



Karen Knudsen

Karen Knudsen has more than four decades of experience working on Asia-Pacific issues, including 30 years with the East-West Center. As director of EWC's Office of External Affairs she directed the Center's public engagement and public affairs activities, working with government leaders, policymakers, diplomats, the military, and the Hawaii community. She also served as vice president of the East-West Center Foundation and as the Center's military liaison and specialist on Burma/Myanmar.

Concurrent with her East-West Center position, Ms. Knudsen served 20 years setting statewide K-12 education policy as an elected member of the Hawaii State Board of Education, serving twice as chair of the board. Previously, she was Pacific-area specialist with the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, consultant to the Pacific Forum, outreach coordinator for the University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Islands Studies, public affairs specialist at the Hawaii State Judiciary, and public relations account executive with Milici Valenti DDB Needham. She and her husband Greg are former Peace Corps Volunteers in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

Ms. Knudsen has served on numerous community boards. She is currently a member of Chaminade University's Board of Regents, American Red Cross of Hawaii Board of Directors, PBS Hawaii's Community Advisory Board, and Japan-America Society of Hawaii's Board of Directors. She is also an associate member of the Consular Corps of Hawaii. From 2013 to 2016, she was a founding member and corporate secretary for the Suu Foundation, a non-profit entity established to provide education and training support in Myanmar/Burma.

Ms. Knudsen holds a University of Hawaii master's degree in Pacific Islands Studies and a University of Nebraska at Omaha bachelor's degree in communications.