多的語言，我們正在保護它們 今天先在市府唱臺灣歌。

這時，因市長在Communication Room 的緊急會議開始了，不能用音響設備？！沒問題！在這美美挑高的大廳，大家掏出全心清唱著臺灣歌：「望春風」，「雨夜花」，「你是咱的寶貝」。歌聲響徹市府！我們還唱、跳了「臺灣尚勇」😊！

有幾位市府人員事後跟我表達聽到歌聲的感動，並說，這活動很有別於一般的公告活動。

最後，我們跟議員和市府人員在享用台灣的小點心下，互相認識，交換意見。我跟議員表達感謝她在上個月處理市內一住家瓦斯氣爆事件迅速，她很高興我們注意且關心社區。

我們中分會因辦此活動，替教會和臺灣同鄉會跟議員牽線，做到了為臺美人的社區服務。再次感謝台灣人公共事務會所有的你，為臺美人墊下好基礎，讓我們這代和下一代，持續在海外發光、發亮！

June 14th 德州中分會年中會活動報告

June 14th 星期六，台灣人公共事務德州中分會，在620上的Golfinity，開了一年兩次的會員大會。

我和財務長 Tina 黛蘭，很感激這個愛臺的大家庭。當大家看到有需要，出錢、出力、出時間，如，Susan 雪雲，早一小時到場協助擺設，又幫報到程序，早到的會員們也主動幫張羅，讓我能去把設備接好，跟主講人測試、「喬」好流程等。真的是個體貼、不簡單的臺美團體。☺

很榮幸，德州大學臺灣學生會的代表James Yan 及新朋友奕伶前來與會，一起關心這上半年，本會倡議的友台法案。

我也看見一件美麗的故事：會中淑美移到小旁廳跟海平坐，一起聽講和用餐，讓她不會一個人在旁廳（因Theater廳的椅子對她的背部較不適），真的很窩心。

上台似乎是輕鬆的事，但前製過程還真是不容小覷！如往常，不忘初衷，我們集會一定先讀一遍總會的 Vision Statement and what FAPA does。

我帶大家回顧中分會對聯邦法案的倡議。如一月就先寫謝函給通過 United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act [H.R.33] 的眾議員們，再將謝函轉為倡議信，請參議員們注意此法案需要關注。四月總會的網上系統倡議信已備此案，本會藉此兩次發倡議信給參議員！四月開始總會接二連三發起好幾起倡議信：Counter China's False Sovereignty Claims Over Taiwan [S.Res.86] [H.Res.148], Expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement with Taiwan, and support Taiwan membership in international organizations [H.Con.Res.8], Taiwan International Solidarity Act [H.R. 2416], Six Assurances to Taiwan Act [H.R. 3452] 等，我們藉此會員大會，復習了1971年聯合國2758決議的內容，大家都同意決議內容並無提臺灣，且決議沒法理權力決定任何國家主權！順便也讀一遍給臺灣的六項保證，並了解美國國會提出“H.Con.Res”和“H.Res”到底決議程序不同在哪呢？

說到 Taiwan International Solidarity Act [H.R. 2416] 時，我們起立為眾議院臺灣連線co-chair Congressman Gerald E.

Connolly 悼默致敬一分鐘。並回顧他2009年為國會議員，在外交委員會，一直是為臺灣發聲的。

接下來財務長Tina 報告財表外，也帶會員看總會的網頁，有相當方便繳費或捐款的介面！好不容易聚在一起，我和財務長也安排強大的主講人組合：Tim Bradberry, Lily Chung Bradberry, Pearl Wu, Peter Wu, Flora Chen。

