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**11th ANNUAL HULA HO'OLAUNA ALOHA FESTIVAL
UNITES TWO CULTURES THROUGH DANCE AND FRIENDSHIP
*Hula Exhibition and Competition to Take Place July 7 and 8, 2012***

HONOLULU, HI (June 12, 2012)—Japan and Hawai'i will once again come together in celebration of hula at the 11th Annual Hula Ho'olauna Aloha Festival. This year's event will take place on July 7 and 8, 2012, and will connect the two cultures through a hula exhibition by Japanese and local hālau and a competition among the visiting Japanese hālau.

Hula Ho'olauna Aloha will kick off with a hula exhibition on Saturday, July 7, 2012, at Ala Moana Center's Centerstage at 10 a.m. and will continue until 5:45 p.m. Japanese and local hālau will share the art of hula on stage with 46 memorable performances.

The celebration will continue at The Royal Hawaiian Hotel's Coconut Grove on Sunday, July 8, from 12:30 to 7:00 p.m. with the Hula Hālau competition, hula demonstration and a Hawaiian Craft and Products Sale. The Japanese hula hālau competition will commence at 2:00 p.m. and will include two keiki solo, ten solo Wahine, two group keiki, five group Wahine and eight group Kūpuna performances, as they compete for the title, "Hula Ho'olauna Aloha 2012."

The public is invited to attend both events free of charge; however, seating at the hula competition is limited to friends and family of participating hālau, and local residents of Hawai'i with a valid Hawai'i state ID.

Now in its 11th year, the annual Hula Ho'olauna Aloha hula festival celebrates Japan's love for the hula in its birthplace, while bridging the two cultures through dance and friendship.

For more information, visit the Japanese language website, www.hoolauna.com, or call (808) 926-4504 (MON-FRI 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.).

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