

Celebrating our nurses and health care providers

SA



NURSES WEEK 2023





Happy Nurses Week to our health care HEROES.

Our nurses are valued team members dedicated to helping patients and families live their healthiest lives. Their compassion and commitment to our community remind us that, by working together, we can create a healthier Hawai'i.

HawaiiPacificHealth.org

**HAWAII
PACIFIC
HEALTH**

KAPĪOLANI
PALI MOMI
STRAUB
WILCOX

CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAII



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM
GOVERNOR JOSH GREEN, M.D.
IN RECOGNITION OF ALL THE NURSES SERVING HAWAII



Nurses are the cornerstone of patient care in our state of Hawaii and I am honored to recognize them for their work. Of the four million nurses in the United States, more than 1,600 licensed practical nurses, 16,000 registered nurse and 1,200 advanced practice registered nurses reside in Hawaii.

Nurses work in all health care settings to support the delivery of primary, specialty and emergency care to the people of our state. They are the leaders in improving health care for all individuals by recognizing and addressing social determinants of health, reducing barriers to health care access and establishing a culture of safety and health for all. Nurses provide quality and compassionate health care to the most vulnerable in our society including children, elderly and persons who are houseless, disabled, gender nonconforming or struggling with addiction.

Our need for nurses has increased because of a shortage provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the aging of the population, the development of life-prolonging scientific innovations and the desire for people to receive care in their own homes. Nurses are a source of compassion, hope, understanding and healing for their patients and their families.

On behalf of the people of Hawaii, I ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in honoring nurses for their dedication, professionalism, inspiration, compassion, courage and resilience as they continue to take care of the medical and emotional need of our keiki, kupuna, ohana and communities.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green".

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

What is Nurses Week?

BY KYLE GALDEIRA

Florence Nightingale is known as the founder of professional nursing and became an industry pioneer after her work during the Crimean War from 1853 to 1856. Nightingale's habit of making rounds at night led to her being known as "The Lady with the Lamp," and, appropriately, National Nurses Week shines a light on the current crop of dedicated nurses.

National Nurses Week is May 6-12 each year — May 6 being Nightingale's birthday. The nursing profession has been supported and promoted by American Nurses Association since 1896. Each of ANA's state and territorial nurses' associations promotes the nursing profession at the state and regional levels, and conducts celebrations to recognize the contributions that nurses make to the community.

"As the largest group of health care professionals in the U.S. and the most trusted profession, nurses are with patients 24/7 and from the beginning of life to the end. Nurses practice in all health care settings and are filling new roles to meet the ever-growing demand for health and health care services," states ANA president Ernest Grant, Ph.D., RN, FAAN. "Despite the major role nurses play in health care delivery and community outreach, there are opportunities to increase understanding of the value of nursing in order to expand investment in education, practice and research, as well as increase the numbers of nurses who serve in leadership positions."



A CENTURY OF INNOVATIVE CARE

Straub Medical Center has been setting the standard for medical care in Hawaii since 1921. That is when renowned physician Dr. George Straub opened “The Clinic” with a vision to provide top-quality, patient-centered and specialized care for the whole family under one roof.

The world and the world of health care has changed greatly in the past 102 years. Today, patients can go home a day after receiving lifesaving heart procedures at Straub’s Heart Center. Straub’s Burn Unit marked 40 years of treating life-threatening burns. In every department, Straub’s nurses are at the forefront of new technologies and procedures that help them provide the best patient care.

“Our nurses are avid learners who continuously work to enhance their skills to support our care teams and patients,” says Andrew Moats, vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. “I am always amazed and appreciative of how they rise to every challenge, while still





serving as the compassionate hearts of this ever changing medical landscape.”

David Yano joined Straub immediately after college. As one of the first students in Straub’s New Graduate RN Program, he became part of the first Resource Team. Now, 13 years later, he still relishes being a resource nurse, which means he floats to support any unit that needs additional assistance. He may work with cardiac patients one week, then move to care for the various needs of patients in the Emergency Department the next.

“At Straub, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to be taught by the best nurses,” Yano says. “Consistently learning encourages me to work harder to be the best that I can be for any floor that needs me.”

And he is passing that inspiration on. As one of 70% of Straub’s nurses who have been there for five years or more, Yano is turning his experience into education.

“I am teaching students right now at UH. I tell them one of the most fulfilling things is to see patients get better, and to know that you’re making a big impact on their lives.”



DAVID YANO

*Straub Medical Center
Nurse for 13 years*

► What is your favorite thing about your profession?

The camaraderie and teamwork I have with my co-workers at Straub. All of us strive to provide the best care for our patients, no matter what our roles may be. That brings us all closer in a way that only people in the medical profession can understand.

CARING AND GUIDING PATIENTS OF ALL AGES

Queen Kapiolani established the Kapiolani Maternity Home in 1890 to ensure the women and children of Hawaii had access to quality health care. More than 130 years later, her vision still inspires and motivates the nurses at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children every day.

“We are all so proud of our nurses here at Kapiolani,” says Joan Kanemori, vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. “Nearly 80% of our nurses have been with Kapiolani for more than five years. Their specialized training and commitment to Hawaii’s women and children brings lifechanging care to families.”

In a state separated by water, a child’s life may depend on finding a flight. As the only full-service specialty children’s hospital in the state, Kapiolani depends on its Neonatal Pediatric Critical Care Transport Team to bring keiki to Kapiolani who need help from every island, and to and from the mainland, when necessary. Nurse Tim McClaren has been a part of this Transport Team for more than 20 years.



“The No. 1 priority is making sure the patient gets to the medical center safely,” McClaren said. “But we’re also taking care of their family.