Tim Bradberry 主講他今年上半年如何倡議攸關德州的農地買賣安全的法案的過程。不屈不撓的他，寫倡議信，也去了公聽會，非常精彩的過程。

Pearl Wu 則是帶大家認識，今年在2025 National Prayer Breakfast 上，表演鋼琴和喇叭雙重奏之前，帶領全場政要，為臺灣禱告的張安安(Anita Chang)！安安是倫敦大學台灣研究政治學碩士，曾參與了哥本哈根民主高峰會議，也曾因英國鋼琴家卡瓦納在倫敦的火車站上遇到爭執的中國人，還帶著巨幅台灣國旗演奏，身為留學生的安安，熱血衝到現場，感謝他力挺台灣，此直播廣傳！

五月在市府的臺灣歌曲連唱沒有A/V支援，此次我請Peter Wu 有影像有音樂，帶領大家再次歡唱一番！

Flora 最後導讀「這就是臺灣」Just Taiwan。由臺灣的許效舜作詞曲，詞不長，應用了臺灣話、華語、原住民語、客家語、英語。簡單卻意涵甚深。我們念了、唱了，意猶未盡。

中分會的大家於此相聚交換了意見，凝聚了更強的共識，持續以倡議的方式，跟著FAPA總會的節奏，為小民小國的臺灣發聲，及為內政和世界各地忙不完的美國，盡一份公民的力量。👉

2025.6.14 德州中分會年中會會員合照



2025 Taiwanese American Heritage Week

In celebration of Taiwanese American Heritage Week (TAHW), FAPA Oregon & Southwest Washington proudly collaborated with local Taiwanese American organizations to request proclamations from elected officials across the region.

This year, 11 elected leaders issued official proclamations or congratulatory letters recognizing the many contributions of Taiwanese Americans in Oregon and Southwest Washington. These honors celebrate our role in enriching the cultural and civic life of the United States and highlight our community's continued advocacy for democracy and peace in Taiwan, our ancestral homeland. Once again, our chapter received the most proclamations and letters nationwide; an achievement that reflects our community's dedication and growing visibility.

Chapter President Sylvia Lin, alongside local members and community representatives, accepted proclamations in person at city council meetings in Vancouver, WA; Camas, WA; and Tigard, OR. These in-person recognitions were moments of pride and connection for our entire community.

Proclamations Received From:

1. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek
2. Washington Governor Bob Ferguson
3. Mayor Heidi Lueb (Tigard, OR)
4. Mayor Steve Hogan (Camas, WA)
5. Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle (Vancouver, WA)

Congratulatory Letters Received From:

1. U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
2. U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
3. U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
4. U.S. Representative Andrea Salinas (D-OR)
5. U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
6. U.S. Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

These recognitions affirm the growing support for our community's presence, voice, and values. They also encourage us to keep building bridges across cultures, advocating for Taiwan, and celebrating our shared heritage.

Photos from Top to Bottom: Camas WA, Tigard OR, Vancouver WA,TAHW presentation

OH-C

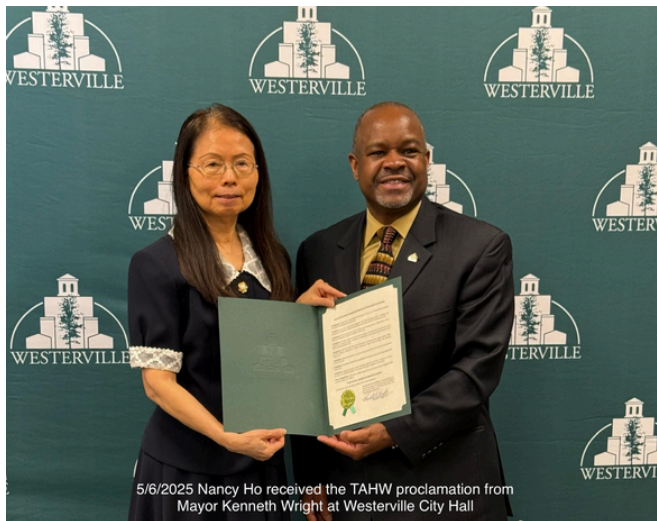
President Nancy Ho

5/6/2025

This is a fruitful year for Taiwanese American Heritage Week (TAHW) proclamations. Nancy received the invitation by Westerville City Mayor Kenneth Wright on 3/16/25 to attend the TAHW proclamation ceremony which was held at the City Hall on 5/6/25. A few colleagues also attended the ceremony.

