

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**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

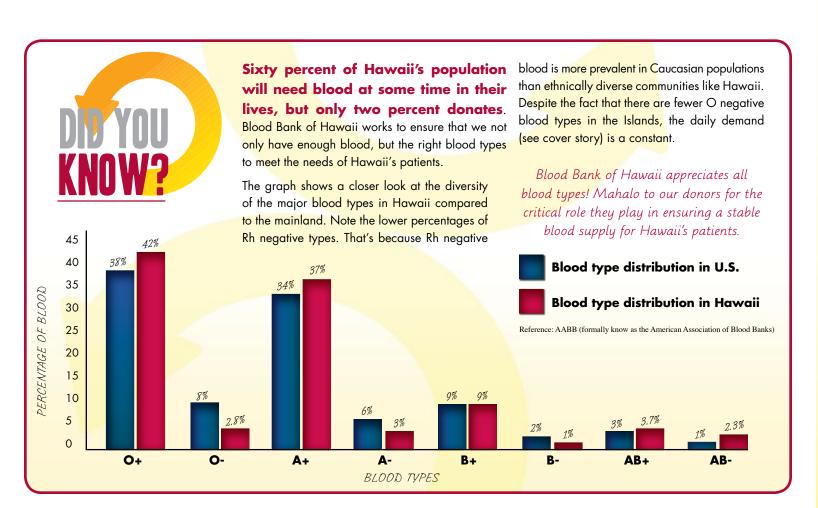
Apheresis only

Apheresis by appointment daily.

#### **Downtown Donor Center**

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

www.BBH.org





News From Your Community Blood Center • October 2011 • VOL.2



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Honolulu, HI

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# Blood Bank of Hawaii

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Did You Know?

## Filling the Calabash

# Hawaii's melting pot needs all blood types.

The vast majority of Hawaii's "mixed plate" population falls into one of the major ABO blood groups. A smaller percentage has blood types that are unique to specific ethnic groups. Common or rare, every blood type is special and a self-generating, lifesaving resource that can be given to others.

#### Why are Blood Types Important?

Blood types become very important when a blood transfusion is necessary. Whether Type O, A, B, or AB, patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment, surgery, emergency and trauma and general medical procedures are best served when they receive their own blood type. Incompatibility can lead to destruction of the transfused cells and serious health consequences.

However, in life-threatening emergencies when a transfusion is necessary before blood typing can be performed, certain blood types are used because they can be given to anyone regardless of their blood type. In these situations, Type O red blood cells and Type AB plasma may be transfused.

People with Rh negative blood are part of a unique group because their red cells lack the Rh, or D, antigen. Not only is Rh negative blood transfused to individuals who are Rh negative, but like Type O blood, it is also used in urgent circumstances if blood is needed before the Rh type of an individual can be determined. This makes O negative blood important in emergency situations. With just 2.8% percent of Hawaii's population being O negative, compared to eight percent on the mainland, an adequate supply O negative blood is always needed.

## Jk3 Negative Blood

Not everyone has a common blood type. Jk3 negative blood is found more in Polynesians, East Asians and Southeast Asians than in any other

ethnic group in the world. Hawaii's diverse racial population includes about 10,000 who carry this rare blood type, but only 110 have been identified by Blood Bank of Hawaii, of these; 18 actively donate. Finding a match for Jk3 negative patients can be a challenge. These people must rely on donors who have the same blood type.

#### Every Blood Type Counts

The rarest blood, however, is one that is not available when someone needs it. That's why it's so important that Blood Bank of Hawaii have available donors who represent all blood types. No matter what your type, commit to a regular donation schedule. Invite

friends, family and co-workers to be lifesavers too. As little as one hour can make a lifetime of difference!



## How Can You Help?

#### If you are a Type O blood donor:

- Give blood as often as you can.
- Encourage your siblings to donate.
- Ask your children to donate. Offspring of O negative donors have a 25-50 percent chance of having an O negative blood type too.

#### If you have Type AB blood:

Ask about plasma donations.

#### If you have Jk3 negative blood:

 Encourage friends and family with Polynesian ethnic backgrounds who have never donated to give the gift of life. When blood is matched properly, patients are at lower risk of developing complications from a transfusion.

#### No matter what your type:

- Invite friends, family and co-workers to be lifesavers.
- Commit to a regular donation schedule.
- Be a "blood donor ambassador"!



