

In This Issue

Board Chair Report

Compliance Corner

Board Member Profile

East Hawaii Region

West Hawaii Region

Kauai Region

Maui Region

Oahu Region



HHSC Board Chair Report

Avery B. Chumbley, Chair

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Board of Directors recently named Alice Hall our state community-hospital system's new Acting President and Chief Executive Officer. She takes over the acting duties that I held since the departure of Bruce Anderson in July.

Alice Hall is no stranger to HHSC. She has been employed by HHSC for nearly 20 years serving as Vice President and General Counsel, in addition to HHSC's interim PCEO (2010-2011). Previously, Hall served as a deputy attorney general for the state Attorney General's Office and has many years of private practice experience.

HHSC is appreciative that Ms. Hall has agreed to help lead HHSC through a very challenging period – preparing for the implementation of health reform, while also responding effectively to the increased need for safety net services during an evolving and uncertain environment. Ms. Hall's experience in law, health issues, legislation and administration enables her to take on this acting role.

Ms. Hall, born and raised in East Lansing, Michigan, on the outskirts of a college town, earned an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and subsequently, a law degree from the Thomas Cooley Law School.

Ms. Hall, after visiting Hawaii during a vacation some years back, decided immediately that this was the place she wanted to live and raise her kids. Alice and husband Jeffrey have four children, in addition to one and-one-half grandchildren with the latter arriving early 2014. Alice's hobbies and interest include ballroom dancing, church activities and taking care of two maltese dogs.

During this interim period, the Board will promptly begin work on a plan for finding a new president/chief executive officer. Additionally, Charla Ota, Esq., Assistant General Counsel, has also agreed to step into the role of HHSC Acting General Counsel.

We will continue to keep you updated on any new developments.

I want to thank you again for working together as we enter into this time of change. The HHSC Board of Directors and I can never thank you enough for your services and commitment.

Aloha!

Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Message

Alice M. Hall, Esq., Acting President and Chief Executive Officer



It is an honor and privilege to be asked to take the lead in the corporate office again in the role of Acting PCEO. The Board of Directors and the executive management team, along with all of the employees, have been very supportive in helping us through this transition. The Board has asked us to “stay the course” in the corporate office as our boards and other stakeholders

continue to explore the most effective options for improving the services we provide to our island communities.

- One of the major issues we are facing is a cash shortfall in some of the regions. We are very grateful to the Legislature and the Abercrombie administration for appropriating and releasing funding in September which will help to alleviate the problem. The first was the release of previously restricted general fund appropriations of \$4,222,000. The second was the release of \$12,000,000 in general fund appropriations to cover HHSC’s collective bargaining costs for fiscal year 2014. The third was the release of CIP funds for the HHSC EMeRGE project. The Governor released \$14,321,000 in capital improvement project funds for HHSC to use in fiscal year 2014 to fund the costs of the Siemens Soarian system as well as IT infrastructure costs that will support the Soarian system.
- The ICD-10 conversion project is gearing up with the engagement of The Advisory Board Company. ICD-10 is the new coding methodology required for hospitals to get paid for patient services beginning in October 2014. It will require major changes in our revenue cycle and health information management processes as well as the medical record documentation by our providers.
- Of course, this is happening alongside our EMR project. The Kona and Kohala go-live bugs have been ironed out to a great extent and we are optimistic about the success of the regulation-required upgrade scheduled for November and the go-live tentatively scheduled for Maui in the spring.

All of our boards are working very well together to lead the organization in a direction that will position us for health care reform and other changes coming down the pike. One fact upon which everyone agrees: Our employees and physicians are our most valuable assets; without the dedication of our highly trained, compassionate staffs, we would certainly not be able to provide the quality of care that our communities deserve.

Mahalo!

Compliance Corner

David Lane, Ph.D., CHC CPC,
HHSC Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer



“September 23, 2013”—Not exactly a day that will live in infamy, but it is the day that the Office of Civil Rights will begin enforcement and levying of possible fines for failure to comply with the new HIPAA Omnibus Rule. This new HIPAA rule changes the criteria for determination of a HIPAA violation (“breach”) that must be reported to the Department of

Health and Human Services. It also increases fines that can be levied against violators. In addition, the new rule provides more patient rights such as allowance for an accounting of access to the electronic medical record. A new HHSC “Notice of Privacy Practices” (required by HIPAA) has been developed and is in use at HHSC facilities. All HHSC staff will be trained on the new HIPAA rule by live trainings, VTC, train-the-trainer presentations, or remotely, based on individual facility schedules. All new employees/medical staffs and volunteers will also be provided same orientation and training. HHSC has always taken the privacy of its patient data seriously; the new HIPAA rule makes it even more important for us.

