



## CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN

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Jiro Nishimura  
Acting Consul-General

Dear Mayor Ueda,

Thank you for your considerate letter. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Hanamaki delegation visiting Hot Springs right now.

The sister city relationship between Hanamaki and Hot Springs is one of the strongest and most successful in our five-state area. Although the city of Hot Springs has a relatively small population, there is always news about the many Japan-related events and activities going on in the region, from the new Hot Springs Cherry Blossom Festival to the regular exchange of students between the two towns.

I know that the students from the Hanamaki Higashi High School Baseball Club and the students from Hot Springs must be having a wonderful time together. Even when there are language barriers and cultural differences, sports can always bring people together. I hope that this experience will create many new friendships among students and renew the strong relationship between Hot Springs and Hanamaki. I am happy to hear of your regard for our Honorary Consul, Ms. Mary Zunick. She has been an essential partner in promoting Japan in Arkansas.

My office is always happy to support this important relationship in cooperation with our Honorary Consul. I appreciate your work and the work of the City of Hanamaki in ensuring that the Japan-US friendship and the friendship between Hanamaki and Hot Springs will continue far in the future.

Sincerely,

Jiro Nishimura  
Acting Consul-General  
Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville