One of the scholarly and intellectual endeavors that our colleagues at the Humanities Division at University of Hawaii at Hilo is the publishing of a journal that will highlight the research and the literary articles that we can share with the academic world. To make this matter come into fruition, we inaugurated the first international conference that focuses on the humanities in the Asia Pacific region. Various papers were presented including those that dealt with language, literature, linguistics, philosophy, classics, religion, arts, performing arts, and the allied disciplines as well. As expected, many humanists and scholars from the Asia Pacific region attended the conference with enthusiasm and camaraderie.

After undergoing peer review, the selected diverse articles dealing on various topics, issues, advocacies, and themes constitute the first volume of the Hawaii Journal of the Humanities. The first article of Ron Gordon features the education of the human heart that accentuates the understanding of a mature, whole, and fully functioning human being. This article is aptly followed by the second article on the Augustinian philosophy of Maria Herzog. The third article of Kirsten Mollegaard makes use of postmemory theory in the analysis of the “descendants of Holocaust survivors and how German citizens cope with the after-effects of trauma and guilt.” Shifting to the digital world, the fourth article of Alicia JW Takaoka focuses on digital humanities that touches on the communicative and cultural memory in relation to the preservation of information. The fifth article of Patsy Iwakasi works on the humanities education and the documentary film genre that highlights the labor advocacy and mediation during the sugar plantation days in Hawaii.

This volume also includes other articles that deal with the good works of a religious organization, museums, language planning, language pedagogy, and assessment. The article, written by Sister Malou Baaco, Rosario Cabuhat-Alzona, and Emely Dicolen, shares the organization development intervention at the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, an orphanage founded in Manila in 1885 by the French Catholic religious congregation of the Daughter of Charity. On museology, Jeffrey Lubang wrote about the Spanish houses in the province of Cavite, Philippines, particularly the mansion of Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Philippines. From the same geographical location, Christian George Francisco works on the revitalization of the language called Chabacano, a Spanish-based creole. From language pedagogy, Nadine Emirey H. Lacsina shares her research on teacher feedback and its impact on students’ impromptu speech and their speaking skills in an ESL classroom. Jillian Loise L. Melchor writes about the mother tongue-based multilingual learning materials with focus on the Ilocano language in the Philippines as used in K-12. On the other hand, Crispina Corpuz zeroed in on the training needs assessment of teachers based on their perception on the professional development program at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. This first volume ends with the article written by Charles Findley that makes use of Voki avatars for its challenge-based learning.

I am extending the board’s invitation to you to submit your article for publication next issue in the year 2021. Aloha and mahalo!