

Aloha!

I am pleased to report that the 29th Annual Honolulu Festival (March 7-9) will have much more this year to offer residents and visitors wanting to enjoy the variety of cultural performances, events and activities that make this such a treasured annual celebration.

We will have 91 cultural groups from Japan, the Pacific Rim, and Hawaii sharing a range of fascinating music, dance and performances, a 65% increase over last year. With so many groups performing, we are reintroducing the Friendship Stage in the lobby of the Hawai'i Convention Center as a second site for the public to be entertained.

In addition, we will have more than 200 trade show booths – a record total for the Honolulu Festival – offering interesting goods, products and arts in the Hawai'i Convention Center Exhibit Hall on the weekend of March 8-9.

All of this is being presented under the theme of **Bridging Cultures, Together for a Peaceful Tomorrow**.

As a nonprofit, the Honolulu Festival Foundation is heavily reliant on our dedicated volunteers, corporate sponsors, and the support of the State of Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu to make the Honolulu Festival such a wonderful event for the public.

To help ensure the Honolulu Festival remains a sustainable celebration, the Foundation is introducing a nominal entrance fee for adults to enter the Hawai'i Convention Center Exhibit Hall and enjoy the multitude of cultural performances, games and activities. Admission for everyone 18 and under is free.

Tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate in advance at the Honolulu Festival website (<u>HonoluluFestival.com</u>) or by paying the full price entering the Hawai'i Convention Center.

On behalf of the Honolulu Festival Foundation, we appreciate the public's continued support of the Honolulu Festival and the cultural entertainment being presented.

Mahalo nui,

Tetsuya "Ted" Kubo, President Honolulu Festival Foundation