Message from the Corporate CMO/CMIO

Ramsey Hasan, M.D.



Aloha,

With a looming financial crisis, healthcare reform, and changes within HHSC all happening at the same time, I realize these are difficult times but wanted you to know there are good things happening too. Since returning

to HHSC at the beginning of this year, as Chief Medical Officer, I have also continued my role as Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO) on the EMR project and there is a lot to report as we transform our world from paper to electronic.

In the technology arena there has been a lot of change. Wireless networks are now up and running at both of our West Hawaii hospitals. During the EMR go live at West Hawaii in February 2013, it was not a surprise -to anyone ever trying to implement an EMR- that it was going to be a challenge but a challenge that has resulted in positive outcomes. Over the past eight months we have learned a lot of lessons and this experience will significantly help us as we implement EMR at all the remaining facilities. Our next planned site to go live will be Maui Memorial in March 2014, with additional hospitals tentatively scheduled to go live in the summer and fall.

In August we launched a pilot of Sure Scripts e-prescribing with a small group of Kona and Kohala physicians. This software allows prescriptions to be sent electronically from the physician to the pharmacy of patient choice. During the month of September we will make Sure Scripts available to all the physicians at both West Hawaii hospitals. Then, in November, we will implement a 3.4 upgrade of Soarian, which will improve system functionality (what we can do within the system) and will also provide aesthetic enhancements (an upgrade to the look and feel).

Also, I wanted to report back to you about the changes I am seeing with people, process, and technology. The technology is only as good as: 1) the people working on it; and 2) the processes we have in place to make it operational. Last year I helped to create the physician advisory group (PAG) to bring a cross section of physicians together to work collaboratively on the EMR journey. This year I launched the clinical advisory group (CAG) to bring together nursing, ancillary leadership, and representatives from across the regions to work together on EMR and best practice. On so many levels I have witnessed great things happening as a result of staff from the regions coming together, sharing ideas, and working collaboratively. Yes, they do actually get along and work well together; perhaps more importantly, they work as a team trying to find solutions that make sense and to make HHSC better.

Lastly, I wanted to end my message with an update on Quality. Earlier this year, a selection committee, comprised of individuals from across the regions, interviewed candidates for the new Corporate Director of Quality position and, as a result of this process, Kathleen Laygo-Libao, RN, was selected to join HHSC. It was in April that Kathleen assumed the role of Corporate Director of Quality and I am eager to have her focusing on quality with us because, I believe, quality is at the heart of what we strive for as an organizational culture, one that is continually focused on improving quality and safety.

Quality requires constant vigilance. As a practicing physician and CMO I believe we should always challenge ourselves to find ways to make sure HHSC better serves our patients and supports our staff. Thank you for all your hard work in helping HHSC improve and provide better care to our patients.

Mahalo,

Dr Hasan

HHSC ICD-10 CORNER: Getting Ready to Go!

By Lance Segawa,
HHSC Executive Director of Operations and Planning



The HHSC ICD-10 Transition Project has officially started! With the selection of the Advisory Board, our preparation to successfully transition from the ICD-9 to the more complex ICD-10 environment has begun and will be supported and guided by its specialized consulting team. Over the next two months, we will be busy collecting and validating data in HIM, finance/revenue cycle/patient access, and physician documentation. At the same time, education action plans for staff and physicians will be developed. Executing such an enormous project will require team work in all areas of our HHSC system. To better coordinate our efforts, the following individuals have been designated regional ICD-10 representatives:

East Hawaii Region – Money Atwal, CFO/CIO

Kauai Region – Mike Perel, CFO

Maui Region – Paul Harper-O'Connor, Quality and Continuous Improvement Officer

Oahu Region – Reid Kondo, Assistant Administrator

West Hawaii Region – Carla Haas, Director of HIM

The respective representatives will serve as your region's point of contact on all ICD-10 matters. Please feel free to contact them should you have any questions about specific ICD-10 activities in your region or hospital.

Our successful transition to ICD-10 is critical to our future success as a healthcare delivery system. With an organized plan and your continued support, HHSC will be ready for ICD-10!

FAQs: HHSC ICD-10 Transition Basics

The ICD-9 code sets used to report medical diagnoses and inpatient procedures will be replaced by ICD-10 code sets. These FAQs provide an overview of the transition to ICD-10 and points to resources for more information.

- **What does ICD-10 compliance mean?**
ICD-10 compliance means that everyone covered by HIPAA is able to successfully conduct health care transactions using ICD-10 codes.
- **Will ICD-10 replace Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) procedure coding?**
No. The switch to ICD-10 does not affect CPT coding for outpatient procedures. Like ICD-9 procedure codes, ICD-10-PCS codes are for hospital inpatient procedures only.

