



Hilo Benioff
Medical Center
Foundation

July 2024 - June 2025 Annual Report

Celebrating 30 Years of Serving East Hawaii



Our mission is to strengthen healthcare delivery and outcomes through investments in projects, programs, and services that benefit our diverse and resilient island community.

30 Years of Community Healthcare Support

Since 1995, the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation (HBMCF) has played a vital role in strengthening healthcare in East Hawaii. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to improve community health through volunteerism, education, and financial support.

A key focus has been addressing physician shortages by supporting the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program; providing housing, transportation, and training opportunities that have helped retain doctors in rural areas.

The Foundation has also invested in critical facility upgrades and services at Hilo Benioff Medical Center and throughout the East Hawaii Health network. Notable projects include:

- Emergency Department Renovations
- Two (2) Extended Care Transport Vans
- Modernized Hospital Rooms
- Health Career Workforce Training Programs
- “Be a Lifesaver Hawaii” CPR/AED Training
- Provide Housing and Car Use for Health Professions Students on Rural Rotations Across Hawaii Island

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. Mahalo for believing in our mission and helping us create a healthier future for all of East Hawaii. Your generosity continues to make a lasting difference, one patient, one project, and one partnership at a time.

To view the HBMCF Foundation 30th Anniversary Video, please visit hbmcfoundation.org/our-story



2011 - ECD Transport Van



2022 - Purchased Hilo Clinical Student Rotation House

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Jessica DeCamp



On Saturday, April 30, 2025 The HBMC Foundation, in partnership with the Medical Staff Services department of the Hilo Benioff Medical Center, was honored to recognize the steadfast commitment of East Hawaii physicians who have served our cherished community for thirty years or more.

45 Years

Richard Lee-Ching, MD

Alan De Silva, MD

44 Years

Craig Shikuma, MD

Daniel Belcher, MD

43 Years

Roy Koga, MD

42 Years

Sydney Tatsuno, MD

Donald Matsuura, MD

40 Years

John Wright, MD

Dennis Lee, MD MPH

Wanda Meurs, MD

Aaron Morita, MD FACP

39 Years

Michael Seu, MD

38 Years

Kevin Kurohara, MD

37 Years

Steven Garon, MD

36 Years

Timothy Jahraus, MD

Curtis Lee, MD

33 Years

Edward Gutteling, MD FFAO

32 Years

Frederick Nitta, MD

Randall Gerber, MD

Scott Grosskreutz, MD

31 Years

Laurie Hopman, MD

30 Years

Judith Fitzgerald, DO

Lovina Sabnani, DO

Peter Matsuura, MD



*Drs. Belcher, John Wright, Aaron Morita, Roy Koga
Seated: Sylvia Belcher*



Drs. Kevin Kurohara, Laurie Hopman, & Scott Grosskreutz



Drs. Timothy Jahraus, Peter Matsuura, & Craig Shikuma

Talking Story About Diabetes Care

Diabetes is a major public health concern on Hawaii Island, especially among Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and rural communities. In response, the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation launched Diabetes Care Community Gatherings in August 2024. These talk story sessions provided safe spaces for participants, from youth to kūpuna, to share their experiences managing diabetes.

Five gatherings were held across Hawaii Island: Puna, North and South Hilo, North and South Kona, Kaʻū, and North Hawaii. The goals were to identify barriers and promoters to care, engage local stakeholders, and inform policy and practice improvements.

Common themes emerged across regions: inconsistent access to medication and continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), provider shortages, transportation barriers, misinformation, stigma, and a lack of culturally relevant dietary guidance and peer support.



Kealahou Diabetes Care Gathering

In response, the Foundation is advancing efforts to improve diabetes care through program development and policy advocacy. Priorities include expanding diabetes education and peer support, increasing access to CGMs, enhancing telehealth services, and supporting culturally competent care.

To view the full report, please visit hbmcfoundation.org

20 Years of Donations

For the past 20 years, the Hilo Association for Family and Community Education (FCE) has generously donated children's books to the Obstetrics Unit at the Hilo Benioff Medical Center. This longstanding partnership continues to brighten the lives of parents and newborns, as these books are distributed to the families during their time at the hospital. By providing access to books, the FCE helps foster early childhood development and creates lasting memories for families in their first days together.



Hilo FCE; Martha Yamada, Carolyn Senake, Jill Yamamoto, Cindy Yoshimoto, Shirley Hoo with Lisa Rantz & Staff of HBMHC; Alisha Alip, Kendra Hayashi, Marisa Rosehill and Joni Hess

"We want to extend our deepest appreciation to the Hilo Association for Family and Community Education for the donated children's books. Books play such a fundamental role in building literacy skills and shaping young minds which help pave the way for a brighter future for the upcoming generations that will build our community."

-Mark & Farida Damaso
Picture to right with their newborn daughter.



Aloha Cart

HILO BENIOFF MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

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



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hiahec.org





Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation

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www.hbmcfoundation.org

(808) 932-3636 | hbmcfoundation@hhsc.org



Sunday, November 2, 2025

Hilo Yacht Club 5:00pm

Join us in welcoming our new East Hawaii community providers!



Welcome Residents! Class of 2028



Lauren
Fong, DO



Benjamin
Gozun, MD



Arie
Hakimi, DO



Thuy
Nguyen, MD



Kyle
Nugent, DO



Melody
Yang, DO



HAWAII ISLAND
Family Medicine Residency
Hilo Benioff  Medical Center

How to Support the East Hawaii Region

Every donation, no matter the size, helps us continue our important work. Your kindness does not just contribute to a fund; it fuels our mission and allows us to make an impactful difference in the East Hawaii community.

Your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law. We believe it's a wonderful way to do good while also benefiting at tax time.

Your support is truly invaluable, and we are so grateful to have you as part of our community. Together, we can achieve great things.

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

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

