Easy Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 tablespoons pineapple juice (from canned pineapple)

6 slices canned pineapple, drained and halved
12 maraschino cherries, well drained
⅓ cup butter
½ cup chopped nuts (optional)
1 package any brand lemon flavored layer cake mix (18½ ounces)

Spread sugar evenly in a 13x9x2-inch baking pan; sprinkle with pineapple juice. Arrange pineapple and cherries on sugar mixture. Dot with butter. Sprinkle with nuts. Set aside. Prepare cake mix batter as directed on package; pour carefully over fruit mixture in pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven for about 55 minutes or tiH cake springs back when pressed lightly with fingertip. Cool cake in pan for 5 minutes. Invert on serving plate; cool 1 minute longer. Using spatula, gently remove from pan. If any of topping clings to pan, spread on top of cake. Serve warm.