Honolulu Civil Beat
By The Sunshine Blog
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EWC safe for now: Funding cuts under the Trump administration have threatened the survival of the East-West Center in Honolulu, which promotes better relations and understanding in the region through study, research and dialogue. It's not clear how the ongoing shutdown of the federal government will impact the center, but The Blog can report that a recent move to abolish it altogether is dead.



The East-West Center.

Rep. Scott Perry, a Republican and combat veteran representing the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, introduced an amendment last month that stated, simply, "The East-West Center is hereby abolished."

No reason was given, and an inquiry to Perry's office by The Blog was unsuccessful.

U.S. Rep. Ed Case told The Blog via email that the amendment was a last-minute addition to the State Department Reauthorization Act, which was coming up for amendment and a final vote in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"At first it was an abolishment amendment but then he amended it to one to phase out funding over time. We worked with the East-West Center and the other affected institutions on a strategy to defeat it," said Case, who worked with his Pacific colleagues to alert every member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"I also personally talked with several members of the Committee, especially majority Republicans including Chair (Brian) Mast, to reinforce our objections to the amendment particularly on national security grounds. We gained commitments of support from enough Republicans so that, together with the Democrats, the Perry amendment didn't have the votes to pass."

Perry withdrew the amendment.