



REPUBLIC of the PHILIPPINES

Senate

MAR Roxas
Senator

MESSAGE

Congratulations to the people behind the Philippine International Trade Exposition in Hawaii, USA for organizing an event that will promote the best of Philippine-made products abroad.

The holding of this trade exposition coincides with the centennial of the arrival of Filipino migrants to Hawaii composed of *sakadas* who worked in the island's old sugar plantations. It is an occasion to revisit a long history of warm friendship and cooperation between the people of the Philippines and the islanders of Hawaii.

This friendship between island peoples has been further enhanced by the successful visit to Manila of a delegation led by Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. Undoubtedly, this visit yielded positive results in terms of trade and tourism ventures.

The Philippines is currently sending some \$20 million in goods to Hawaii and has been an active exponent of tourism in this island paradise. This year's Philippine Trade Exposition, supported by the City and County of Honolulu, is a vital step towards strengthening mutual ties through trade and commerce.

In my capacity as chairman of the Philippine Senate's committees on economic affairs and trade and commerce, I wish to thank the people and state government of Hawaii for supporting this important initiative. Let me also commend the organizers of this event for doing their best to promote products that are proudly Philippine-made.

Mabuhay!