- **Who is affected by the transition to ICD-10? If HHSC doesn't deal with Medicare claims, will I have to transition?**
Everyone covered by HIPAA must transition to ICD-10. This includes providers and payers who do not deal with Medicare claims.
- **Do state Medicaid programs need to transition to ICD-10?**
Yes. Like everyone else covered by HIPAA, state Medicaid programs must comply with ICD-10.
- **What happens if HHSC doesn't switch to ICD-10?**
Claims for all services and hospital inpatient procedures performed on or after the compliance deadline must use ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes. (This does not apply to CPT coding for outpatient procedures.) Claims that do not use ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes cannot be processed. It is important to note, however, that claims for services and inpatient procedures provided before the compliance date must use ICD-9 codes.
- **If HHSC transitions early to ICD-10, will CMS be able to process my claims?**
No. CMS and other payers will not be able to process claims using ICD-10 until the compliance date. However, providers should expect ICD-10 testing to take up to 19 months.
- **Why should HHSC prepare now for the ICD-10 transition?**
The transition to ICD-10 is a major undertaking for providers, payers, and vendors. It will drive business and systems changes throughout the health care industry, from large national health plans to small provider offices, laboratories, medical testing centers, hospitals, and more. You will need to devote staff time and financial resources to transition activities. The transition will go much more smoothly for organizations that plan ahead and prepare now.
- **Where can HHSC find the ICD-10 code sets?**
The ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS code sets and the ICD-10-CM official guidelines are available free of charge at www.cms.gov/ICD10.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lance Segawa, ICD-10@hhsc.org

East Hawaii Region

HMC Foundation Funds the Aloha Cart Program

HMC Foundation funded the Aloha Cart program to help improve the patient and family/visitor experience. The Aloha Cart program provides patients with books, magazines, crossword puzzles, DVDs and games. Patients may also request the use a laptop to stay connected with family and friends. The Foundation also funded a beverage cart to offer patients and their visitors coffee, tea and water. In August, the Foundation received 100 DVDs for toddler and teen patients from Kid Flicks, an organization founded by four sisters, who have donated movies to 662 hospitals in all 50 states and 5 hospitals in South Africa.



HMC Foundation Welcomes New Board for the 2013-2014 Fundraising Season



Disaster Drill Helps Hale Ho'ola Hamakua Prepare for the Worst

Hale Ho'ola Hamakua conducted a disaster drill on July 1, 2013, in cooperation with the state Emergency Medical Services, Hawaii Police Department and Hawaii County Fire Department. Twenty-five volunteers from the community served as mock patients and victims for the drill. The scenario for the drill was a tractor-trailer that had overturned on the highway, leaking chlorine. The mock victims were given various medical scenarios to act out, and emergency medical personnel worked to triage, decontaminate and treat these mock patients. Hale Ho'ola was able to practice using their disaster equipment, including a decontamination tent and powered air purifying respirators.

The hands-on learning experience was extremely invaluable in helping the hospital to understand all of the issues and variables that can potentially be associated with a disaster of this type and size. It helped medical personnel to become familiar with the equipment and how it functions when patients are actually involved. Hale Ho'ola Hamakua performed a debriefing immediately after the drill with all participants including EMS, the Fire Department and police, and will continue to do debriefings and ongoing training in order to further improve communication and response times in the event of a disaster.



Rotary Club of Hilo Supports the Residency Program with Proceeds from First Brewfest



Left to Right: Club President Kerry Glass, Hilo Brewfest Founder Bob Hanley, Medical Center Foundation Executive Director Lori Rogers, Past Club President Alan Kusunoki and Hilo Rotary Club Foundation Chairman John McVickar

On June 1, 2013, the Rotary Club of Hilo hosted its first Brewfest on the grounds of the Wainaku Executive Center. The Brewfest offered samples of 20 different beers, both locally and from the mainland.

Subsequently, on September 6, 2013, the Rotary Club of Hilo presented Lori Rogers, Hilo Medical Center Foundation Executive Director, a check for \$13,574.08 to further the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. President Kerry Glass expressed why the Rotary Club of Hilo supported the HMCF, "We Rotarians want the best for our community and good medical services in Hilo will insure that the community has good health care. The community's support of our fundraising for this program sends a message to our legislature that we feel this is vital to our community."

