



Blood Bank of Hawaii
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Non-Profit
Organization
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Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 350

Dillingham Donor Center

Monday.....9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday.....9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.....6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday.....First Sunday of the month
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Donor Center

Monday-Friday.....6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

You can visit us on the Internet to make a donation appointment, find a blood drive near you, or learn more about the Blood Bank of Hawaii. Our web site is located at:

www.bbh.org

You can follow us on Twitter at:

twitter.com/hawaiibloodbank

BBH is One of ‘The Good Things in Life’

Why is platelet apheresis donor Lola Kahele smiling? Because she received the Blood Bank of Hawaii’s “The Good Things in Life” T-shirt after completing her fifth donation of the year. She excitedly put on the custom-designed T-shirt by local artist Grant Kagimoto of Cane Haul Road, Ltd., and good-naturedly posed for a photograph.

“The Good Things in Life” T-shirt campaign recognizes whole blood and platelet apheresis donors who give four times in 2010. After their fourth donation, donors receive a letter that can be redeemed for the shirt.

“I’m really happy to have this shirt,” she said as she posed in the Dillingham Donor Center. “Today is my 129th apheresis donation. It’s been a great 11 years and I’ll continue to donate as long as I can.”

Platelet apheresis donors started becoming eligible early in the year because they can give as frequently as every two weeks.

Whole blood donors, who can give every 8 weeks, will start becoming eligible in the second half of the year.



Lola Kahele wears “The Good Things in Life” T-shirt.



Circulate

News from your Community Blood Center

June 2010

Another Chance to Dance and Sing

Blood Transfusions Return Sparkle and Spring to Third Grader

Maddie Komatsu loves to dance and sing. She’s active and precocious, and lives life on a high note.

But four years ago, she lived a life of uncertainty. Maddie’s parents, Janelle and Scott Komatsu, learned that, at age five, their daughter had leukemia.

“Our world turned completely upside down that day,” said Janelle, who recalls taking Maddie to her pediatrician after a low-grade fever lingered for several days.

“Maddie’s blood test results proved devastating. I had never heard of anyone surviving leukemia, so when we were given her diagnosis, we were sure we were going to lose her.”

Maddie was immediately admitted to Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children, where she began a randomized chemotherapy treatment program. Chemo treatment required

frequent trips to the hospital over the next 26 months. Maddie received painful injections of chemotherapy drugs. And the medications made her feel sick and tired.

There was also the stigma of having to leave school to go to the hospital and becoming known as “the girl with cancer.”

“Maddie didn’t enjoy the process, but she rarely complained,” Janelle said. “She would just try to get through her chemotherapy protocol, one day at a time. Eventually, she came to accept her routine as something she just had to do to survive.”

An implanted port, surgically inserted under the skin surface of Maddie’s chest wall between the neck and shoulder area, enabled her to receive chemotherapy medications and at least several units of blood.

“The chemotherapy was killing the cancer, but it was also killing all the ‘good guys’ in her body too, including red blood cells that carry oxygen to the tissues and organs in the body,” Janelle added. “The blood donations were truly a gift of life. Some days, Maddie was like a wilted flower—very tired, pale and droopy. When she received a blood transfusion, she’d transform from a wilted rose to her perky self again!”

Recently, Maddie celebrated the first anniversary of her final chemotherapy treatment and catheter removal with a party that included family and close friends at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant.

“Maddie looked forward to saying goodbye to the implanted reminder of the hard-won battle she just fought,” Janelle said. “I tell her that she should never forget what she went through and the wonderful donors who helped her.”

The vibrant third grader keeps a busy schedule singing, dancing, swimming and actively participating in her Brownie troop. Indeed, after a long and arduous journey, the sparkle in Maddie’s eyes and the spring in her step, are back.



Janelle Komatsu and daughter Maddie are thankful for “the wonderful donors” who helped Maddie beat leukemia.



Mahalo and Aloha To Our Donors and Supporters

On behalf of the Blood Bank of Hawaii, I'd like to thank our donors and members of our island community for supporting the Blood Bank during the recent burglary of our Dillingham facility.

The confidentiality of donor information is a top priority. When this incident occurred, we took immediate steps to increase the security of our facility and data. We also notified all affected donors by mail and responded to hundreds of phone calls and e-mails.

