

May 2007

A MESSAGE FROM HAWAII COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR KELVIN SEWAKE
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURE THERAPY CONFERENCES

To all participants in this International Horticulture Therapy Conference, I would like to express my fondest aloha from Hawaii to each and every one of you. I am pleased to know that you have come from different countries to discuss and share your common concerns, your hopes, and your dreams for education, training, and job opportunities for people with disabilities.

Our agricultural industries in the State of Hawaii have been producing and marketing horticultural commodities for several decades. These industries have been a mainstay of the state's economy and are still experiencing growth in the global marketplace. There is a need for new entrepreneurs to enter the business to keep not only the economy strong, but to help preserve and protect Hawaii's natural and unique environment. Hawaii is now recognizing the need and striving for greater sustainability in food, the environment, and families and communities. The University of Hawaii is one institution that has as its mission to educate the community through research and education to improve the quality of life for people in the global communities in which we live.

Hawaii is an extraordinarily beautiful place and I would like to extend my invitation to you to visit and to see for yourself what Hawaii has to offer. Diversity abounds in Hawaii like no other place and I hope that you have the opportunity to experience that someday.

Please have a wonderful and successful conference!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

KTS

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