

## Announcement

Nov. 16, 2018

Re: Donation to the Kuakini Health System in Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America

The history of Japanese overseas migration began 150 years ago when a group of migrants departed for Hawaii during the first year of the Meiji Era. Migrants to other countries, such as South America and North America, have put forth great efforts to adapt to different climates and cultures. Through their diligence and good work ethics, these migrants and their children gradually gained trust and respect within their respective countries, contributing to the strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and these countries.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress have expressed their deep interest in the efforts of Japanese descendants overseas since they were the Crown Prince and Princess. Their Majesties have continued to dedicate themselves to meeting with people of Japanese descent when visiting foreign countries, attending the Conventions of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad, and inviting these Japanese descendants to the Imperial Palace.

The Kuakini Health System, located in Honolulu, Hawaii, originated in the “Japanese Charity Hospital” in July 1900, to provide medical care for Japanese immigrants. In 1917, the hospital changed its name to the “Japanese Hospital,” and by September 1918, had built modern facilities on Kuakini Street, at the hospital’s present site.

With the onset of World War II, the U.S. Army took control of the hospital. Following the war, “Japanese Hospital” became an American general hospital and was named “Kuakini Hospital” after the street name. It has since been providing health care services to the entire community, and not just to those of Japanese descent.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of its construction in the hospital’s current location on Kuakini Street, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress will make a special donation to the Kuakini Health System. Mr. Koichi Ito, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu will make an announcement regarding this donation during the Kuakini Health System’s charity dinner, which will be held on November 16 in Hawaii, to commemorate the hospital’s 100th anniversary at its current site.

In 1918, Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress Taisho made a donation to

assist the establishment of medical facilities for the “Japanese Hospital”. In 1934, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Showa made a donation for the hospital expansion plan.

This past June, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited the Kuakini Medical Center during their visit to Hawaii. They were in Honolulu to attend the Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawaii.