



Blood Bank of Hawaii

Give Blood. It's Safe. It's Simple. It Saves Lives.

2043 Dillingham Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96819-4024
Phone: (808) 845-9966
Neighbor Islands: (800) 372-9966

Dillingham Donor Center

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday	6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday	Apheresis by appointment 7:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Downtown Donor Center

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

MR. XXXXX XXXXX
XXXXXXXX XXXX
XXXXXX, XX XXXXX

Non-Profit
Organization
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PAID
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 350

BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII THROUGH THE YEARS

◆ **Blood Bank of Hawaii** was the second permanent community blood bank in the United States and the first one activated in World War II.

◆ **First blood drawn** at Blood Bank of Hawaii was on June 25, 1941.

◆ **Prior to the war**, there was a maximum of eight donors a day, four days a week. During the war, volunteers bled 50 donors per hour, 10 hours a day, seven days a week.

◆ **In 1972**, the demand for blood increased to 3,000 pints per month. Today, BBH collects 5,000 pints per month.

Did You Know?

◆ What started in 1978

as a handful of companies coordinating blood drives has evolved into over 600 Lifesaver Clubs bringing in 50% of the state's blood supply.

◆ **Living in a transient state**, we need an average of 7,000 new donors each year to meet the needs of Hawaii's patients.



Circulate



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VOL.1 HAWAII, JANUARY, 2011 BBH SERVING HAWAII'S PATIENTS SINCE 1941

CELEBRATING

70 YEARS

BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII



A seaman apprentice from the Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet, donates blood during the Armed Forces Blood Donor Program in the 1950s.

Much can happen in 70 years. When Honolulu Blood-Plasma Bank opened its doors on the grounds of The Queen's Hospital in 1941, the color television was making its debut, flying to the moon was a dream and computers weren't even on the radar.

Like the world at large, Honolulu Blood-Plasma Bank would see many changes; some would take years to accomplish, others just days or months.

The "Day of Infamy" — December 7, 1941 — catapulted the young, fledgling organization into a wartime agency under the Office of Civilian Defense literally overnight. The average number of blood donations jumped from 32 per week to 50 per hour.

Eager donors, most of whom were servicemen asked, "When can I come again?" Mobile drives were limited to military bases, where Navy men and entire platoons of Army and Air Force

enlistees lined up to donate. For many of these World War II veterans and their immediate families, donating blood as a "sense of duty" evolved into a lifelong commitment to saving lives. Although these servicemen no longer comprise America's largest group of blood donors, their loyalty and dedication are etched in history.

Two years passed before Honolulu Blood-Plasma Bank returned to its not-for-profit status and became chartered as Honolulu Peacetime Blood-Plasma Bank. In 1945, its name was amended to Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH).

Over the next several decades, the advancement of medicine and blood banking as a science called for an increasing dependence on the availability of blood and blood products. With that came an emphasis on blood compatibility testing, and improvements in blood collection and blood components preparation. From the mid-seventies through the end of the century, questions of transfusion safety took precedence, resulting in a significant growth in blood testing.

As interisland airline routes became available, Hawaii grew more interdependent. BBH expanded to meet the state's growing blood needs, holding mobile drives in Hilo and Maui twice a year; Kona, Kauai and Molokai once a year; and Lanai during harvesting season.

Oahu also experienced significant growth, as medical advances and increasingly sophisticated surgical procedures and treatments required more blood and resources. In 1980, BBH staff moved into a new donor center at the current Dillingham Boulevard location.

Two bloodmobiles — a 34-foot bus donated by the Maurice Sullivan family and Foodland Super Market in 1993,

and a 45-foot bloodmobile made possible by several local organizations in 2006 — provided donors with more convenient access to collection sites within companies, churches and community centers on Oahu. The idea of group giving inspired Lifesaver Clubs to set up more mobiles in the work place, and host group donations at donor centers.

Indeed, much can happen in 70 years. But much can also remain the same, such as BBH's adherence to the highest standards of regulatory measures and commitment to providing Hawaii's 19 civilian hospitals and patients with a safe and stable blood supply. This year, BBH will collect roughly 60,000 pints of blood, resulting in over 110,000 blood components.

With the continued support and extraordinary efforts of thousands of people — from donors, staff and Lifesaver Club



Nurses in laboratory (circa 1950s).

members to hundreds of dedicated employees and volunteers — BBH will continue to ensure that today's work will result in a happier and healthier tomorrow, for the next 70 years and beyond.

1941 1951 1961 1971 1981 1991 2001 2011

THEN & NOW

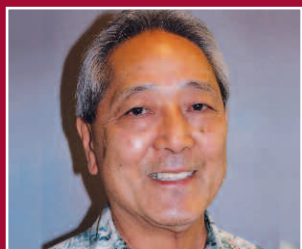


Loretta Henion
BBH employee, 59 years

What's the most significant change you've seen over the years?

"Well, we used to give a six-ounce jar of Primo Beer to donors after donating! We sharpened needles by hand. That was way before there were disposable ones. There were no automatic shakers for the blood. Boy Scouts came in as volunteers to hand shake the blood."

What's stayed the same? The donors. Our donors have always been generous, thoughtful and loyal. We get to know each other. We become like family."



Nelson Nakagawa
First Hawaiian Bank
blood drive coordinator
and 200+ pint donor

What's the most significant change you've seen over the years?

My first blood donation was on the grounds of The Queen's Hospital. We went through the donor history like we do now, but not a five-minute interrogation. We had to balance ourselves on hard cots instead, relaxing on soft comfy lounge chairs. We didn't have televisions to keep us occupied. Instead, we stared

at the scenic pictures on the ceiling. They were changed every two to three years!"

