

Toast by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan
On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of
The Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation
Honolulu, Hawaii
Wednesday, July 15, 2009

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening with many of you who have gathered here from various places to participate in the commemorative event marking the 50th anniversary of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation.

We were delighted that this scholarship was established fifty years ago to celebrate our wedding, thanks mostly to the efforts of the people of Japanese ancestry here in Hawaii. Student exchanges between Hawaii and Japan have continued ever since, and the Empress and I have been meeting the recipients of this scholarship from both Japan and the United States at the Imperial Residence each year. On this occasion, we are very much looking forward to renewing our acquaintance with those who studied under this scholarship in the past.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay our most sincere tribute to the efforts made by those involved both in Hawaii and Japan who have established this scholarship and maintained and nurtured it to this day. Please join me in a toast to wish the best for the future of the scholarship students, for the continued development of this scholarship to meet the expectations of future students, and for the further strengthening of the friendly relations between Hawaii and Japan.