For the first time, we also received three other proclamations from the Cities of Powell, Dublin and Gahanna.



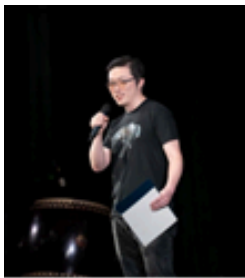


5/6/2025 Nancy Ho received the TAHW proclamation from Mayor Kenneth Wright at Westerville City Hall



5/10/25 Attending Sen. Bernie Moreno's town hall meeting in Powell, Ohio with members

下圖：華州分會獲頒地方臺美人傳統週公告，副會長Albert Chen與會員共同慶祝。



5/10/2025

During the town hall meeting in Powell, Ohio, I handed Sen. Bernie Moreno 20 petition letters urging him to co-sponsor and vote for those two bills that had been passed in the House: Taiwan Assurance Implementation Act (S.821) and Taiwan International Solidarity Act (H.R.2416). Another set of petitions with 50 signatures for both bills were also collected either by knocking at the door, waiting at the entrance of a gym, or during a couple local community events. They have been forwarded to both Senators Bernie Moreno and Jon Husted's offices.

6/21/2025

Collaborated with TAA Columbus and TCML-Columbus in celebrating Independence Day. About forty people attended. We tried to do it in an all American way from patriotic decors, music, punch drinks, giving away trinkets and booklets of the American Constitution. A few members shared their thoughts during the event. Total 9 TAHW proclamations we received since 2021 were also exhibited at the event, which was one of the ways for us to celebrate America's 249th Birthday as well as to express our gratitude for the land of the free and the home of the brave as Taiwan's steadfast, unwavering ally

WA

陳伊瑋 Yi-Wei Chen

2025-05-20 臺美人傳統週 - FAPA WA 獲頒Proclamation

1999年FAPA倡議的臺美人傳統週正式頒定。今年 (2025) FAPA-WA獲頒地方首長的官方公告 (City of Tacoma & King County)，肯定台灣人在華盛頓州的貢獻，共同慶祝傳統週。FAPA-WA副會長Albert Chen受邀致詞，於「大西雅圖台灣同鄉會傳統週活動 - 十鼓擊樂團」，宣傳FAPA、傳達臺美人傳統週的歷史和重大意涵，人數多達400位台美鄉親。





上圖: 華州分會與美國台灣觀察站共同舉辦「民主韌性 x 數位真相講座」

2025-05-31 民主韌性 x 數位真相

全球面臨資訊混亂與數位威脅，FAPA華州分會與US Taiwan Watch美國台灣觀察站共同舉辦講座，邀請由知名記者劉致昕與AI專家杜奕瑾，探討資訊戰、假訊息與AI技術，引領我們思考包含台灣、美國的民主國家其嚴峻的政治挑戰：

1. 俄羅斯、中國正透過大規模的錯假訊息，企圖摧毀社會信任結構；
2. AI技術 (如DeepSeek) 加速了認知作戰的速度與規模，考驗公民社會的媒體素養，干擾民主國家的治理。

2025-06-22 Congressional Advocacy Workshop 「國會倡議工作坊」

第二屆『國會倡議工作坊』培訓有志於華盛頓州國會倡議工作的志工。今年FAPA Policy Fellow - Henry Tsai從DC飛來西雅圖，帶給我們充實的訓練；副會長Albert Chen 與去年 (2024) 參加過NAC的夥伴 (May, Janey, Judy) 的實戰經驗分享，讓倡議工作承先啟後，期待新舊朋友一起在今年九月的NAC大放異彩。