We truly appreciate your empathy and understanding, as well as your continued display of loyalty and compassion.

Your unwavering support enables us to continue our important mission of providing a safe and adequate blood supply for Hawaii's patients.

Robyn

Robyn Yim, M.D.
President and Medical Director

Cool Treat Awaits Our Summer Holiday Donors

Here's a great way to keep cool this summer. Donate blood on a holiday and receive a coupon for a free pint of ice cream.



Special "Pint for Pint" coupons, which can be redeemed at participating Baskin-Robbins stores, will be given to donors who give a pint of blood or a unit of platelets on:

- **Memorial Day, May 31**
- **Kamehameha Day, June 11**
- **Independence Day, July 4**
- **Independence Day (observed), July 5**
- **Statehood Day, August 20**
- **Labor Day, September 6**

It's easy to make an appointment by visiting or calling:

- **Web site:** www.bbh.org
- **Oahu:** 848-4721
- **Neighbor Islands:** 1-800-372-9966 ext. 721

Pathology Resident Receives Intensive Two-Week Training

More than a manufacturer of life-saving blood products, the Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) provides important training opportunities for medical residents and technologists.

Dr. Lei Zhang, a native of China, is the latest medical resident to spend two intensive weeks at our Dillingham Donor Center.

BBH Associate Medical Director Randal Covin, M.D., trained the second-year pathology resident as she received in-depth exposure to the collection and processing of blood products by BBH's nursing and laboratory staff.

Dr. Zhang earned her medical degree at the West China University of Medical Sciences, Chengdu, China.

Residency is a post-graduate training program after attaining a medical degree. For pathology residents, blood banking is one of a number of available specialties.

Dr. Zhang said she aspires to be an academic pathologist working in a university-based teaching hospital.



Dr. Lei Zhang (left), a second-year pathology resident, works with BBH Medical Technologist Donna Holmes in the Dillingham Donor Center's Reference Laboratory.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER: Be A Holiday Hero

The Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) needs Holiday Heroes! The need for blood takes no holiday, so we need groups to meet the challenge and become a Holiday Hero by sponsoring a blood drive on a holiday or during a holiday period.



UH Mortar Board members recruit on the Manoa campus for their Presidents' Day blood drive.

Photo courtesy of Ngoc Anh Dao

BBH would like to extend a warm Mahalo to the following Holiday Heroes:

- **WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL:** Prince Kuhio Day and the day after Thanksgiving
- **LATTER DAY SAINTS KANEOHE HAWAII STAKE:** Independence Day
- **HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION:** Discoverers' Day
- **GOD'S COUNTRY WAIMANALO:** Sunday before Christmas
- **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, HUI PO'OKELA CHAPTER:** Presidents' Day
- **OHANA EAST:** Prince Kuhio Day

Your organization can join these groups and become a Holiday Hero by calling Suzanne Kariya-Ramos, Associate Director of Donor Services, (808) 848-4757.

Inaugural Honor Cord Program Salutes Student Donors



These Radford High School seniors proudly wear their red honor cord, which recognizes their outstanding support for the Blood Bank of Hawaii. The students are:

Front row: Tama Fiaseu (kneeling left), Deana Espaniola (standing) and Nathaniel Woods (kneeling right).

Back row (left to right): William Rubonal, Dalton Chambers, Jordan McCready, Warren Carter, Marcus Standafer, Mariah Curlee, Joseph Velasco and Melissa Lowe.

This May, more than 230 high school seniors received a special "lei" upon graduation—a red honor cord.

"The Blood Bank of Hawaii is pleased to recognize these students through our new Honor Cord Program," said Director of Donor Services Aaron Knapp.

"This 'cord of honor' reflects their significant impact on Hawaii's community through their lifesaving blood donations or support of their school's blood drives."

Honor Cord Program schools host three or more blood drives per year. To earn the honor, students must donate blood three or more times during their senior year; or, if unable to donate blood, they must actively participate in recruitment with their blood drive committee.

Mahalo to Participating High Schools

Aiea High School
Farrington High School
Kahuku High School
Kailua High School
Kaimuki High School
Kamehameha Schools
– Kapalama campus
Kapaa High School

Kapolei High School
Leilehua High School
Nanakuli High School
Pearl City High School
Radford High School
St. Louis School
Waialua High School
Waianae High School