“Decades ago, I promised myself and the people of Leeward Oahu that we would have a great hospital. I’m glad to hang around long enough to see the dream come true.”

Dr. Joseph Nishimoto at Pali Momi’s Donor Wall
To Our Donor Community,

Today’s economic conditions have generated more questions than answers. No one can predict where the market is going, what challenges lie ahead, or how Hawaii will fare in rough waters.

In this era of uncertainty, our commitment to our mission remains unchanged. Our resolve to deliver the highest-quality medical care is undiminished. Hawaii Pacific Health will continue to meet the healthcare needs of the community, regardless of anyone’s ability to pay.

I’m grateful we can rely on donor support. As a nonprofit healthcare network, our ability to help safeguard the public health – around the clock and despite the tough economic times – is due in part to the steadfast generosity of our donor community. We are deeply grateful to you, our donors.

With strong donor support also comes a responsibility to be a good steward of your gifts. I can assure you that, at all levels of Hawaii Pacific Health, we continue to make a concerted effort to control expenses and operate in a fiscally prudent manner.

The result is this: our ability to get the job done is stronger than ever. We are well-positioned to weather the current economic crisis. I say this with confidence because Hawaii Pacific Health has liquidity, solvency, and a solid core business.

First, liquidity. Thanks to prudent fiscal planning and foresight, we have sufficient assets and operating support to maintain our day-to-day operations, even with further deterioration in the economy.

Second, solvency. We have accumulated a sufficient fund balance to absorb a decline in market value of our investments. We can sustain good operating performance and keep going – for a very long time. In short, our operating performance is solid, both clinically and financially. We’re grateful to our predecessors for putting us in this strong position.

Third, core business. Our number one job is taking care of people. We take this responsibility very seriously. At every hospital and clinic, within every medical specialty, we strive to improve the health of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. As healthcare continues to evolve, we’re staying abreast of the most state-of-the-art technologies and bringing new therapies to our patients.

But Hawaii Pacific Health is not solely focused on today. Thanks to sound fiscal practices and unwavering donor support, we’re also focused on tomorrow. We continue to build for the future, to think big for the community’s sake.

To that end, we are enthusiastically proceeding with plans to expand and renovate Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women & Children. As the hospital celebrates 100 years of pediatric care in Hawaii, we’ve begun a capital campaign to position the hospital for the next century of care. Many years of preparation and planning have already occurred. We’re continuing to work with our neighbors, secure necessary permits, and develop the architectural plans for our 15-year Master Facility Plan for Kapi’olani Medical Center. Most importantly, we’ve heard from many donors who, as they re-evaluate their philanthropic priorities, continue to support a capital campaign to expand Kapi’olani Medical Center. Our donors recognize the need is urgent; Hawaii’s children and families cannot wait.

Your support matters. As today’s economic realities force all of us to re-think our priorities, we hope you agree that top-quality healthcare is not a ‘nice to have.’ It is a priority, it is vital.

Thank you for your continued confidence. We deeply appreciate your trust in us. Your commitment inspires us to keep working hard for the people of Hawaii.

Chuck Sted
Hawaii Pacific Health President and CEO

“Your support matters. As today’s economic realities force all of us to re-think our priorities, we hope you agree that top-quality healthcare is not a ‘nice to have.’ It is a priority, it is vital.”
Pali Momi Unveils Donor Wall

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEEWARD CARE

Dr. Joseph “Joe” Nishimoto was on hand to cut the ribbon. Friends and colleagues wore proud smiles. A Hawaiian blessing was offered, and the intimate group of donors celebrated a beautiful new work of art in Kapi‘olani Medical Center at Pali Momi.

The event, held Sept. 16, 2008, was Pali Momi’s inaugural donor-appreciation reception and unveiling of a Donor Wall. Situated near the main patient elevators, the illuminated wall was handcrafted by local artist Jim Kastner.