Foundation Executive Director Lori Rogers, who volunteered as a server, was extremely pleased that the event was packed and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

HHSC Primary Care Training Program Receives \$1.8 Million in State Funds



On July 9, Howard Ainsley, East Hawaii Regional CEO, Boyd Murayama, Assistant Hospital Administrator and Medical Group Practice Director, Dr. Kristine McCoy, Residency Program Director, and Lori Rogers, HMC Foundation Executive Director attended the bill signing ceremony for House Bill 417 with Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui and Hawaii Island legislators. The bill provides \$1.8 million for the HHSC Primary Care Training Program and was passed due to a concerted effort in the community lead by the Hilo Medical Center Foundation. This unique, interdisciplinary program is in collaboration with University of Hawaii at Hilo's School of Nursing, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, and I Ola Lahui.

UnitedHealthcare Awards \$250,000 to the HHSC Primary Care Training Program



On August 19, UnitedHealthcare awarded a \$250,000 grant to support the HHSC Primary Care Training Program to help enhance primary care services for East Hawaii residents, including members of the United States military and their families.

Hilo Medical Center Foundation Annual Golf Tournament

The Hilo Medical Center Foundation hosted its 4th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 7, 2013. The tournament featured greenie, putting, and closest-to-the-pin contests. The event was a great success - helping the Foundation to raise funds to further its mission statement, to support the Hilo Medical Center with projects that benefit the greater community.

One of the foundation's Gold Sponsors, Hawaii Radiologic Associates, is featured here!



Left to Right: Dr. Lambeth (Foundation Board Member), Gail Ueyo, Dr. Nakamura, and Dr. Camacho.

Second Annual Big Island Symposium on Cardiac and Stroke



The Big Island Symposium on Cardiac and Stroke, organized by Queens Medical Center and Hilo Medical Center, was held on August 9 at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel with over 100 medical professionals representing hospitals from around the island. Queens Medical Center shared that the number of admissions for heart attack or stroke statewide dropped from 2,818 in 2006 to 2,285 in 2012. Mortality rates have also fallen, from 8.9 percent in 2006 to 6.6 percent in 2012.

In an August 10 story that ran in The Hawaii Tribune-Herald and West Hawaii Today, Dan Brinkman, HMC's chief nurse executive, said that the decline can be attributed to many things, including the reduction in smoking, now socially less acceptable, and the advances in the medical treatments available. But for Brinkman, a major factor is the collaboration of many organizations, partners and individuals across Hawaii. Such working relationships have bettered the outcomes from patients, especially those who would otherwise be at a disadvantage because of the rural-urban disparities in available care and specialists.

With the majority of cardiac and stroke patients remaining on the Big Island, HMC has developed a Heart Attack and Stroke program around "best practices" to meet the community's needs.

HMC's Heart Attack and Stroke Program Evolution

What we've done

Designated a Cardio-Vascular Unit

Advanced Cardiac and Stroke Training for staff in Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Cardio-Vascular Unit

Performed Diagnostic Heart Catheterizations

Implemented Heart Attack and Stroke Activation Programs and Teams

What we're doing

Recently obtained a stroke assessment camera to have Queen Medical Center's Neurologist consult and evaluate HMC patient via telemedicine.

Upgrading our Angiography Suite/Cath Lab

Welcomed Dr. Chris Neal, Neuro Interventional Radiologist

What we're planning to do

Utilize Dr. Chris Neal's on-island expertise and upgraded Angiography Suite to provide advance stroke care as well as Interventional Radiology, Vascular Intervention, and Diagnostic Cardiac Catheterization.



Hilo Medical Center Medical Staff Presents \$10,000 in Scholarships



Physician leadership of Hilo Medical Center's medical staff presented \$10,000 in scholarships to invest in healthcare careers and improve the quality of care in East Hawaii.

\$2,500 scholarships were awarded to:

Tracey Silva: a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and surgical technologist in the Operating Room and enrolled in Associate Degree Nursing Program at Hawaii Community College

Jewel Andrade-Ikawa: a clerk in the Patient Services Department and enrolled in the Bachelor of Science Program in Healthcare Administration at Grand Canyon University

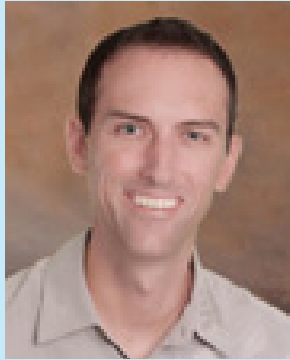
Reina Sako: the daughter of dietician Janet Sako and enrolled in the Diagnostic Ultrasound Program at Seattle University

Maria Pollack: an LPN in the Long Term Care Department and enrolled in Associate Degree Nursing Program at Hawaii Community College

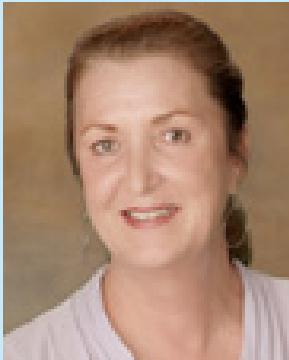
East Hawaii Region Welcomes New Providers to Outpatient Clinics