We talk with them, update and reassure them, and let them know we will do whatever needs to be done to take care of their child.”

The Critical Care Transport Team helps about 600 babies and children every year. Traveling can be very stressful for medically fragile kids. Conditions can change in an instant. The specially trained nurses and respiratory therapists ensure lifesaving care continues while on the road or in the air.

“Kapiolani’s doctors trust our eyes, our experience and judgment,” McClaren says. “My team at Kapiolani is very strong. No one ever says no, we all support each other, we all have each others’ backs.”

That sense of trust and support permeates throughout Kapiolani, where everyone from nurses to physicians, psychologists to Child Life specialists and dieticians share the same focus that drove Queen Kapiolani more than a century ago — to provide the best care of Hawaii’s women and kids.

“I’ve worked in big university settings, but Kapiolani is a close-knit community. I don’t want to be anywhere else,” McClaren says.



TIM MCCLAREN

*Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, Critical Care Transport Team
Nurse for almost 35 years*

► **What is your favorite thing about your profession?**

I tell everyone that this is the best nursing job in the state of Hawaii. The Critical Care Transport Team receives training above and beyond our regular nursing courses and consistently work with doctors, specialists and other nurses.

CARING IN THE COMMUNITY

Pali Momi Medical Center began as the vision of a young physician, Dr. Joseph "Joe" Nishimoto, who opened his practice in Pearl City in 1957, and had plans for a state-of-the-art hospital where people could seek the care they needed close to home. Since Pali Momi opened its doors in 1989, nurses have been an integral part of the patient experience.

"Our nurses do more than take care of the community, they are rooted in our neighborhoods and dedicated to its people," says Robyn Kalahiki, Pali Momi's vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive.

That care extends beyond Pali Momi's walls. Bernadette Lopes-Chang grew up in Waianae and joined Pali Momi immediately after graduating from University of Hawaii at Hilo. For 14 years, she worked bedside, helping patients through everything from surgery to cardiac conditions.

Five years ago, her focus shifted to patients' needs after they leave the medical center. As a case manager, Lopes-Chang facilitates a smooth transition home by helping patients connect to services, medication and care through community programs. She meets with patients and their families daily to assess any changes, and also works closely with their nurses, dietitians, physical therapists and doctors.

"Every day is a new experience, every patient has a different journey," Lopes-Chang says. "Case managers and social workers are always collaborating, brainstorming and bouncing ideas off of each other. We often have to think outside the



box to come up with not just Plan 'A,' but often Plan 'B' and 'C' for each person."

When there are challenges, she turns to her team. About 76% of the registered nurses have been at Pali Momi for at least five years. More than half — including Lopes-Chang — have called Pali Momi home for more than 10 years. As Pali Momi adds additional services, including a new Pulmonology Clinic, Lopes-Chang says the medical facility continues Dr. Nishimoto's work of delivering world-class care for the people of Central and West Oahu.

"We're a close-knit team," she says. "Doctors are always willing to explain and teach others. We trust each other."

"Pali Momi has made me the nurse I am today. My co-workers are not just co-workers, they are my family."



BERNADETTE LOPES-CHANG

*Pali Momi Medical Center Case Manager
Nurse for 19 years*

What is your favorite thing about your profession?

We see patients through some of their worst times. Being there to hear their needs, to be their voice when they're not feeling their best and getting them home safely is so fulfilling.

A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY OF CARE

In 1938, George Norton Wilcox and Dora Isenberg created a hospital for plantation workers. Today, Wilcox Medical Center is a state-of-the-art facility, offering the latest medical technology to families across Kauai. Wilcox and Kauai Medical Clinic comprise Wilcox Health. Its many locations share a single goal — excellent care for the community.

“Our nurses represent our community,” says Darla Sabry, chief nurse executive and vice president of patient services. “They are dedicated, innovative and resilient in finding ways to provide exceptional care for patients and each other every day.”

Eurielle Carrillo is one of those homegrown nurses. The Kapaa High School graduate earned her nursing degree from University of Hawaii at Manoa and first worked as a clinical assistant in the Emergency Department (ED) at Straub Medical Center.

“Right after high school, I experienced a traumatic passing of a friend, and I couldn’t help,” Carrillo says. “I chose emergency medicine so I



could act quickly to treat others when they need it most.”

Straub’s ED manager helped her get into the ED Nursing Academy for specialty training. That led her back home, to Kauai’s only Level III Trauma Center — Wilcox Medical Center.

Wilcox averages 25,000 emergency visits every year, ranging from car accidents and falls to strokes. The recently renovated ED features two larger trauma resuscitation suites, specialized care rooms and negative pressure rooms to isolate infectious disease cases. But the core of it all are the nurses, doctors, technicians and clinical assistants who give their best for the people of Kauai.

“When someone new starts working, we

don’t welcome them to the team, we welcome them to the family,” Carrillo says.

“In the ED, we experience both beautiful moments and difficult ones. We count on each other and trust each other completely.”

Carrillo is one of the many at Wilcox who are committed to training the next generation of Kauai health care workers. For her, it is a way to honor the managers and mentors who gave her that first opportunity, while sending an inspiring message to aspiring nurses.

“You don’t have to move away to become a nurse,” she says. “Take it one small step at a time and reach out. We will welcome you.”



EURIELLE CARRILLO

Wilcox Medical Center’s Emergency Department

Nurse for 7 years

▶ **What is your favorite thing about your profession?**

On Kauai, we have the responsibility of caring for the people who raised us, our teachers, our children, people we see in the grocery store. There’s a connection with everybody you care for at Wilcox.