The wall recognizes those individuals, companies, and foundations who inspire Central and leeward Oahu through cumulative gifts of $1,000 or more since the hospital opened 20 years ago, explains Jen H. Chahanovich, Chief Operating Officer of Pali Momi. Each year, the Donor Wall will recognize new donors and honor those who have increased their level of giving.

“I thank everyone for making this hospital and Donor Wall possible,” Dr. Joe noted. “Decades ago, I promised myself and the people of leeward Oahu that we would have a great hospital. I’m glad to hang around long enough to see the dream come true.”

The story of Dr. Joe and Pali Momi is an inspiring one. When he began practicing in 1957, the population of Pearl City was already booming. Yet, Leeward Oahu had only a few plantation-style medical facilities. The young physician often saw more than 100 patients a day.

Driving to a hospital in Honolulu took an hour. “It was really inconvenient for leeward-side people. Worse, in emergencies, many patients never made it. By the time the ambulance got here and took them back to town, it was too late,” Dr. Joe says. He saved many lives by keeping a defibrillator in his office.

Similarly, women in labor went to the police station. “My office was right there; I delivered babies right in the street,” he says. “Or I put them in the back seat and drove to town myself. I had a sterilized delivery set in the trunk. That’s not optimal medical care. The people needed a hospital out here – an urban one with top-notch staff.”

With the help of state health administrator Henry Thompson, developer duncan McNaughton, and 13,000 signatures from leeward residents, Dr. Joe succeeded in getting Pali Momi built.

Today, thanks to generous donor support, the hospital is recognized for excellence by U.S. News & World Report and in a national survey, says Chahanovich. “It operates the state’s first Retina Center, Leeward Oahu’s first permanent MRI and only cardiac catheterization unit, a comprehensive Women’s Center, and 64-slice CT scanner.”

“As a nonprofit, Pali Momi cannot do this important work without help from our community,” says Michael O’Malley, chair of Kapi‘olani Health Foundation. “Your gifts make a difference to help provide state-of-the-art medical care and specialty services not available anywhere else in the area.”

As Pali Momi celebrates its 20th year of providing care for Central and West Oahu, Dr. Joe is beaming. “I’m very proud of our donors. They help make our hospital one of the finest in the state,” he says. “Pali Momi started out like a family; everybody cared for each other. That attitude is still here.”

When physicians at Pali Momi heard about the new Donor Wall to recognize the hospital’s supporters, several rallied in honor of Dr. Joe with individual gifts. Their physician group matched each gift.

“We feel they’re worthy donations and make a very tangible improvement in medical care for West Oahu,” says Dr. Don Wilcox, a Pali Momi physician and Hawaii Pacific Health board member. “We know how efficient and careful Pali Momi is with funds. Our gifts will be well spent.”

“The Donor Wall reminds me that Pali Momi is here, not because of some government program, but because the Leeward community fought to have one,” he adds. “How well we take care of our community’s medical needs is a measure of who we are.”
Focused on Family-Centered Care

Family-centered care invites parents to take an active role in their child's recovery. Research shows that sick and injured children recover better and faster when families are involved. In fact, family-centered care is at the heart of hospital renovations across the nation.

A lack of space has made family-centered care a challenge for staff at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. Despite the remarkable level of medical care they deliver to Hawaii's women and children every day, the hospital urgently needs a renovation and expansion.

This need is clear in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Thirty years ago, when Kapi'olani was built, an open NICU floor plan with rows of incubators was considered state-of-the-art. Each incubator had 55 square feet of space. The medical team could easily observe patients. Yet, parents had little privacy or comfort.

Today's modern NICUs on the mainland provide private rooms for families to comfortably remain with their newborns 24/7. Each incubator has an average of 150 square feet. Research proves this healing environment reduces stress and helps children cope better with their illnesses.

As this region's recognized expert in newborn special care, Kapi'olani Medical Center is treating more babies than ever. And with advances in technology, the NICU team can care for smaller and sicker babies. These changes amplify the need for more space.