Mary K Nordling, MD
Hawaii Island Family Health Center



Brian Williams, MD
Hawaii Island Family Health Center



Lauren Butcher, APRN
Hawaii Island Family Health Center



Debra Kettleson, APRN
Cardiology Clinic



Joel Traut, MD
Pediatric Clinic



John DeCaro, MD
Urology Clinic



Susan Field, MSN, FNP-BC, APRN-Rx
Kau Hospital and Rural Health Clinic

West Hawaii Region

Kohala Hospital Emergency Room Ready for Demolition



After years of discussion, planning, and fund-raising, Kohala Hospital begin demolition on its Emergency Room. The long-awaited ER renovation/relocation project kicked off on July 1, 2013.

Kohala Hospital held a “wall-breaking” ceremony on Thursday, June 20th at 11:00 a.m. to commemorate the occasion. The ceremony included a blessing, a presentation on building plans and work phases, and light pupu’s and refreshments. The public was invited to come and see the results of years of investment, time, and patience.

Please note: The Kohala Hospital emergency room will continue to be open in its current location throughout the renovation/relocation project.

Kohala Hospital has been receiving Capital Improvement Project (CIP) monies from the State (\$2.2 M last year), which has enabled on-going renovation of the hospital. The building, which is over 50 years old, has a checklist of projects that require attention such as re-paving the hospital parking lot and updating and renovating the water heater system. Capital Improvement Project funding is restricted to maintenance and facility improvement projects, and cannot be used for day to day hospital operations.

Kohala Hospital administrator, Gino Amar said, “We would like to thank our legislative team for their efforts on our behalf at the State Legislature to obtain limited funding available from the State. We would also like to thank the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation and all its board members, advisors, and volunteers for their continued support.”

Additional monies have been provided through the fundraising efforts of the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation, which has dedicated the past three years to fundraising for the emergency room renovations. The Foundation held its annual barbeque fundraiser on Saturday, June 22nd at the Kahua Ranch.

Clinic Provides Free TDAP Vaccines



Kona Community Hospital participated in a collaborative clinic that will offered free tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (TDAP) vaccines to adults in the community. The clinic was held on July 20, 2013 at the Christ Church Episcopal on Konawaena School Road from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The clinic was coordinated by councilwoman, Brenda Ford in collaboration with clinical staff and volunteers from Kona Community Hospital. The idea for the upcoming one-day clinic was born out of the recent Tropic Care 2013 free clinics in Ka'u where Ford volunteered to assist while KCH nurse practitioner, Jackie Murray, administered 200 TDAP vaccines.

"We lose immunity to the TDAP vaccine by high school," said Murray. Pertusis, also known as whooping cough, is not generally deadly to adults or adolescents. However, it can be deadly to infants and children. "It is very important to vaccinate adults to protect children in our community from being infected," Murray concluded.

KCH Infection Prevention Director, Lisa Downing, added that "Thanks to a generous offer from the Hawaii Department of Health, Kona Community Hospital has 400 TDAP vaccines."

The one-day clinic was open to the public on a first come, first served basis and offered free TDAP vaccines to any adult over the age of 19 with the exception of pregnant women.

Kona Hospital Auxiliary Awards \$10,000 in Nursing Scholarships

The Kona Community Hospital Auxiliary recently awarded \$10,000 in nursing scholarships to four local students seeking to pursue nursing careers.

The Kona Community Hospital Auxiliary nursing scholarship program annually awards up to \$2500 per recipient to four nursing students. This year's scholarship recipients included Sher-rine Gray, June Mohr, Joli Remund, and second year recipient Michael Warnecke.

To be considered for the Auxiliary's Nursing Scholarship, applicants must submit a resume, school transcripts, two letters of recommendation and a personal essay on why nursing was chosen as a career. In addition, students must already be accepted to a nursing school.

The Auxiliary's goal is to provide financial assistance to nursing students, and to aide Kona Community Hospital in meeting its future nursing needs.

"During the selection process, words like 'compassionate, mature, professional and positive' were consistently used to describe these candidates," said Stephanie Irwin RN, director of education at Kona Community Hospital. "By awarding nursing scholarships to these deserving students, the Kona Hospital Auxiliary's goal is to build a strong nursing workforce that will provide excellent healthcare to West Hawaii in the future."