2025-06-25 前立委尤美女訪問WA-7 議員Pramila Jayapal辦公室

前立委尤美女律師是台灣同性婚姻法案的起草人，Jayapal 議員長期關注 LGBTQ 權益，FAPA-WA和大西雅圖台灣同鄉會共同邀請尤美女律師與黃瑞明大法官拜訪Jayapal 議員辦公室。在會議中，我們交流同性婚姻合法化的經驗，從人權的角度出發，期望國會中的台灣法案能持續獲得支持。這次拜訪，加強Jayapal 辦公室與大西雅圖地區的台美人社群的關係。

下圖: 總部Policy Fellow Henry Tsai特訪華盛頓州分會帶領國會倡議工作坊



下圖: 與大西雅圖台灣同鄉會共同邀請尤美女律師與黃瑞明大法官拜訪Jayapal 議員辦公室





上圖: 華州分會與其他大西雅圖台美人組織共邀前立委尤美女律師和前司法院大法官黃瑞明分享推動婚姻平權法案過程，會員學習從立法者角度思考議題，期盼未來爭取更多美國參眾議員對台灣法案的支持。

2025-06-28 同婚法案背後推動歷程

由大西雅圖台灣同鄉會主辦、FAPA華州分會、華大台灣研究計畫共同協辦此講座。在推動婚姻平權法案過程，前立委尤美女律師分享第一手經驗與心路歷程；另外，前司法院大法官黃瑞明，補充當年釋憲背後的司法觀察與故事。雖然演講是關於台灣推動法案的經驗，但是FAPA-WA的成員能夠借鏡，從立法者的角度去思考優先順序，未來爭取到更多參眾議員對台灣法案的支持。

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Song Yea Lee Memorial Fund 李嵩義紀念基金

In memory of our beloved FAPA member, former President of Florida-South Chapter and a tireless advocate for Taiwan, Song Yea Lee, who passed away May 24, 2024, we established the Song Yea Lee Memorial Fund in June of 2024. Song Yea Lee was a pivotal figure in **advocating for the right of Taiwanese Americans to list “Taiwan” as their place of birth on U.S. passports**. His passion for promoting Taiwan’s independence and his many contributions left an indelible mark on our community.

The purpose of the **Song Yea Lee Memorial Fund** is to cultivate a new generation of young leaders and Taiwan advocates through the FAPA internship program. In the thirteen months of this campaign to create an endowment to sustain the internship program, the generosity of over 50 donors enabled us to surpass the **\$500,000** goalpost.

Thank you to the many donors listed below. Your contribution will help sustain FAPA’s internship program, ensuring the young advocates and future leaders continue to be inspired.

