



## SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

### Award of Excellence

Mazie K. Hirono was elected to the Senate in 2012 and sworn in as Hawaii's first female senator and the country's first Asian-American woman senator. In the Senate, Hirono has spearheaded efforts to protect civil rights and led the resistance against the Trump administration's attacks on immigrants and other minority communities. Hirono recently introduced the Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act to ban detention or imprisonment based on characteristics such as race or religion, and led federal efforts to recognize the anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and remove the term "Oriental" from federal law. Hirono also leads annual Senate resolutions to mark the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As a member of the US House of Representatives, Hirono worked to recognize Japanese American World War II veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Hirono serves on the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Committee on Veterans' Affairs. She is also the ranking member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Hirono has called attention to Trump administration nominees' abysmal records on civil rights and strong right-wing political ties.

Born in Fukushima, Japan, Hirono was nearly eight years old when her mother brought her and her siblings to Hawaii to escape an abusive husband and seek a better life. Hirono served in the Hawaii House of Representatives from 1981 to 1994 and earned a reputation as an advocate for consumers and workers. After being elected as Hawaii's lieutenant governor in 1994, Hirono led efforts to support Hawaii's tourism industry through visa reform. Voters in Hawaii's second congressional district elected Hirono to serve in the US House of Representatives in 2006.

*This bio of Sen. Hirono was provided to JANM by her office.*