With 65 active members, the KCH Auxiliary is the largest volunteer organization at the hospital. There are numerous volunteer opportunities and they operate the hospital Gift Shop. Monies for nursing scholarships are generated by the Auxiliary's Friday Bake Sale, an annual rummage sale and other activities. To be a volunteer or to donate to the nursing scholarship fund, contact the Auxiliary office at 322-4577 or visit their website at <http://kch-auxiliary.org>



Kona Hospital Foundation Receives \$40,000 in grants from American Savings Bank and Hawaii Electric Light Company



Kona Hospital Foundation recently received a grant of \$20,000 from American Savings Bank (ASB) and another \$20,000 grant from Hawaii Electric Light Company. The grants will fund the purchase of two baby warmers to enhance newborn care at Kona Community Hospital (KCH).

On May 28, representatives from Hawaii Electric Light Company presented Kona Hospital Foundation board members with a \$20,000 grant for the funding of a baby warmer. "The Kona Community Hospital is a cornerstone of the West Hawaii community," said Jay Ignacio, president of Hawaii Electric Light Company. "These high-quality warmers will enable hospital staff to provide exceptional healthcare in a comfortable, developmentally supportive environment for our newest keiki."

At the May check presentation, Sally Robertson, Director of Women's Services at KCH demonstrated one of the baby warmers which are used for each newborn delivery. "The baby warmers allow us to optimize perinatal care for our precious new-

borns," she said as she pointed out numerous features intended to provide easier assessment and examination and a higher level of care.

At the June 22 grand opening of the new American Savings Bank Kailua-Kona branch, American Savings Bank CEO and President Rich Wacker presented a \$20,000 grant to members of the Kona Hospital Foundation board of trustees. "Kona Community Hospital provides crucial services to our community and American Savings Bank is committed to supporting its mission and families in West Hawaii."

"American Savings Bank and Hawaii Electric Light Company share common values which promote commitment to community and family. Their generous grants, which provide funds for baby warmers, reflect those values," said Jim Higgins, Kona Hospital Foundation chairman. "We're very appreciative of the support and commitment of these dedicated corporate sponsors."

Kaua'i Region

Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital Supports West Kauai's First-Ever Bike Rodeo

Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital was pleased to be one of the event sponsors at West Kauai's first ever "Bike Rodeo/Summer Safety Tune Up" event held in Waimea on May 25, 2013. Kids saddled up their two-wheel vehicles for a day of fun and learning, which included free bicycle safety and tune-ups. The event featured bicycle skills stations, bike safety inspection stations, as well as a helmet fit station with free helmets given to those keiki who didn't own one. Car seat safety inspections were also provided. Other event sponsors included the State Trauma Program Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch, the Hawaii State Department of Health and Pepsi.



Bike Rodeo participants Mackenzie & Reece Mariano with KVMH Auxiliary Members Anne Mishima and Shirley Matsuo

California Football Players Give Back Through Mahelona Beach Outing

Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital's summer beach outing for its residents at Morgan's Pond in Wailua provided an opportunity for members of the Woodbridge High School football team to give back to the Garden Island community through volunteerism.

Woodbridge High School football head coach Rick Gibson usually doesn't like his team's workout interrupted, but this time he didn't mind at all. "This is one of the best things we've done on this trip." The visiting team from Irvine, California who was scheduled to play against Waimea High School, provided manpower to help transfer patients and equipment from the hospital vans to the water. Coach Gibson noted, "A lot of the boys have grandparents and helping here is a life lesson. This is one of the finest ways of giving back."

The beach outing also coincided with a study tour by the Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing students, allowing the California football players to work alongside the Japanese visitors. Brian Yamamoto, a Kauai Community College instructor at the event added, "The outing presented an unique opportunity for cross-cultural learning without walls."

Mahelona Recreational Therapist, Josie Pablo, SMMH recreational therapist added, "Thanks to the assistance of the football players, we were able to make this outing a very successful event and ultimately providing our residents an opportunity to enjoy the water at Morgan's Pond."



Woodbridge High School football and Okinawa Prefectural College nursing students assist in SMMH residents outing.

KVMH Charitable Foundation Hosts Chamber Business After Hours

Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital's Charitable Foundation and the Kauai Chamber of Commerce hosted "Business After Hours" on the KVMH hospital grounds on August 29, 2013. The event showcased the hospital and clinics, familiarized attendees with existing services and introduced new services and future plans for health care in West Kauai.

The popular event was attended by community and Kauai Chamber of Commerce members, Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Kauai County Council members, as well as KVMH staff. In addition to hospital and clinic tours showcasing the equipment purchased by the Foundation, highlights of the evening included free blood pressure checks provided by clinic and hospital staff, glucose checks by Lifeway Pharmacy and cholesterol testing by Clinical Labs. Additionally, West Kauai Clinic physicians Drs. Lewan, Chelius and Dupree spoke on quality care.