Jeff Arce understands this need well. Thirteen years ago his daughter, Jamie, arrived 3 1/2 months early, weighing only 1 lb., 11 oz. Her hand was so small, it could not wrap around her father’s finger.

“Though Jamie received incredible care at Kapi'olani, the NICU felt like being tucked in the cockpit of a spaceship,” Arce recalls. “My wife, Loan, and I donated a rocking chair so another family could sit and hold their baby in comfort,” he says.

Jamie is now a healthy 13-year-old at Punahou school. Her grateful father wanted to give back to Kapi'olani Medical Center. Though he is frequently asked to serve on volunteer boards, the Kapi'olani Health Foundation is the only board that Arce actively searched out.

“I told the board, I’ll do whatever I can to help. Make phone calls, raise money, anything,” he says. “Kapi'olani Medical Center makes miracles happen every day. I want to make sure it keeps making miracles.”

Arce has served on the Kapi'olani Health Foundation Board for eight years now. He and Loan are members of the Foundation’s Leadership Circle, which is comprised of donors who contribute $1,000 or more annually. His mission, he says, is to spread the word that Kapi'olani Medical Center needs the community’s support.

“Kapi'olani is a community asset, a nonprofit hospital where the care is wonderful,” he says. “I want to help expand and renovate Hawaii’s children’s hospital. I want the next Jamie to have the opportunity for loved ones to be nearby, in a nurturing and healing environment. The people of Hawaii deserve it.”

Jeff Arce and Jamie today.
Statewide Corporate Support Making a Difference
MARRIOTT EMPLOYEES MAKE HAWAII A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

At Marriott International, giving back to the community is a core business philosophy. Want proof? Just look at the numbers. The 5,000 Hawaii associates logged more than 8,000 volunteer hours last year, raising over $145,000 to benefit the Kapi'olani Children's Miracle Network.

“We’re always looking for ways to support Hawaii’s kids, from walk-a-thons to bake sales to three-on-three basketball tournaments,” says Ed Hubennette, Vice President, North Asia, Hawaii & South Pacific. “These grassroots efforts, rolled up into large Marriott-sponsored events, raise significant amounts of money for the Kapi’olani Children’s Miracle Network. By helping kids, we make Hawaii a better place to live and work.”

Together, the events make up Spirit to Serve, a Marriott program that supports community initiatives and organizations. The family-oriented, team-building fundraisers support a core goal for Marriott, “the vitality of children.” 100% of all funds raised stays in Hawaii to assist our critically ill children, right here at home.

Spirit to Serve reflects a longstanding culture at Marriott of giving back to the community. “Our associates live in Hawaii, went to high school here, have their wedding receptions here. Marriott is part of the local neighborhood,” Hubennette says. “Our associates encourage their families and friends to work with us and stay at our hotels. Engaging the community where we work and live is a guiding principle of our company.”

The continued generosity shown by Marriott helps make miracles happen for Hawaii’s children. The biggest miracles begin with the smallest acts of kindness, and Marriott is sharing in those miracles.

“At a time when our U.S. economy faces a downturn and businesses are being selective in charitable giving, we as a company, Marriott International, are fortunate that we are able to give back to our community where we live and work,” Hubennette says.

Get Involved with the Kapi’olani Children’s Miracle Network

Fundraising activities occur year round but during each spring you will see the most visible “Miracle Balloon Campaign,” marked by the signature red-and-yellow balloon, with statewide local retailers Walmart, Costco, Sam’s Club, Ace Hardware, Marriott, IHOP, Dairy Queen and the Credit Union for Kids campaigns. Activities culminate with Clear Channel radio station KSSK’s live airing of the two-day Radiothon for KIDS! that shares stories and miracles from patients, families and staff.

To get involved, contact KCMN Director, Stacey Acma, at (808) 535-7121 or kcmn@kapiolani.org.
Kapi‘olani Celebrates 100 Years of Caring for Kids

More than 700 community leaders and supporters gathered at the Hawaii Convention Center in honor of the 100th anniversary of pediatric care at Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women & Children and its predecessor, Kauikeolani Children’s Hospital.

