

# About the Blood Bank of Hawaii

## Hawaii's Community Blood Center

The Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) is a non-profit organization that provides lifesaving blood products to 11 civilian hospitals on Oahu and eight civilian hospitals on the neighbor islands. Typical uses for the blood include surgical procedures, treatment of mothers and babies during delivery, treatment of accident and trauma victims and treatment of cancer, ulcers and anemia.



BBH employs about 100 qualified professionals, including a medical director, lab technicians and other staff who recruit donors, collect blood, prepare components and distribute blood products. On the cutting edge of technology, BBH participates in state-of-the-art research programs and adheres to the highest standards of safety and quality.

## Saving Lives For Over 60 Years

The Blood Bank of Hawaii has a rich history, meeting the needs of Hawaii's patients for decades.

The vision of establishing an organization that would provide a safe and reliable source of blood for Hawaii's medical needs became a reality in February 1941, when the Public Health Committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce made funds available. Originally called the Honolulu Blood Plasma Center, the facility operated on the grounds of the Queen's Medical Center.



With the outbreak of World War II, the Blood Bank served as a wartime agency under the Office of Civilian Defense, returning to its non-profit civilian status in 1943. The Honolulu Blood Plasma Center officially changed its name to the Blood Bank of Hawaii in 1946.

The Blood Bank coordinated its first and only fundraising campaign in 1979, raising \$1.6 million to build its main donor center on Dillingham Boulevard. Oscar and Rossetta Fish, ardent Blood Bank of Hawaii supporters, would later bequeath the land at the Dillingham site to the Blood Bank of Hawaii in 1994.