

Mayor Hannemann’s Greeting

To Mayor Akiba, Mr. Mochizuki, Mr. Ota, distinguished guests, friends and neighbors, and the beautiful City of Hiroshima, konbanwa and aloha.

I want to thank you, Mayor Akiba, for allowing us, the people of Honolulu, to be a part of this ceremony. We know that this is usually scheduled for later in the month.

This is a wonderful celebration that is a source of pride for the people of Hiroshima, and is something to share with the countless visitors who visit your beautiful city. I know a lot of effort and work went into bringing about such a wonderful celebration. I’ve heard many wonderful stories of the effect that this has on the people of Hiroshima and all of the visitors who visit your city during this time of year.

You see, we in Honolulu have a similar celebration. We call it the Honolulu City Lights. It happens during the Christmas season where we have a celebration of lights in three different parts of Honolulu. Everyone looks forward to it and it brings lots of smiles to people’s faces, both young and old. Visitors plan their trip to Honolulu sometimes during this time of year so they can enjoy the beautiful City Lights festival.

Once again, this is another example of why the sister city relationship between Hiroshima and Honolulu is so meaningful. We share so many things in common and the Dreamination and Honolulu City Lights is another example of this outstanding sister city relationship. Mayor Akiba, we would like for you at some point to attend our Honolulu City Lights celebration, which is always held on the first Saturday in December.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn’t say aloha and hello to your Hiroshima Goodwill Ambassadors who always visit me in Honolulu Hale every year. We look forward now to the successful beginning of the 2009 Hiroshima Dreamination.

Doumo arigatou gozaimashita.