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## **PICHTR Launches J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course**

*New program leverages Hawaii's global strategic location and focus on dual-use technology and innovation to equip Japanese startup entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and network required for successful international expansion.*

**HONOLULU — November 1, 2023** — PICHTR announced the launch of its new startup accelerator called J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course. PICHTR, a distinguished Hawaii not-for-profit organization known for its impactful programs was selected by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan to create and operate this program.

Hawaii's importance extends beyond its breathtaking landscapes; it is home to the headquarters of the Indo Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), which play a pivotal role in maintaining regional and global stability. The J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course leverages Hawaii's global strategic importance and focus on dual-use technology and innovation to equip selected Japanese startup companies with the knowledge, skills, and network required for successful international expansion through a structured 2-week in-person start-up accelerator program in Hawaii.

"We are thrilled to have been selected by METI to host Japanese startups in Hawaii in January/February 2024 through the J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course to equip them with the tools and resources that can serve as a springboard for their technologies' successful international expansion," said Ian Kitajima, President of PICHTR. "The J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course serves as a testament to the excellent groundwork that Hawaii's technology ecosystem participants have created to pave the way for the future success of international technology companies".

Entrepreneurs participating in the J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course will be rigorously vetted and chosen from a larger pool of applicants. Interested startups are encouraged to apply at <https://j-starx.jp/course/course-1389/>. Applications are due on November 15, 2023.

The J-StarX Hawaii-PICHTR Course will culminate with a Demo Day, whereby participating startup companies will pitch their technologies to potential customers and interested stakeholders. To learn more about this Demo Day, please contact Ian Kitajima at [ian.kitajima@pichtr.org](mailto:ian.kitajima@pichtr.org).



### **About PICHTR**

The Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) is a leader in planning, development, evaluation and deployment of place-based sustainable practices, with a mission to facilitate the adoption and implementation of these practices throughout Hawai'i and Asia Pacific. PICHTR was established by the 1983 Legislature and originally managed within the University of Hawai'i before being incorporated in 1985 as an independent, Hawai'i-based not-for-profit.

### **About Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan**

METI's mission is to develop Japan's economy and industry by focusing on promoting economic vitality in private companies and smoothly advancing external economic relationships, and to secure stable and efficient supply of energy and mineral resources.

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