The collaborative hospital-community efforts of the KVMH/West Kauai Clinics medical staff and employees, Clinical Labs, Lifeway Pharmacy, Alii Strings (musical entertainment) and various West Kauai restaurants made the "Business After Hours" event an extremely successful one!



During the hospital tour, Emergency Department Nurse Jackie Planas talked to guests, including Kauai County Council member Joann Yukimura, about the Vein Reader, which was purchased by the KVMH's Charitable Foundation.

Maui Region

MMMC Gains Level III Trauma Center Status

After an extensive survey, Maui Memorial Medical Center is now certified as a Level III Trauma Center.

“The Trauma Center Association of America survey team was extremely impressed with MMMC’s commitment to better serve the community by achieving Level III Trauma Center designation,” said Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H., Chief, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch with the Hawaii State Department of Health. “We are very grateful for the work of MMMC’s Trauma Coordinator, Anna Marie Later, and Trauma Medical Director, Dr. Arthur Chasen, in preparing for and leading the hospital through a successful survey.”

Senator Roz Baker was instrumental in facilitating the State’s support of the project. “The overall goal of bringing MMMC up to a Level III Trauma Center is to continue providing the services needed to improve health care in Maui County, while minimizing the severe impacts of trauma-related injuries. With everyone working as a team, we are able to bring the vital systems of care that Maui needs and deserves.” said Sen. Baker.

Thanks to the Trauma Services staff and the entire MMMC Ohana for a truly multi-disciplinary effort that resulted in the successful completion of the survey. Special thanks to: Dr. Art Chasen, Dr. Les Chun, Anna Marie Later, Tina Miller, Sheri Lauer, Dr. Linda Rosen and Senator Roz Baker for their hard work in helping MMMC to become a Trauma III Center!

Renovations at Lanai Community Hospital Recently Blessed



Health care services on Lanai got a shot of rejuvenation this month, as showcased at a blessing of major hospital renovations at Lanai Community Hospital (LCH) on August 9 attended by about 100 community members and dignitaries.

The \$2.3 million dollar project included renovations to the lab, diagnostics and waiting area. The emergency room was expanded to a three-bed department with separate glassed areas and nurses’ station. Before the renovation, the emergency room was a single room with two beds.

The newly renovated ED is debuting at just the right time according to Nick Hughey RN, MBA, NHA HHSC-Maui Region Regional Administrator of Critical Access Hospitals.

“Lanai Community Hospital is a vital part of our community and our emergency department has seen steady increase in its usage this year,” he said. “These renovations will pave the way for other improvements, as we expand to meet the needs of our community.”

Nick hopes to see continuing expansion of services on Lanai as the population grows, thanks to partnerships with Pulama Lanai, Straub; Lanai Community Health Center; and Liberty Dialysis; and a re-developed LCH Auxiliary.

Current projects for the near term future include a new roof, photovoltaic system and electronic medical records system.

Gail Miyahira Receives Emergency Manager Award from Healthcare Association of Hawaii



Gail Miyahira has received the 2013 Emergency Manager Award of Hawaii from the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's (HAH) Awards and Scholarships Program, which recognizes excellence in direct care and health care leadership. Miyahira is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Maui Region (Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lanai Community Hospital) and is also the HAH Maui Area Coordinator.

As Emergency Management Coordinator she is responsible for developing, planning, evaluating and maintaining the overall emergency/ disaster preparedness response and recovery program for the Maui Region.

"Gail is a tremendous asset to the Maui Region for her attention to detail and her ability to plan appropriately for disasters and other emergencies," said Wesley Lo, Maui Region chief executive officer. "She is instrumental to us and this award is a reflection of her diligence and capabilities."

As the HAH Maui Area Coordinator, Miyahira's duties include serving as liaison between HAH, Maui Civil Defense and the Maui District Health Office, supporting the Hospital Preparedness Program activities and coordinating HAH emergency operations from the Maui County Emergency Operations Center.

Oahu Region

Leahi Hospital Receives 4-Plus Star Rating

Leahi Hospital has earned a 4-plus-star rating from Caregiverlist.com. The designation is the highest among all nursing homes in Honolulu.

Caregiverlist.com is the nation's online destination dedicated to connecting seniors with quality senior care choices. Caregiverlist.com helps seniors and their loved ones define care needs, understand the many caregiving options and costs and connect to senior home care agencies that meet Caregiverlist.com's checklist of quality standards. About 18,000 facilities are rated, based not only on the Medicare data but on regular phone calls with each nursing home.

"It's very gratifying to receive this 4-plus-star status," said Vincent Lee, HHSC Oahu Region chief executive officer. "This outcome truly reflects the pride and professionalism that our staff upholds in caring for each of our residents."

