



Special Message from Governor Neil Abercrombie

Presented on the occasion of the **12th Annual Korean Festival**

July 12 – 13, 2013



On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I would like extend my personal greeting of aloha to everyone gathered for the 12th Annual Korean Festival, a two-day celebration of Korean culture at Kapiolani Park.

This year we mark the 110th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States. On January 13, 1903, the first 102 Korean immigrants arrived aboard RMS Gaelic and landed on the shores of Hawai'i, the state with the highest concentration of Korean Americans, at 1.8%, or 23,200 people. The Korean Festival allows everyone in the Aloha State to join in celebration of the Korean culture and the many contributions Koreans have made to the

unique fabric of diversity in our islands.

We also commemorate the 60th Year of the Korean Peace Armistice, signed on July 27, 1953, marking the cessation of hostilities. The Korean War and its unresolved peace settlement continue to link Hawai'i inextricably to the history of the Korean peninsula and historic allies defending liberty and freedom. Both anniversaries serve to remind us that we must never forget our common history, and we should never take for granted the special community we have built. Today, we celebrate the many contributions of Korean immigrants and visitors to the Hawaiian Islands.

I send a special *mahalo* to the Korean Chamber of Commerce, the Korean Festival executive committee and its volunteers, and the many partner organizations who have worked to make this event a success. Best wishes for a great Korean Festival.

With warmest regards,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor, State of Hawai'i