What's stayed the same? "What I remember most vividly is how the staff always had the knack for making donors feel good. They made me feel appreciated and like I was doing something of value. That has never changed."



Millie Chang, R.N.
Retired from 40 years
of service at Tripler
Army Hospital,
BBH volunteer for 23 years

What's the most significant change you've seen over the years?

"When I first started volunteering at BBH, I used to do lots of filing and paperwork, folding, sealing and sending out letters. And there was no copy machine! But now that there are so many technological advances, I get to spend more time with people. Doing outreach in the community, attending health fairs, and visiting schools. That's so much more fun than licking envelopes."

What's stayed the same? "The one thing that hasn't changed is the feeling of family, ohana. BBH is a tight-knit group. For both employees and donors. I still keep in touch with people I worked with from the '70s."

BANKING ON A SAFER TOMORROW

As blood banks and new blood transfusion therapies emerged in the 1940s, countless lives were saved. During that period, however, Dr. Paul Beeson's classic medical case study about transfusion-transmitted hepatitis unveiled unsettling news: with increased transfusions came increased transmission of disease.

The study results ushered in a new era of research and testing to the blood banking world. Nationally, significant scientific breakthroughs were made, including the discovery of Rh blood group system that made possible the screening of blood for type and Rh factor to provide safe transfusions and care of pregnant women and their unborn children. Another was the use of antihuman globulin —the "Coombs Test"— to identify compatibility between the blood donor and the recipient.

In the 1950s, new tests for syphilis and viral hepatitis gave another boost to blood safety and the introduction of the plastic bags replaced breakable glass bottles, allowing safer and easier preparation of multiple blood components from a single unit of whole blood.

Two decades later, an anticoagulant preservative increased blood shelf life which helped decrease wastage from expiration and facilitated resource sharing among blood banks.

However, it was the outbreak of AIDS that would change the face of blood transfusion and testing forever. "The AIDS outbreak galvanized public attention to blood transfusion and concern for blood safety," said BBH Associate Medical Director Dr. Randal Covin. "The first blood screening test to detect the presence of HIV became available in 1985, followed by more stringent donor selection practices such as the donor history questionnaire and volunteer [vs. paid] donations."

Over the next 20 years, U.S Public Health Service would require numerous tests, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus (HTLV), West Nile Virus, Chagas and others.

"Blood is safer today than ever because blood testing techniques and technology have evolved," said BBH Technical Director Kevin Moore. "BBH's laboratory staff is responsible for ensuring that each unit of donated blood is screened, utilizing up to 14 individual tests to determine its safety, purity and potency. It's truly lifesaving work."



A technician performs tests in the laboratory (circa 1950s).



MAKING LIFESAVING A HABIT

Thalassemia is not a well-known blood disorder, but for children in Hawaii who suffer from it, their survival and quality of life depend on special blood donors like Henry Tanoue and his daughter, Leslie.

The Tanoues' O-positive blood has antigens, or surface markers on their red blood cells, that match those patients with thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder in which the body makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in excessive destruction of red blood cells and anemia.

Leslie and Henry are among the Blood Bank of Hawaii's small pool of donors whose special blood is vital to the health of thalassemia patients. Unmatched antigens will cause a patient's immune system to make antibodies that can attack and destroy transfused red blood cells. Children suffering from thalassemia need a transfusion every two to four weeks, requiring up to three pints of blood each time.

According to National Institutes of Health, thalassemia can lead to severe anemia, bone deformities in the face, fatigue, growth failure, shortness of breath, and jaundice. Severe thalassemia can cause early death due to heart failure, usually between ages 20 and 30.

The Tanoues have been regular donors for years at Blood Bank of Hawaii.

"I am very happy that I am able to share my blood with those who need it to survive," said Henry, a



Henry and Leslie Tanoue donating at one of their regular visits to the Dillingham Donor Center.

74-pint donor who started donating in the 1970s after being inspired by his brother Wesley, a 91-pint donor. "It doesn't require much time and the thought that I may help someone is very rewarding."

Henry's daughter, Leslie, has continued the Tanoue family tradition of saving lives, first having donated blood as a student at Iolani School. Now in her thirties, Leslie is still in step with her dad, having recently donated her 72nd pint.

Leslie remembers the time when she and her dad saw a special sticker placed on their blood bags.

"That's when I learned that our blood is rare," she recalled. "It really stressed the importance of regular donations. Knowing that my dad's and my blood are important to children with thalassemia is motivation for me to donate. **You can bet that whenever I am eligible to donate, I'll be there!**"

BBH AT A GLANCE



Photo by: Darryl Yamane

Hawaii's Top Donors Recognized at Annual Luncheon

In celebration of Donor Recognition Month and BBH's 70th anniversary, BBH hosted five events throughout January to convey its heartfelt appreciation to hundreds of Super Donors, Century Donors and Lifesaver Club Coordinators on Oahu, Maui, Kona, Hilo and Kauai. Here, beloved island entertainer Henry Kaponu got up close and personal with donors and coordinators at the Oahu Donor Recognition Breakfast, held at The Royal Hawaiian on January 7.

New Four-Time Donor T-shirt Soon to be Unveiled!

Back by popular demand, the Four-Time Donor t-shirt campaign will continue in 2011! Whole blood and platelet apheresis donors who donate four times in 2011 will receive a commemorative, custom-designed t-shirt by locally renowned graphic artist Grant Kagimoto of Cane Haul Road, Inc.

Add to, or start your collection by calling for an appointment at:

845-9966 on Oahu or

1-800-372-9966 from the Neighbor Islands

