The East-West Center was established by the United States Congress in 1960 with a mandate “to promote better relations and understanding between the United States and the nations of Asia and the Pacific through cooperative study, training, and research.”

For more than fifty years, the East-West Center has served as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. Officially known as the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West, the Center is a U.S.-based (Hawaii) independent, public, nonprofit institution for public diplomacy with an international Board of Governors, staff, students, and participants. More than 60,000 people have participated in Center programs since its founding.

Funding for the East-West Center comes from the U.S. government, international organizations, foundations, and individuals.

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1 See P.L. 86-472, chapter VII; 22 U.S.C. 2054 et seq.