

# Annual Report

2023-2024

Supporting the Hilo Benioff Medical Center and East Hawai'i Region with projects and services that benefit the greater community since 1995.



We are thrilled to share some exciting news about the future of our beloved Hilo Medical Center. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, the hard work of our state legislators, the Governor, and the dedication of our hospital team, we have secured a once-in-a-lifetime matching donation from Marc and Lynne Benioff. This transformational gift, fueled by private philanthropy, will enable us to embark on an ambitious capital improvement plan, bringing vital enhancements to our medical campus over the next several years.

These critical improvements will expand our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity, introduce new neurology services, and establish a family birthing center and behavioral health services—all essential additions that will help us better serve our community.

Along with enhanced services comes an addition to the hospital's name, which will now be known as the Hilo Benioff Medical Center.

But none of this would be possible without you, our loyal supporters and donors. Your generosity and commitment to our mission inspire us every day. The Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation is dedicated to strengthening the bond between the hospital and our community, and we are working on a new program designed to foster lasting connections. Though still in its early stages, this initiative reflects our deep desire to involve you more closely in the life of the hospital, building a partnership that will benefit our community for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we are creating a brighter, healthier future for East Hawaii and beyond!



**PRESIDENT** Rodney Powell **VICE PRESIDENT** Brad Kinoshita **SECRETARY** Dean Fuke **TREASURER** 

**Eunice Muramoto** 

#### **TRUSTEES**

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Phoebe Lambeth Hoon Park, M.D. Richard Robbins, M.D.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Lisa Rantz

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

JD Domizio

PROGRAM MANAGER Jessica DeCamp



# In Loving Memory of Rep. Mark Nakashima

We mourn the passing of Rep. Mark Nakashima, a dedicated public servant and advocate for Hawai'i Island. A proud Hilo native, Mark played a key role in improving healthcare access and educational programs in East Hawai'i, securing resources for critical care services at Hilo Medical Center. His deep involvement in community outreach and his work with the Hilo (Benioff) Medical Center Foundation as a Board of Trustee since 2017 fostered lasting partnerships that continue to benefit the hospital. Rep. Nakashima's compassion and commitment have left a lasting impact on his beloved community. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends.

## NRHA Volunteer of the Year

Lisa Rantz. Executive Director of the Benioff Medical Hilo Center Foundation, is widely recognized for her dedication and leadership. Her tireless efforts not only contribute to the growth and success of the Foundation's services but also extend to her role as president of the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association. Due to her exceptional work in this capacity, Lisa was nominated and honored as the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) Volunteer of the Year.



Pictured: HBMC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Rantz

This prestigious award is given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment and selflessness, dedicating their time and energy to advancing the NRHA's mission of improving healthcare in rural areas. Lisa's recognition reflects her deep care and passion for ensuring everyone has access to high quality healthcare services close to home.

# Strokes Fore Strokes Golf Tournament

Three years ago, Andrew Iarussi experienced a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA), or "mini-stroke," while traveling across the country in his RV. After six months of rehabilitation, Iarussi joined a stroke support group, gaining valuable insights into the challenges others face. His journey deepened his gratitude for making a full recovery without lasting side effects.



Pictured: Andrew Iarussi

Strokes are a significant health issue in Hawai'i, with the state experiencing a higher rate of stroke-related deaths than the national average. Native Hawai'ians and Pacific Islanders are particularly vulnerable, highlighting the need for greater awareness and support.

To mark his 3-year stroke anniversary, larussi is organizing the "Strokes Fore Strokes" charity golf tournament at Volcano Golf Course on November 4, 2024. This event aims to celebrate recovery and raise funds for the Primary Stroke Center at Hilo Benioff Medical Center. By doing so, larussi hopes to help others on their journey to recovery and reduce the impact of strokes in Hawai'i.

Visit our website for more information about the Strokes-Fore-Strokes golf tournament or how to get involved at: www.hbmcfoundation.org/golf-tournament



Pictured: Sports Cardiology Program volunteers at work & Dr. TJ Sawyer

# AHEC Helps Provide Sports Physicals

The HBMC Foundation's Hawaii Island Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program is excited to collaborate with Hilo Benioff Medical Center Cardiology and the University of Hawaii-Hilo to ensure every student athlete has access to the care they need for safe sports participation.

Since 2020, HBMC Cardiology has provided comprehensive cardiac screening to University of Hawaii-Hilo athletes. Screening over 500 individuals and offering crucial preventative care. We're thrilled to support the extension of these services to high school athletes across Hawaii Island.

Through our Pre-Health Career Corp program, we're partnering with the university as well as the Kona MEDEX physician assistant program to involve health career pathway students in this initiative This collaboration enhances care quality and provides valuable hands-on experience for future healthcare professionals. The student volunteers learn how to set up and record EKGs, gain direct patient care experience, and receive valuable mentorship from a variety of healthcare providers from multiple fields including nursing, sports medicine, cardiology, physician assistants, and clinical staff support.

"I believe one of the best ways to promote health and longevity in our community is through lifelong physical activity and I am passionate about improving access to sports and physical activities for youth and athletes of all ages." -Thomas (TJ) Sawyer, MD

Our goal is to make sports physicals accessible to all dedicated and aspiring student athletes. By expanding these FREE services we aim to promote a healthier, more active community while prioritizing safety and well-being of our youth regardless of their ability to pay.

The Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation remains committed to supporting the health needs of our community and with your support the HBMC Foundation looks forward to continuing to provide FREE screening to high schools across our island.

# Retaining Physicians for Hawai'i Island

In addition to providing compassionate care to his patients at the East Hawaii Region Urgent Care, Dr. Jaime Parra, a graduate of the Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency program, dedicates time to support our Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program and the future generation of healthcare providers on Hawai'i Island. Dr. Parra volunteers his free time to mentor and guide AHEC Scholars and Hawai'i Island Pre-Health Career Corps (PHCC) Students, teaching them essential clinical skills like emergency wound care and suturing. His commitment to pre-med students and PHCC members is highly valued.

Pictured: Jaime Parra, MD working with PHCC Students.





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### Please join us in welcoming our new class of Family Medicine Residency Physicians!



Fernando Coura, MD



Joanna Highstein, MD



Michael Potter, DO



Kevin Rogers, DO



Kelsey Shea, DO



Kayla Thomas, DO

Every dollar counts and we are honored to receive your charitable contributions. There are tax advantages to donating to the Foundation since all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Use the secure check out QR code or go to: www.hbmcfoundation.org/ways-to-give

Make checks payable to:
Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation
1190 Waianuenue Ave
Hilo, HI 96720





#### Want to donate to the Aloha Cart?

The HBMC Foundation Grateful Patient program accepts donations of books, magazines and other comfort & care items in new/gently used condition.

Call 808-932-3636 or email hbmcfoundation@hhsc.org for more information.

# Save the Date!

22nd Annual
Wine, Cheese,
Chocolate & More!
Sunday, November 3, 2024
77 Laehala Street, Hilo, HI 96720
5:30pm - 8:30pm
for more information visit:
www.hbmcfoundation.org