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Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank Newsletter

December 2014 | Fifth Edition

The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank is an independent, non-profit, community service organization whose mission is to support measures aimed at improving patient access to transplant, including the collection and public banking of umbilical cord blood from Hawai'i's ethnically diverse population.

Season's Greetings to You

A Very Special Thanks for Your Support Throughout the Year

Dear Friends,

Holiday Greetings!

The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank (HCBB) has benefited from the generosity and aloha of its many supporters. These include mothers who donate their babies' umbilical cord blood, physicians and nurses who volunteer their services by educating families, recruiting donors, and collecting cord blood units; and to those individuals and organizations that have donated monies or in-kind services to support us. Hawai'i spreads "Aloha" by having its valuable cord blood units from our ethnically diverse population available to patients of all ages and of ethnic minorities not only here in Hawai'i, but in the United States and the world.

This holiday season we count our blessings and are appreciative of the continued support from Hawai'i families, physicians, nurses, and medical staff.

Please enjoy this fifth edition of our annual newsletter.

May your holiday season be filled with joy and happiness.

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank Staff



**Photo - from left to right:
(first row)**

Camille Cabalo (Donor Coordinator), Nola Faria (Program Director), Dr. Randal Wada (Medical Director), Linda Watanabe (Administrative Manager), Lynette Matsumoto (Program Coordinator)

(second row)

Susan Valentine, RN (Maui Nurse Educator), Melanie Nakatani (Data Specialist), Lisa Wong-Yamamoto, RNC (Nurse Educator)

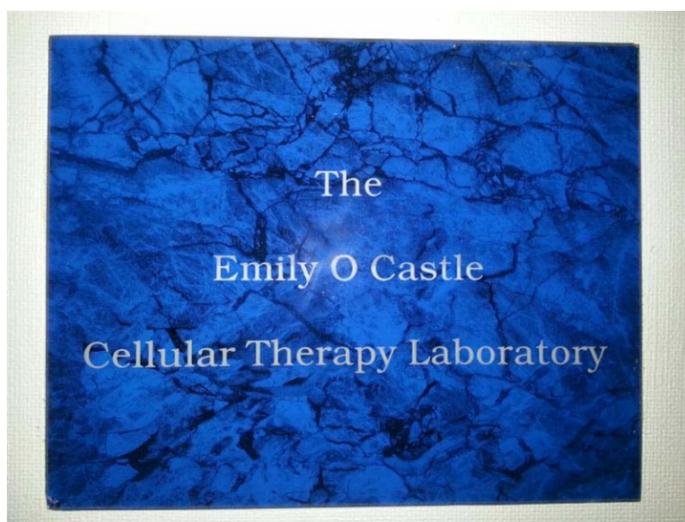
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Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank Forms Hawai'i Cellular Therapy and Transplant Laboratory

The Hawai'i Cellular Therapy and Transplant Laboratory (HCTTL) is a 509(a)(3) supporting organization that was formed by the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank on July 1, 2014 through an acquisition from Clinical Laboratories of Hawai'i (CLH), LLP. This transfer was made possible thanks to a generous bequest from Mrs. Emily O Castle. Mrs. Castle had been a longtime supporter of the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank, and made the initial donation to fund the start of the program in 1997. Through her years of advocating for HCBB, Mrs. Castle learned a great deal about the exciting progress in blood and marrow stem cell transplantation. In the process, she also became a strong proponent for the development of technical expertise in cell processing, to insure that in addition to matching donors, access to cutting edge therapy for Hawai'i's patients would not be hampered by lack of sufficient laboratory support.

Formerly known as the Clinical Immunogenetics Laboratory under CLH, HCTTL provides three different services for the transplant community. The first centers on human leukocyte



antigen (HLA) typing, which involves highly specialized techniques that match organ and bone marrow donors to their recipients. The second includes testing, processing, and storage of bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cells that are necessary for bone marrow transplants. The third service involves providing rapid turnaround infectious disease testing on organ donors to ensure patient safety.

Altogether, these three services are critical for the operation of the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Program at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children (our only bone marrow transplant program), the Queen's Transplant Center at the Queen's Medical Center (our only liver and kidney transplant program), and Legacy of Life Hawai'i (our only organ donation program). Without HCTTL these life-saving programs would not be available to our local patients.

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank and Hawai'i Cellular Therapy and Transplant Laboratory are thrilled to serve the transplant community of Hawai'i. We are honored for the chance to help further the legacy of organ and stem cell transplant that was pioneered by visionaries such as Drs. Livingston Wong and Young Paik, and Sister Maureen Keleher at the St. Francis Medical Center. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Emily O Castle, organizations such as the Gamar Foundation, the Alana Dung Research Foundation, and the Kosasa Foundation, participating hospitals, and the many, many physicians, nurses, and donor families for their support.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your Service!

