Hawaii’s CHINA Town Hall will focus on current opportunities and challenges in U.S.-China Trade Relations. The program will feature Michael T. McCune, Executive Vice President of TransPacific Brands, a brand licensing firm that brings Chinese brands to foreign markets and international brands to China. Mr. McCune launched his career in 1993 at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai where he worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce promoting U.S. exports. Greatly influenced by the entrepreneurial activity in China, he co-founded a retail research firm to advise consumer product companies on sales & distribution strategies for the China market. Over an eight year span, China Link Research grew from an initial team of three to over 100 full-time employees across three offices in China. In addition to his professional endeavors, Mr. McCune currently serves on the board of The Dui Hua Foundation and is a member of the National Committee on U.S. - China Relations.

Mr. McCune’s talk will be preceded by a live webcast featuring Ambassador Jon Huntsman, who will discuss U.S.-China relations. Amb. Huntsman was tapped by President Barack Obama to serve as United States Ambassador to China in May 2009. Prior to his appointment, he was elected twice as Governor of Utah. His public service career began as a White House staff assistant to President Ronald Reagan and has since included appointments as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia, U.S. Ambassador to Singapore and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative. He played a critical role in launching global trade negotiations in Doha, Qatar, in November of 2001, guiding the simultaneous accession of China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization. He is a founding director of the Pacific Council on International Policy and has served on various boards such as the Brookings Institution Asia Policy Board, the Center for Strategic and International Studies Pacific Forum, the Asia Society in New York and the National Bureau of Asian Research.

The live webcast program will be moderated by Stephen A. Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.