The Jan. 24 Centennial Dinner thanked donors and supporters for their important role in the history of Hawaii’s only full-service children’s hospital. Today, this nationally recognized, leading-edge, nonprofit medical center serves all islands in the state and the entire Pacific Region.

Forty keiki, all current and former Kapi‘olani patients, wore t-shirts describing their medical conditions. They greeted guests and, later, joined musician Henry Kapono (whose twin toddlers were born at Kapi‘olani) on stage to close the evening.

Steven Ai, event co-chair with Michael O’Malley, provided a lighter—yet poignant—moment when he unveiled his own t-shirt with “BORN 2 POUNDS.” The Kapi‘olani Medical Center trustee was himself born prematurely at the hospital.

Thank you to our sponsors for fully underwriting the Centennial Dinner

Do you have a personal experience, cherished memory, or reflection about Hawaii’s children’s hospital? We invite you to share your story with us. The Kapi‘olani Story Project is a historical archive, honoring children who’ve been touched by Kapi‘olani and Kauikeolani. Visit www.kapiolanigift.org to learn more.

Were you born or did you receive care at Kapi‘olani Medical Center? Add your name to the 100 Years of Caring for Children list and receive a Centennial Celebration car magnet, a special invitation to Kapi‘olani’s Centennial Birthday Celebration in August, and special updates about other Centennial events.
Mansfield Snyder was from Virginia, a “Southern Gentleman,” if you will. Charlotte Snyder was a local girl with a creative flair for crafts. Though childless, the couple spent their entire careers helping young people. Mansfield taught history at Farrington High School; Charlotte taught social studies at Roosevelt High School. The Snyders were also loyal patients of Straub Clinic & Hospital. Mansfield saw the same physician, Dr. David Andrew, for almost 40 years. Charlotte, who developed renal failure and other health issues in her later years, was a regular visitor to Straub’s vascular surgeons, kidney specialists, and diabetes specialists.

“Mansfield and Charlotte very much appreciated the excellent, compassionate care they received at Straub,” Dr. Andrew says. “This gratitude developed into an interest in healthcare.”

As regular supporters of Straub Foundation, the Snyders learned about the Summer Student Research Program (SSRP), an 8-week introduction to a medical career for Hawaii students. The Hawaii Pacific Health program gave the couple a golden opportunity to support their chief interests: healthcare and education. They decided to designate SSRP as the main beneficiary of their estate.

“They really liked to share,” recalls Charleen Ikeda, Executive Director of Hawaii Pacific Health Conference Services. “Charlotte had to stop for dialysis whenever they traveled, so they would buy boxes and boxes of chocolates to share with all the medical technicians in every city and country.”

The Summer Student Research Program is a hands-on, intensive summer session that gives Hawaii students a glimpse into the world of medical research design and methodology and clinical research. They work under the guidance of a Straub, Kapi’olani, or Pali Momi physician who serves as their professional mentor. Originally sponsored by Straub Foundation and now Hawaii Pacific Health, the SSRP is an exciting exposure to the “real world” of medicine. Straub and Kapi’olani Medical Center have hired physicians who were once students of SSRP.

“Mansfield and Charlotte were happy to support students who are leaning toward a medical career,” Ikeda says. “Through their endowment, they’ve left an enduring legacy for Hawaii’s young people.”

Support the Summer Student Research Program

Since 1986, the Straub Foundation has offered students who are interested in medicine an opportunity to experience a structured medical curriculum. If you are writing a Will or Trust, or updating an existing one, please consider creating a legacy by including a bequest to the Straub Foundation and the Summer Student Research Program.

“The SSRP program allowed us to immerse ourselves in the world of medicine. Rather than looking in, we were looking out through the eyes of doctors, surgeons and nurses.” — former student

“My aspirations of becoming a physician were reinforced by listening to physician speakers share their passion for medicine.” — former student

Your advisor may want to include our Federal Identification Number – Straub Foundation Federal Tax ID #99-0109350.