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank would like to thank the 12 women and men who generously donate their time and wisdom to serve on our Board of Directors. Their leadership and oversight allows Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank to remain committed to our mission and guiding principals as we continue to serve the worldwide transplant community.

We would also like to express our gratitude to two exceptional directors whose terms have ended in 2014.

Ann Teranishi joined the board in 2006. She served as Chair of the Board from 2008 - 2011 and as Secretary in 2012 - 2013.

Nez Calaro joined the board in 2012. She served as Secretary in 2013 - 2014.

Thank you Ann and Nez for your hard work and dedication.

We are delighted to announce 3 new board members that joined us this year:

Newton Wong, senior account executive for Apria Home Health Care Services.

Jimmy Bennett, vice president of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Dr. Jannet Lee-Jayaram, pediatric emergency room physician at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

In 2015, **Lauren Reed**, account coordinator with IQ 360 Inc. will also be joining the board.

We look forward to working with these new directors closely in the years to come.

Meet Our New Administrative Manager

Linda Watanabe joined our team as our new Administrative Manager in June 2014. She is currently providing administrative support for Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank and Hawai'i Cellular Transplant and Therapy Laboratory. Linda brings over 30 years of office administrative experience. She has worked for the University of Hawai'i Cancer Research Center as an Executive Assistant/Office Manager and at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i as a Business Administrative Manager.



"As Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank's newest staff member, it is a privilege to be part of this amazing organization. Dr. Randal Wada, HCBB's President, along with the staff of HCBB, Nola Faria, Lynette Matsumoto, Lisa Wong-Yamamoto, Susan Valentine, Camille Cabalo, and Melanie Nakatani, are devoted and committed to the mission of HCBB. Of course, we depend on and are so grateful for our wonderful Board of Directors. They volunteer their service by providing numerous hours out of their busy schedules to provide invaluable guidance. I am delighted and look forward to working with the HCBB staff and the Board in the years to come."

A Year in Reflection

To date, we have been able to provide 164 transplant-matches to patients worldwide with cord blood units that were donated by generous Hawai'i families. Sixteen of those cord blood units were transplanted in 2014. Additionally in 2014, 1304 cord blood units were sent for processing and 307 were selected to be stored for future transplantation.



Photo: Donor Sophia

These cord blood units would not have been made available if it were not for our *Piko Volunteer Referral and Collection Network*. This network is comprised of physicians, midwives, nurses, laboratory staff, office staff, childbirth educators, and hospital administrators at Kapi'olani, Queen's, Tripler, Kaiser, Castle, and Maui Memorial.

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank continues to communicate with this network through in-services, training sessions, hospital rounds, e-mail bulletins, and now an online professional website. Currently, physicians and midwives can log in to the site and obtain research and support materials which they may be able to use to recruit eligible cord blood donors and improve on collection techniques. Office managers may also be able to order materials from this website. Please contact our office for further details.



Thank you very much to Jaime Kinoshita-Olivera and *Upspring Media* for the creation of this new and engaging professional site.

In the beginning of the year, Program Director Nola Faria, RN and Nurse Educator Lisa Wong-Yamamoto, RNC spoke to

the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, the Pearl Harbor Rotary Club, the East Rotary Club, and the Wahiawa Rotary Club.



Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank also continued its efforts to educate the community about public cord blood banking in 2014. In May, HCBB attended the annual *New Baby Expo* venue at the Blaisdell Center. HCBB staff members and volunteer friends handed out brochures and informational packets as well as teddy bear fans. Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank has been participating in the *New Baby Expo* for over 15 years.

Also in May, Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank partnered with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) to participate in their annual Cord Blood Awareness Campaign. NMDP worked with local print, online, and video media to raise awareness about the availability of public cord blood donation. As a result of this campaign, letters to the editors appeared in both the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* and the *Maui News* and news segments ran on KHON2 and Hawai'i News Now.



Photo: Donor Maribeth Toledo-Cabuslay with Baby Ryan and Nurse Educator Lisa Wong-Yamamoto, RNC as they wait to be interviewed by Hawai'i News Now newscasters



In the summer, Nicole Duarte and the Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA) featured Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank and our donors Jayna and Psalm in their June/July issue with an article titled *"Giving a Lifeline"* in their publication *Island Scene*.

Lastly, in September, KFVE John Fink's "Think About It" editorial featured Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank.

HCBB would like to thank each and every one of these supporters for allowing the staff to inform the public about Hawai'i's only public cord blood bank.

If you would like to view and read these publications or TV segments, you may do so by clicking [here](#) and viewing them on the news section of our website.

"Giving a Lifeline" in HMSA's summer issue of *Island Scene*.