Leahi Hospital Bon Dance Event



The Leahi Hospital parking lot was FULL of Bon Dance activities.

On July 27, the parking lot in front of Leahi Hospital was filled with happi coast-wearing nursing home residents, family members, volunteers and staff for the annual nursing home Bon Dance.

The summer event included a yagura, the traditional wooden tower that was erected in the parking lot and was the focus point for dancers and daring residents being wheel-chaired around to the beat of the special bon dance music with the compliments of the Hawaii Shin Kobukai Dance Club dancers. Many spectators also sat on folding chairs to watch the growing circle of dancers.

"We just love seeing our residents get a chance to enjoy this kind of cultural event outdoors," said Vincent Lee, HHSC Oahu Region chief executive officer. "Equally important, the families, volunteers and staff really pitch in to make it a very successful event."

Although there were a few passing sprinkles, the weather held up for the majority of the bon dance event.

61st Blossom Court Members Assist Nursing Home Residents Celebrate Bon Dance Event



The 61st Blossom Court and the Shin Koku Kai Dance Club highlighted the 2013 Bon Dance event.



Resident Mrs. Pang enjoyed being wheeled by the 61st CBF Queen alongside the Shin Koku Kai dance clubs.

The 2013 Hawaii Cherry Blossom Festival Court assisted Maluhia's nursing home residents celebrate the annual Bon Dance event on Saturday, August 24, 2013. The Court helped to wheel chair the residents around the bon dance circle while encouraging them to sing as well as making dance motions with their hands.

Maluhia Administrator Derek Akiyoshi said, "Planning an event for our residents wheelchair bound and with limited diets required some ingenuity and planning, but I am very proud of the Court for assisting in the event that got the residents engaged and excited. They took time out of their weekend schedule to assist Maluhia staff, volunteers and the Hawaii Shin Koku Kai performers."

Ashley Higa, Miss Popularity noted, "We realized that activities like the Bon dance help to keep the residents active and connected to their culture. As representatives of the Japanese American Community in Hawaii, we were happy to help preserve our culture and stay connected with the generations before us."

"This event gave the 61st Cherry Blossom Festival Court an opportunity to better understand the challenges that long-term patients face," said Sydette Higuchi, 61st CBF Court Advisor. "At the same time, the Court also realized the opportunity they had in helping to bring joy to the nursing home patients by helping them to stay connected to a cultural event."

The bon dance also included activities such as Okinawan food tasting and shaved ice eating.

Kaimuki Elementary School Students Share Uplifting Artwork



Left to Right: Residents Chiyoko Oshiro, Yoshino Okada and Betsy Suzuki expressed their appreciation for the donated artwork to Babette Arakaki, a kindergarten teacher from Liholiho Elementary, Karen Halemano, recreation therapist supervisor and Vince Lee, HHSC Oahu CEO.

Leahi Hospital recently accepted a donated art exhibit by the Liholiho Elementary School kindergarten class. The uplifting drawings are posted in the Recreation Therapy hallway and provides an opportunity for residents, participants, staff and volunteers to appreciate the warm and kind thoughts of today's youth.

"We have seen residents smile after review of the artwork – a good indicator that they truly appreciate the caring effort of these kindergarten students," said Karen Halemano, Leahi Hospital recreation therapist supervisor.

HHSC Oahu Region CEO Receives Healthcare Association of Hawaii Award for Long-Term Care



Vincent H.S. Lee, the regional chief executive officer of the HHSC Oahu Region was recently honored in Honolulu as the recipient of the 2013 Awards and Scholarship Dinner Event by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers I most respect in Hawaii’s health-care industry,” said Vince Lee. “I want to say ‘Thank You’ to our amazing nurses,

physicians, social workers, ancillary staff, volunteers, HHSC Corporate and Oahu Region Board members and lawmakers, who have made long-term care a part of their lives.”

The HAH annually recognizes outstanding individuals for their dedication and commitment to improving health care. The Leadership Award is one of three given by HAH to an outstanding long term care, acute care and home care and hospice recipient.

Mr. Lee has over 25-plus years of experience in senior health-care administration. As Chief Executive Officer of the HHSC Oahu Region, Mr. Lee oversees Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, both outstanding long-term care facilities. In 2012, Leahi Hospital and Maluhia received a 4-Star and 5-Star ratings, respectively, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Oahu Region is presently focused on creating a “Center for Excellence” in long-term care at Leahi Hospital.

Mr. Lee earned his B.S. degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, his Master of Social Work from George Williams College in Downers Grove, Illinois, and his Master of Public Health from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Mr. Lee and his wife Susie have four children and one grandchild.