# Making Spirits Bright for Holiday Donors

During the season of gratitude and giving, you can help meet the needs of Hawaii's patients by giving the ultimate gift of life. Donate from December 23, 2011 through January 2, 2012 and we'll sweeten your holidays with a coupon for a complimentary gift from The Cookie Corner!

#### **Just One More Time**

All whole blood and platelet apheresis donors who've given three times during this calendar year need only give once more to receive a commemorative, custom-designed "Celebrate!" t-shirt designed by Cane Haul Road. Call 845-9966 (Oahu) or 1-800-372-9966 (Neighbor Island) to schedule your appointment.



#### **Coming Up Red**

A characteristic accent of red paint on the front of the new Young Street Donor Center brings the original rendering to life and the building one step closer to completion.

Visit us on the Internet to make a donation appointment, find a blood drive near you, or learn about Blood Bank of Hawaii at www.BBH.org or follow us on twitter at: twitter.com/hawaiibloodbank

## 100% ID Check

Blood Bank of Hawaii donors become like family to our staff. As we transition to 100% ID checks, please understand that although we may know you by face and name, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that we check each and every time to ensure the highest level of safety for our blood supply.

As of November 1, 2011, all donors will need a photo ID card readily available when registering. We appreciate your support and cooperation when our staff requests this.

# The following IDs are acceptable if current and have donor's legal name, date of birth and photo:

PASSPORT

✓ Hawaii or out-of-state driver's license

√ Driver's permit

√ Hawaii State ID

✓ Military ID

Passport

✓ Government-issued ID

Alien Registration Card

√ Foreign ID

✓ School-issued ID

# **High School Heroes Rule**

Learning about the importance of blood and hosting a successful blood drive was never more fun than at Blood Bank of Hawaii's High School Workshop, held September 15 at Honolulu Country Club. Faculty and students from 28 public and private high schools participated in skits and created posters that touted interesting facts about blood donation. Poster headlines included thoughtful and compelling messages such as "If not you then who? Put yourself in their shoes. One pint saves 3 lives. Show your power...!t's only an hour." With





# ONE Inspirational Coordinator

Atlas Insurance's Tina Leger blends a company campaign with donor recruitment.

In 2007, Tina Leger did something she might not have done were regular blood drives not held at her workplace. She gave blood.

"Once I donated for the first time and realized the fear of being stuck by a needle was a thousand times less painful than the pain and fear my dad experienced during his chemotherapy treatments, I became a blood donor for life — no more excuses!" said Atlas Insurance Agency's bubbly employee benefits analyst.

Tina's father was diagnosed in 2001 with a rare, incurable form of cancer that affects his bone marrow and immune system. After years of trying alternative methods of healing, his treatment options narrowed to regular blood transfusions, which he receives every three months.

"Prior to receiving transfusions, my dad is pale, weak and listless—sometimes so much that he fears his time has come," says Leger. "Immediately after his transfusion, he has color in his face, he has a sense of humor and most importantly, he has the will to keep going for another few months."

Having seen first-hand the importance of blood transfusions, Leger decided to take action. She signed up as the official Atlas blood drive recruiter and later adapted the company's "ONE Atlas" campaign to her drive recruitment efforts. The past two years has seen participation grow from an average of five to at least 16 donors at the 1132 Bishop Street drives.



#### The secret to her success?

"I get 'in their faces!'" says Leger with characteristic enthusiasm. "I ask each new employee to donate and try to assuage any fears they might have. I encourage current donors to bring friends who have never donated and use opportunities such as Toastmasters and benefits Open Enrollment meetings to spread the word about donating blood. I recently received approval from our president to allow non-exempt employees to donate on company time, to help in their decision to donate."

Leger is also working on building a "spirit of friendly competition" between the employees of Atlas Insurance's family of companies.

"I want our employees to take our 'ONE Atlas' theme to heart and make this the year they will say, 'I took one hour of my day, donated one pint of blood and saved three lives.' My hope is that their one donation won't be their last."

donating blood, I think about the people who need blood—people in accidents, moms and babies, cancer and surgery patients. I don't think about my situation, but rather about how giving helps everyone, and how each donor, whatever blood

type, can give someone another chance at life."

- Donor Teddy Bolocano (Jk3 negative)





With new technological and medical advances, the need for blood is more important than ever. During the first six months of 2011, City and County of Honolulu Lifesaver Club recruited 40

first-time donors,



surpassing their total number for 2010.
City and County hosts six annual blood drives, which incorporate participation from over 10 departments, including the Office of the Mayor's cheerful staff.