

**The Honorable Patricia Saiki**  
**U.S. Representative of Hawaii (1987–1991)**

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Visiting China**

Representative Saiki discusses her 1973 visit to China as part of a delegation sent by the nonprofit American Women for International Understanding.

*Interview recorded September 20, 2018*

Women in general there all wore the Mao jacket, you know, because they didn't have a choice of, of wear. You know, they didn't have the shops and the, the opportunities to select what they wanted to wear. And, of all things, we knew before going there that they were prohibited from wearing any facial makeup. So before we left for China we then contacted these great, shall we say, cosmetic firms such as Revlon and—oh, name me some more. Max Factor. And we asked them to provide us with little kits with makeup—with makeup rouge, lipsticks, eye shadow, the whole bit. And we had little kits with us and as we went through and visited with these Chinese women, we kind of sneaked them under the eyes of all their security people and gave them these little packets for them to use at home. And of course they were delighted. They couldn't, they couldn't believe that they were getting makeup from America. And they must have had a ball because they reported back to us with little stains of lipstick, you know? And the men of course were confused about where they were getting all this stuff. But that was our way of having international relationships with other women from other countries.