To discuss a specific bequest, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (808) 535-7134. Or e-mail Jeff.Pederson@Kapiolani.org.

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple and affordable way to give — and get an income.

*How it works:* You make a gift of cash or appreciated securities to Kapi’olani Health Foundation, Straub Foundation or Wilcox Health Foundation. We will pay you a regular, fixed amount of income for the rest of your life.

*Fixed income payments:* No need to worry about a fluctuating stock market or low interest rates from bank CDs. With a Charitable Gift Annuity, you’ll know upfront how much you’ll receive in return for your gift. Your income is guaranteed never to change and will provide you with a dependable stream of income for life.

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**Does a Charitable Gift Annuity Make Sense for You?**

To find out more, call our Office of Planned Giving. We’ll prepare a confidential illustration for you and your advisors to review. Together, we can make the most of your assets and help provide better healthcare for the people of Hawaii. Call (808) 535-7134.

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The Hew-Lens Bank on a Charitable Gift Annuity

Six decades of marriage haven’t dulled the couple’s enthusiasm. Every morning, Eiko Hew-Len looks forward to preparing lunch and dinner for her 91-year-old husband. “We live to eat,” she says. Charles never forgets to tell his 84-year-old wife, “I love you; you take such good care of me.”

Whenever the couple visits Straub Clinic & Hospital, they always stop by Dr. Roy Adaniya’s office just to say hello. “We both owe our lives to Dr. Adaniya,” says Eiko, a retired school nurse.

In 1996, during a routine checkup at Straub, Charles was referred for cardiology tests at Dr. Adaniya’s insistence. Five blocked arteries were detected and Charles underwent bypass surgery. Six years later, Dr. Adaniya treated Eiko for a life-threatening asthma attack.

“We have been Straub patients for 60 years. We would never go anywhere else. The doctors are wonderful and patients receive excellent care,” Charles says.

For years, the couple donated to Straub. They gave to support the physical therapy department and gave in honor of Dr. Adaniya among others. “I’m glad to support Straub,” Eiko says. “But I really wanted to do more for this hospital.”

When they received a brochure about Straub’s Charitable Gift Annuity, their tax advisor said it was a terrific way to fulfill their needs and wishes. “For my husband and me, at our age, I feel it’s time for us to help Straub, because they have given us so much. Straub can use it for important medical research and patient care,” Eiko explains.

“This annuity also gives back to us and it’s all tax free,” Charles adds. “It was easy to set up and we’ve already received dividends. I didn’t expect the amounts to be so much!”

“The grandkids made the t-shirt before Charles’ bypass surgery,” Eiko points out.
Donations Honor Dr. Walter Strode

He was, in the words of an old friend, “A good man. A very good man.”

When Dr. Walter Strode passed away on Nov. 12, 2008, in Honolulu, the former chair of urology at Straub Clinic & Hospital left behind a half-century legacy of medical excellence and good humor.

“He was a very kind and wonderful teacher, with a very funny side of him,” says Dr. James Stewart. “If I had a difficult problem with a patient, Walter was always available to discuss it with me.”

He was “a phenomenal surgeon,” Dr. John Balfour adds. “His slow, steady manner and great calm brought out the best in his staff. He was supportive, encouraging, trusting, and respectful; and he was famous for bringing manapua for the nurses on rounds.”

The overflowing crowd stood elbow-to-elbow at Dr. Strode’s memorial service. Many in attendance felt the best way to remember their friend and colleague was to make a donation to Straub Foundation in honor of his lifelong passion for healthcare. Many gifts held personal messages:

“For us, making a gift in memory of Walter is a nice way to honor and remember him, his life, and also to honor his family,” say Peter and Sara Dudgeon.