Foun-Chung Fan	\$5,000	Mark Long Rong & Su-Mei Kao	\$60,000
Shing-Long & Grace Lin	\$1,000	Madeline Meo & Chun-The Wu	\$1,000
Thomas Tzeng T. & Whae L. Hwang	\$500	Ching-Wen & Jing-Ruo Lin	\$1,000
Chih-Huei Huang	\$1,000	Janice Liu	\$1,000
Vivian Fu	\$100	Sheng H & Chang O Yu	\$999
Ming-Lon & Su-Fen Young	\$78,034	Der-Hsiung & Lisa Wang	\$1,000
Song Y. & Y.H. Lee	\$10,000	Amy C. Tsai	\$600
Loring Tu	\$10,000	Stanley & Bertha Huang	\$5,000
Sheldon & Ing-Lih Lee Lee	\$5,000	Ai-Shing Hsu	\$10,000
Ming-Chi Wu	\$200	Ying-Shih & Liling Su	\$15,000
Ben & Ing-Huey Lin	\$1,000	Chia-Chun Chung	\$1,300
Evan Fu Wen & Elena M. Ling	\$10,000	Ho-Chou Tu	\$2,600
NJ loves Taiwan	\$5,000	Cynthia T. & Elvina Hsu	\$1,000
Jean J. Fang	\$200	Mengchun Chiang	\$400
Charles Y. & Memi Wu	\$500	Sonya Huang	\$1,000
T.Y. & Sarah Wei	\$5,000	Huang-Ta Lin	\$10,000
Chih-Peng & Monica C. Hsieh	\$10,000	Rita Ho	\$ 400
Tun-Hou & Chwen-Chin Lee	\$1,000	Te-Yuan (Ty) Huang	\$10,020
Nan-Jae & Su-Ray Lee Lin	\$3,300	Alice Shen	\$4,100
Tzu Shong Yang	\$100,000	YingYu Chen	\$100
Catherine Young	\$10,000	Kuolin Hu	\$5,000
Nicholas & Su-Syin Wu	\$10,000	Chi-An Wang	\$2,500
William & Ruby Wang	\$1,000	Winnie Lin	\$5,000
David & Meeijih Sun	\$1,000	Kelly Ko	\$7,200
Kristy Hsiao	\$100,000	Paul & Tina Cordon	\$10,000
Su-Hwa Kuo	\$3,000	Wayne Lee	\$2,000
Percy & Lucile Liu	\$1,000	Ching-Wen Hsiao	\$1,000
		David and Yueh-Lingh. Hsieh	\$4,000

Grand Total to Date (June 1, 2024 - July 20, 2025) \$536,053



[From left] President William Clinton and Song Yea Lee.



Song Yea Lee (center left) visiting Senator Sherrod Brown (center).



Song Yea Lee (right) and Congresswoman Debbie Wassermann-Shultz (center).

To contribute, fill out the form on the last page.

Lee Teng-hui Memorial Fund 李登輝紀念基金

Taiwanese American (TA) community organizations in the DC area have been holding the annual President Lee Teng-hui Memorial Service for four years.

It has been supported by the generosity of Dr. Charles Ou who has donated \$10,000 to FAPA each year to financially sponsor the annual event. In the Summer of 2024, Dr. Ou proposed that a memorial fund be established to provide long-term financial support for the annual memorial event. He has pledged to match 100% of donations up to \$75,000. In other words, if the community raises \$20,000 in a year, he will donate the same amount of \$20,000 for that year, up to \$75,000. The intended total for this fund is \$150,000. Dr. Ou will continue to match donations on a rolling basis until September 30, 2025.

The committee of local TA community organizations met in July of 2024 and agreed to Dr. Ou's proposal. The committee also agreed to designate July 30th as "President Lee Teng-hui Day" to commemorate his contributions to Taiwan.

It is agreed and recommended that the following be implemented:

1. The donations will go to a special donation category/account for this memorial fund to be set up by FAPA HQ.
2. All donations to this category will be treated as regular general FAPA donations.
3. All local organizations will help promote this fundraising to publicize the fund and the event.
4. FAPA will place the fund in an interest earning account. (Ideally to generate around 4% or more annual increase of the fund.)
5. Initially, the budget for the annual memorial service event is within \$4,000, unless otherwise decided and agreed upon by the TA committee and FAPA HQ in advance.
6. Initial plan is to run the annual event for at least 10 years. The TA committee will evaluate this every year.
7. If the community decides to end the annual event, the fund will stay at FAPA.

Participating Taiwanese American community organizations include:

TAAGWC, TAAGBC, TCC, FAPA HQ & DC chapter, NATPA Baltimore/DC chapter, TPC - Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Washington.



President Lee Teng-hui (left) and former FAPA President Wen Yen Chen 陳文彥 (right).



President Lee Teng-hui (center) at the FAPA 20th Anniversary Celebration event.



President Lee Teng-hui visiting DC in 2005.

To contribute, fill out the form on the last page.

Your gifts make a big difference!

☐ **YES, I would like to defend Taiwan's democracy!**

Fill out the form below and mail it back to FAPA: 552 7th St SE, Washington, DC 20003.

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