

## JASH presents additional \$1 Million to the Japanese Red Cross

JASH Chair Sharon Weiner and JASH President Ed Hawkins visited the Japanese Red Cross Society in Tokyo, Japan on June 27<sup>th</sup> and met with its President Mr. Tadateru Konoe. Ms. Weiner and Mr. Hawkins were in Japan on business related to the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship and took the opportunity to visit with JRCS. At the meeting, a check for \$1 Million from JASH and the people of Hawaii was presented. JRCS President Konoe expressed his appreciation to the people of Hawaii and promised to use all of the donated funds to provide relief in the disaster region. Mr. Konoe also promised to keep JASH informed of its activities.



*JASH Chair Sharon Weiner presents a check for \$1 million donated by the people of Hawaii for relief of the victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami to JRCS President Mr. Tadateru Konoe at its Tokyo Headquarters (June 27, 2011). JRCS Vice President Yoshiharu Otsuka and JASH President Ed Hawkins accompanied.*

With this donation, the total distribution from JASH and the people of Hawaii totals over \$3 Million. Additional distributions will be planned as donations are received.

During the meeting, Mr. Konoe outlined the donations received from foreign countries and organizations, and addressed the issue of distribution to the victims and affected peoples. Mr. Konoe confirmed that distribution of compensation funds to the disaster

victims have been slow. However, the distribution is handled by a committee composed of Japanese government, Prefecture, and other relief organizations of which the JRCS is just one party. The JRCS is working hard to make sure the committee makes compensation payments quickly and efficiently.

Mr. Konoe added that donations from “sister” Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are in a separate category and are used exclusively by the JRCS to fund direct relief to victims through efforts such as providing needed medical support, equipping temporary shelters with electrical appliances and bringing fresh water to evacuation areas. These funds are being used quickly. Funds donated by JASH and the people of Hawaii fall into this category because of a special agreement that was executed between JASH and the JRCS.

Mr. Hawkins provided an update to Mr. Konoe on the “Rainbow for Japan Kids” initiative to bring affected children from the disaster areas to Hawaii for physical and spiritual relief. Mr. Konoe thanked JASH and the people of Hawaii for this and all the generous outpouring of support.

Following the meeting, Mr. Hawkins met with JRCS Secretariat to arrange for periodic reporting of its activities in order to keep Hawaii’s donors informed of JRCS activities.