Maya Soetoro-Ng is the Director of Community Outreach and Global Learning for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. She is the co-founder of a non-profit Our Public School, which works to connect public schools to the communities that surround them. With partner Kerrie Urosevich, she has created a program of peace education called Ceeds of Peace, which develops collaborative action plans for peace with educators, family, and community leaders. Maya was a visiting scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace for 7 weeks in summer 2015.

1. Coerr, Eleanor – Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
   This story reminds young people that they are strong and powerful and that they can contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding.

2. Curtis, Jamie Lee & Cornell, Laura – Is There Really a Human Race?
   This book reminds us of our interdependence and helps young people think about the importance of service (If we don’t help each other, we’re all going to "crash")

3. Dr. Seuss – The Butter Battle Book
   This is an anti-war classic. It playfully reminds us that wars are too often fought over small human differences, and it shows us that without care and vigilance, conflict can too quickly escalate.

   This is a delightful true story of interspecies friendship and family. If they can traverse great distances, surely we can too.

5. Moss, Peggy – Say Something
   This book teaches us to be upstanders, to use our voices to defend and uplift.

6. Muth, Jon J. – The Three Questions; Zen Ties
   A whimsical tale in which ethics are taught by a giant panda sharing koan (parables) in suburbia.

7. Proimos, James – Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace
   This book is an empowering tale of youthful industry and care in pursuit of peace.

8. Richardson, Justin & Parnell, Peter – And Tango Makes Three
   This book, based on a true story, teaches us that families are both found and built and that love matters most.

9. Wikoff, Lynne – Tutu Knows Best
   My Hawaii pick, this book offers a circuitous and effective reminder to value what we have.

10. Willis, Jeanne & Ross, Tony – Shhh!
    A little shrew teaches us about the power of stillness, mindfulness, and careful listening.