

**Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
Upon Dr. George Joji Tanabe, Jr.,
Professor Emeritus of the Department of Religion,
University of Hawaii at Manoa**

November 3, 2013

On November 3, 2013 (Japan time), the Government of Japan announced the 49 foreign recipients of the Fall 2013 Imperial Decorations. From Hawaii, Dr. George Joji Tanabe, Jr., Professor Emeritus of the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa was selected to receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
- SERVICE: Contributed to the enhancement of mutual understanding between
 - the United States and Japan and the promotion of Japanese culture and values through research and studies in Japanese Religions
- NAME (AGE): George Joji Tanabe, Jr. (69)
- PROFESSIONAL CAREER:
 - Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii
 - Former Chairman, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): Waialua, Hawaii (USA)

Dr. George Joji Tanabe, Jr. will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for his contributions to the strengthening of academic and cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan.

In 1974, Dr. Tanabe received a Masters of Arts in Japanese from the Department of East Asian Languages at Columbia University. He then spent two years researching Buddhist philosophy and history at the University of Tokyo as a foreign research student.

In 1977, he joined the faculty of the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he taught religion and Buddhist philosophy for 28 years,

as well as concentrating his efforts on writing books and articles and doing public lectures on Japanese Buddhism and Japanese culture. Dr. Tanabe served as the Chairman of the Department of Religion from 1991 to 2001.

In 2006, Dr. Tanabe became a Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii and continued his writing and lectures. That year, he also became an Advisor of the Numata Center at the Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai.

For 35 years, Dr. Tanabe has been a key figure in Hawaii in the field of religion, mainly in the area of Japanese Buddhism, focusing his efforts on educating students and doing research. He strengthened academic cooperation between the United States and Japan by visiting Japanese universities and fostering networks with the research faculty there, and in coordinating academic symposiums such as the International Conference on the Lotus Sutra and Japanese Culture.

In 2001, following the Ehime Maru incident, Dr. Tanabe assisted and advised the American side on issues of varying sensitivities involving Japan culture and religion. Dr. Tanabe's contributions have deepened the understanding of Japanese religion and Japanese culture, and promoted academic and cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan.