



## MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN



I am pleased to extend a warm aloha to the participants and visitors of the 29th Annual Honolulu Festival.

For the past nearly three decades, the Honolulu Festival has served as one of Hawaii's premier cultural events, attracting much spectator interest, as well as participation from Japan, Hawaii, and other countries and regions of the Pacific Rim.

The Festival's main theme, "Pacific Harmony," symbolizes the festival's quest for peace and cooperation, fostering the friendship of the people of the Pacific Rim region, and showcasing the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural fabric of these islands and its people, while exploring ways to positively impact our world for the sake of our future generations.

The Honolulu Festival is also expected to play a critical role in further accelerating the return of Japanese visitors to Hawaii, which is gradually recovering after the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, Governor Josh Green and I have signed an Action Plan to facilitate smoother entry procedures for Japanese visitors to Hawaii. I look forward to working together with local government officials, community organizations and private industry to further revitalize exchanges between Japan and Hawaii.

The Festival this year takes place as the Japan-Hawaii and Japan-U.S. relationships reach new milestones. The year 2025 marks the 80th year since the end of World War II, and this February, the newly elected leaders of Japan and the U.S. met to confirm a new direction for Japan-U.S. cooperation, lifting the Japan-U.S. alliance to new heights. I believe that the Honolulu Festival will continue to develop as a bridge of exchange and mutual understanding between and Japan and the U.S.

I would like to take this moment to thank the Honolulu Festival Foundation, and all of the Festival sponsors, performers, exhibitors, and volunteers, for their role in deepening the grassroots relationships between Japan and Hawaii, and the people of the Pacific Rim region in the true Spirit of Aloha.

KODAMA Yoshinori  
Consul General of Japan  
in Honolulu