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Blood Bank of Hawaii to Provide New Collection Service for Hawaii's patients

Honolulu -- Blood Bank of Hawaii has stepped into the world of cellular therapies and transfusion medicine in October when it begins a cell collection service for Hawaii's prescribing physicians.

Blood Bank of Hawaii is serving as a cell collection site to gather immune cells from a patient through a process called leukapheresis. Leukapheresis is a laboratory procedure in which white blood cells are separated from a sample of blood. These cells may then be used to provide individual cellular therapy for a variety of diseases. Prior to this, Hawaii's patients travelled to the mainland for this procedure.

"We are pleased to make this service available to physicians and patients in the state," said Blood Bank of Hawaii Associate Medical Director Dr. Randal Covin. "As fields of regenerative medicine and cellular therapeutics evolve, our vision is to explore and offer new services to meet community needs."

Blood Bank of Hawaii's Young Street Donor Center will initially serve as the leukapheresis collection site until renovations for a new collection area at its Dillingham Donor Center location are complete. The collection area is expected to open by the end of the year.

About Blood Bank of Hawaii

Founded in 1941, Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) is a non-profit organization committed to providing a safe and adequate supply of blood, blood products and related transfusion services to Hawaii's patients. BBH is licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, accredited by AABB, and a member of America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs. For more information, visit www.BBH.org.

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