“I am attaching a check to the Straub Foundation from the Men’s Bridge Club in memory of Walter Strode,” wrote Blake Johnson. “We enjoyed his companionship and humor and even his wild bidding, which inevitably worked for him. He taught us how to say his name backward – RETLAW – and laughed at our jokes which sometimes were not all that good.”

These gifts reflect the many lives Dr. Strode touched. They honor his service and magnanimous spirit. Straub’s founding physicians (including Walter’s father, Dr. Joseph Strode) had a vision of providing compassionate, integrated, collaborative care for all patients. Dr. Walter Strode exemplified those ideals in his practice and his life.

If you would like to make a gift in honor of a caregiver, contact our Foundation office at (808) 535-7100.

A Kamaʻaina Family Supports Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Footprints in the cement path lead the way to the front door of Al and Betsy Toulon’s Kalaheo, Kauai house. Set in stone, these prints have remained a constant at the Toulon home.

Another constant has been Al and Betsy’s support of Wilcox Memorial Hospital over the past 22 years. Most of their gifts have been unrestricted gifts, meaning they’re used for the area of highest need and let the hospital determine how to best put it to use. They also generously supported the hospital’s “Picture the Future” capital campaign in support of the Diagnostic Imaging and Surgical Suite.

Betsy Toulon was born in Kekaha and grew up in Poipu, Kauai, as part of the Knudsen family, a kama‘aina family long known for their generosity to the Kauai community. “My family has been here on Kauai since 1852. My father supported a number of organizations that he believed in, so I feel like I’m following in his footsteps,” she says. “I love Kauai. I’m trying to teach my kids that too. Ultimately, I hope I can inspire others to support it.”

“Wilcox is important to our family,” she adds. “A couple of years ago, I was outside working with my horses. I fell and broke my hip. The doctors at Wilcox took great care of me. They’ve always been there for my family and me.”
On November 8th, 2008, Wilcox Memorial Hospital celebrated its 70th birthday with a bang (and fire!) at Kilohana Plantation Pavilion in Lihue.

The Grand Plantation Ball kicked off with live music by Luau Kalamaku, while guests placed bids on silent auction items. Guests also enjoyed cocktails and pupus, tried their luck at the getaway sweepstakes, and drifted around the Wilcox history wall populated by images from throughout the decades.

Guests in the luau spirit stopped by the Renee Kester photo booth, where they dressed in grass skirts and lei, and strummed ukulele. The Kauai Aloha Festivals Royal Court 2008, followed by an invocation from Dr. Douglas Duvachelle, performed the evening's opening ceremony. Guests enjoyed great plantation cuisine representing Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese dishes.

A hilarious KHON 2 NEWS duo, Justin Cruz and Ron Mizutani, opened the night's entertainment with a Kauai weather forecast, followed by a special Polynesian Revue featuring the men and women of Wilcox Health. The crowd thrilled to exciting performances of the hula, haka, and poi balls, ending with a breathtaking fire knife dance!

In today’s difficult economy, philanthropy plays a vital role in the ability of Wilcox Health to meet the healthcare needs of the Kauai community. Generous donations from the community are an important part of providing state-of-the-art healthcare on Kauai.

Wilcox Health Foundation gives a huge “Mahalo!” to all the employees, volunteers, staff, and supporters who made this event possible. With more than 620 attendees at this year’s Gala, The Grand Plantation Ball raised over $53,000 to benefit the development of a Women’s Health Center. Without community support, this would not have been possible. The Wilcox Health Foundation applauds the spirit of giving and efforts in making this 70th birthday party a huge success!

Island Insurance Company, Ltd. has given Kapi’olani Health Foundation $50,000 to support the Capital Campaign to renovate and expand Kapi’olani Medical Center.

Colbert Matsumoto, Chairman and CEO of Island Insurance Co., knows first-hand the importance of having a world-class children's hospital within our community. As a father, whose daughters Maya and Mandy were born at Kapi’olani, he’s grateful for the quality pediatric care and peace of mind it provides.

