



**MESSAGE BY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN
YUTAKA AOKI**

I would like to extend a warm *aloha* to the many participants and visitors who have gathered here for the 27th Annual Honolulu Festival.

Evolving from a Japan-Hawaii exchange endeavor, into one of the largest springtime events here locally, this three-day festival attracts much spectator interest, as well as participation from Japan, Hawaii and many Pacific Rim countries.

This year's theme, "Connect with Aloha, Forward to the New Future," is truly befitting as the festival continues to do its part, to cultivate and deepen the friendship among people of the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond, in the true Spirit of *Aloha*.

As we look forward to the unfolding of an exciting weekend of colorful pageantry and culturally-rich performances, I would like to send a huge *mahalo* to all of the festival's sponsors, performers, exhibitors and volunteers who have come together to make this year's event a truly memorable one, and to the Honolulu Festival Foundation for showcasing this annual tradition in Hawaii for the past nearly three decades.

Yutaka Aoki
Consul General of Japan