

Aloha!

It is with great honor that we are once again able to welcome kama'āina, families and visitors to enjoy the Honolulu Festival, March 10-12, 2023.

It has been four years since this treasured cultural celebration has taken place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to protect the public's health. But this year the Honolulu Festival is back and I am thrilled – as is anyone else who appreciates experiencing the culture, music, dance, and traditions of artisans from the Pacific Rim and Hawai'i.

The Honolulu Festival's significance is that it provides groups from the Pacific Rim with the opportunity to showcase their cultural heritage in Hawai'i through free public performances. Even more importantly, cultural groups from Hawai'i interact with our friends from the Pacific Rim, which reinforces a greater sense of understanding for one another as global citizens.

The theme of this year's Festival is *Connect with Aloha, Forward to the New Future*, which encapsulates the impact and vision for this celebration of culture. Please make time to enjoy the performances, as well as the Grand Parade and Nagaoka Fireworks Show in Waikīkī.

Mahalo to all of the sponsors, participants and volunteers whose support makes the Honolulu Festival such a wonderful success.

Mahalo nui,

Tetsuya "Ted" Kubo, President Honolulu Festival Foundation