“Also, as a board member of Hawaii Pacific Health, I felt a personal obligation to help Kapi’olani Medical Center,” Matsumoto says. “I’m proud to make this gift. Modernizing the children’s hospital of Hawaii is a truly worthy project to support.”

The company’s commitment runs deep. Each year, employee volunteers create a Halloween event at the hospital. Costumes, crafts, and goodie bags brighten the day for kids who would otherwise miss trick-or-treating. “But,” Matsumoto says, “Our employees are equally buoyed by the experience. They gain a good appreciation of the role Kapi’olani plays in our community.”

Matsumoto hopes his company’s gift will inspire others to make similar contributions. “Kapi’olani touches everyone—it’s the collective effort from many that will help this first-class facility prepare for its next century of care,” he says.

To learn more about the Capital Campaign to expand Kapi’olani Medical Center, contact the Kapi’olani Health Foundation at (808) 535-7100 ●
The crane is special to Claudia Lamb. As a hapa-Japanese child in Hawaii, she learned its cultural meaning, and how to fold the distinctive bird shape from origami paper. “Cranes have a lot of symbolism for me, kind of like my guardians,” she says.

Claudia enjoyed painting, too, borrowing books about drawing from the library. As an adult, she’s taken art classes at the community college, gone to workshops and joined art societies. “I’m finally good enough to do a decent self-portrait,” she smiles.

Finding time for art became difficult eight years ago, when Claudia was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Living in rural Alaska, the closest hospital was 70 miles away. The state’s only gynecological oncologist, located in Anchorage, was twice as far. Special trips to leading cancer centers on the East Coast proved fruitless. It was time to come home.

“When we moved back to Hawaii, I enjoyed my walks around Kapi’olani Park so much that I didn’t paint very much,” she laughs. “As my cancer progressed, I had more emergencies – so it’s really nice having Kapi’olani Medical Center just minutes away.”

While under the care of oncologist Dr. Michael Carney, nurse Suzanne Ditter told Claudia about Oncology on Canvas, Lilly Oncology’s biannual art competition and exhibition.

“It’s nice to paint with others, to share your work. So I thought, OK, I’ll try it. I sent in a painting of origami cranes. The theme is: I have them searching the universe for an answer. The cure for cancer IS out there.”

“And I won!” she sings. “I was thrilled to get a call from New York. Almost 600 people had entered this international competition.”

With little hesitation, Claudia donated the $1,000 prize money to Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women & Children.

“Dr. Carney and the nurses are just wonderful,” she says. “After surgery, when it was time for me to start moving around, as I walked to a chair they sang ‘Walking My Baby Back Home,’ an old favorite of mine. That really touched a chord; a very special memory. Little things mean a lot.”

Kapi’olani staff go out of their way for Claudia, she adds. “When I need chemotherapy or a blood transfusion, one nurse or another ends up staying with me, an hour past their shift to finish the I.V. It’s time for them to go home, they have kids, you know. They could just send me to the lab, but they always stay. It makes me feel very special. These people are for real.”

With her donation, Claudia wants to help Kapi’olani keep up with the latest research. “After eight years of flying around the country, I feel that Kapi’olani is as good as any East Coast medical facility. In fact, Sloan-Kettering told me I couldn’t have any more surgeries, but then Dr. Carney said I could. He did a good job, too; I’m still here two years later. “My painting is on tour with Lilly Oncology’s traveling exhibition,” she adds. “So I guess you could say my cranes are still out there, searching for a cure.”

Claudia Lamb in her art studio.

Claudia’s Cranes
AN ARTIST DONATES HER PRIZE MONEY TO KAPI’OLANI MEDICAL CENTER

Inspire is published by The Foundations of Hawaii Pacific Health. Its goals are to update supporters of Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi’olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Health about significant news, programs and events, and to show how philanthropy is making a difference in the lives of the people in our care. No longer wish to receive Inspire? Contact us at (808) 535-7100, or 1 (800) 548-0079, or foundations@hawaiipacifichealth.org.

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