



ASIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

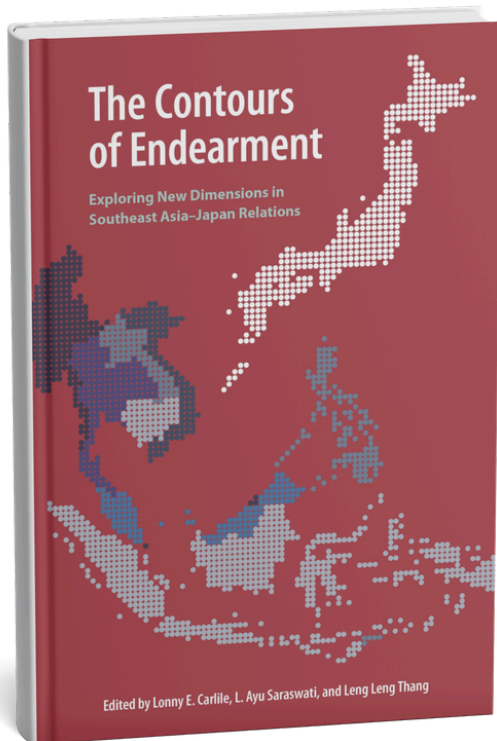


BOOK LAUNCH ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 15, 2026 (WED)

4:30-6:30PM (HST)

MOORE HALL 319



The panelists:

- **Lonny E. Carlile** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and volume coeditor)—chair and moderator
- **Ehito Kimura** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)—history, politics, and memory in Japan-Southeast Asia relations
- **L. Ayu Saraswati** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa): Indonesian eldercare workers in Japan

joining via Zoom:

- **Patricio Abinales** (independent scholar—emeritus University of Hawai'i at Mānoa): Japanese Red Army-New People's Army (Philippines) connections in the 1970s and 80s
- **Karl Ian Cheng Chua** (University of the Philippines-Diliman): Japanese Studies from an ASEAN-wide perspective
- **Leng Leng Thang** (National University of Singapore): cosplay in Singapore

Nearly 50 years have passed since then-Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda Takeo declared Japan would pursue a “heart-to-heart” relationship with ASEAN countries. During the ensuing nearly half-century, interaction between Japan and the original ASEAN-5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) deepened on a wide range of fronts. Academics have given a fair amount of attention to this relationship thanks to its ostensibly distinctive quality. But the bulk of this work has focused on economics, diplomacy, and security, and has typically been approached from a Japan-centric perspective.

In this book-launch roundtable, contributors to the recently published UH Press edited volume entitled *The Contours of Endearment: Exploring New Dimensions in Southeast Asia-Japan Relations* will take the opposite tack of looking at aspects of the relationship outside of these three dimensions and approaching them from a Southeast Asian perspective. Short presentations of each panelist's research findings will be followed by a more general discussion of the contours of Southeast Asian engagement with Japan.