



## **Blood Bank of Hawaii**

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

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **A LIFE FUELED BY A DESIRE TO INSPIRE**

*Brandt Izumo counts his blessings this Thanksgiving*

Honolulu – Brandt Izumo was 10 years old when he heard he had “corn” disease. He remembers clutching a teddy bear he received from a caring emergency medical technician as the ambulance took him at dizzying speed to the nearest hospital. He later learned his condition had nothing to do with corn, but was caused by Crohn’s Disease, a bowel disorder that causes inflammation of the lining in the digestive system. He received nine units of blood to survive the life-threatening condition. Now in his early 20s, Brandt’s only health issue is a pathological desire to inspire others to save lives—and thank people for saving his.

**In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Brandt Izumo will be available to share his story at Blood Bank of Hawaii’s (BBH) Young Street Donor Center on Wednesday, November 21 at 10 a.m.**

Brandt has shared his gratitude to 400 of Oahu’s top donors at BBH’s annual donor recognition breakfast and, more recently, the next generation of potential donors at BBH’s annual High School Workshop. He has graced BBH posters, as a youngster recovering from Crohn’s Disease and as a grateful adult. When he spots an armband on someone who just gave blood, his contagious smile and heartfelt thanks makes that donor feel like a saint.

When asked what motivates him, he insists there is no great narrative to his giving back. “It’s simple,” he says. “There are results in the goodness we cause, in the good acts we do.”

Now *that’s* inspiring.

### **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](http://www.BBH.org).

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