High School Volunteer Program Update

Britney & Kelsi



Photo: Britney Mina and Kelsi Baltazar at Health Occupations Student Association's (HOSA) 2014 Competition

This past summer, our high school volunteers Britney and Kelsi were given the opportunity to compete in the HOSA - Future Health Professionals National Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida. They competed in the Health Community Awareness event and used cord blood as their topic. At orientation they learned that they would be competing against 68 other teams around the nation.

On the day of competition, they presented their portfolio to a group of judges. After presentations, their portfolio was showcased amongst the other competitors in a large conference room. This was a chance for the two of them to see

competitor's projects as well as share theirs with fellow peers.

Many students from all over the nation, as well as teachers, and health professionals were interested in their project and wanted to know more about it. During their last night in Florida, they had their awards ceremony. Britney and Kelsi placed in the top 10. While on stage, the third and second place winners were announced first. When the announcement for first place came up, the moderator said, "And in first place, from Honolulu, HI, Farrington High School, Baltazar & Mina!"

The following is an excerpt from Britney and Kelsi, *"We were shocked but also ecstatic that we placed first. Along with placing in nationals, this whole journey with cord blood has been a great one. We were able to advocate for cord blood donations and also grow as individuals because we were exposed to new things - one of them being cord blood. We appreciate the knowledge and experiences that the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank has given us and only hope for more cord blood donations in Hawai'i to increase so we can continue to save lives."*



Emily

Emily Rapoza is a senior from Punahou High School. As part of a school project, Emily has graciously donated her time to volunteer at the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank office before and after school and on school breaks.

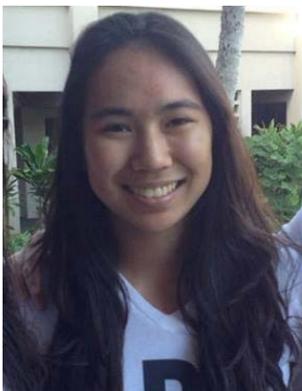


Photo: Emily Rapoza.

When asked about why she chose to volunteer with the program and what she learned from her experience, Emily responded:

"Honestly, before I stepped into the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank office, I didn't know much at all about them. I knew that they helped people, that cord blood was involved, and I knew that I wanted to help people, too. That was enough for me. But, once I started, I quickly began to learn about cord blood, and how remarkable it is and what Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank does with it. I learned that cord blood is rich in stem cells that can be harvested (with no harm to the donor) and donated to those with severe blood disorders, Leukemias, and Lymphomas. It amazed me that something that is normally thrown out can save lives and that this amazing alternative to bone marrow transplants is not more well known."

Joe Hinz



Photo: Joe Hinz.

Joe Hinz is a senior from Maryknoll High School. For his senior project, Joe volunteered in the office and wrote a paper based on his research about cord blood donation and its clinical uses.

The following is an excerpt from Joe about his time with Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank: *"I found HCBB while looking for an opportunity to complete the 'next step' component of my senior project. I am truly glad I was able to find this amazing group of people because it has been the perfect place not only to learn more about the program and its purpose but to really get engaged in it. Working with Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank was a great experience that has had far reaching effects on me and my senior project and I wouldn't trade it for the world!"*

A Special Thank You



Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank greatly appreciates the support of family and friends who make our work possible. Every monetary gift and in-kind donation to our program helps to ensure that we can continue to provide patient access to transplant by collecting and publically banking umbilical cord blood from Hawai'i's ethnically diverse population.

We would like to recognize the following supporters for their great generosity in 2014:

Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children

Maui Memorial Medical Center

Queen's Medical Center

Tripler Army Medical Center

Kaiser Permanente

Castle Medical Center

Hyundai Motor America's "Hope on Wheels" Foundation

Excelsior Lodge #1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows

4Imprint - One by One Charitable Giving Program

Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank Board of Directors

Puget Sound Blood Center Cord Blood Services

Secure DNA

Upspring Media

Daryl Imose

Fay Nagata

Thomas Kosasa

Diane Ogata

Nathan and Lynn Yoshizaki

Joyce Yoshino

Colleen Bartlett

Hear What Our Donors Have to Say

<p>"Nothing But the Best"</p>	<p>Huafeng:</p> <p>"We were so excited to donate our daughter's umbilical cord blood to Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank.</p> <p>Nothing but the best for my girl and a potential patient!"</p>	<p>"...Potentially Help Save a Life"</p>	<p>Renee:</p> <p>"Donating with Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank was very easy. Everything was arranged so that on the day of my delivery I didn't even think about the cord blood that was being collected to potentially help save a life. Instead I was</p>
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			<p>able to focus 100% on the new life I held in my arms."</p>
<p>(Photo: Donor Emily)</p>	<p>(Photo: Donor Gemma with a photo of herself as a baby)</p>		

If you would like to share a testimonial about your experience donating cord blood with our public bank, please e-mail us at info@hcbb.org.

How You Can Help

	
<p>Facebook Find us on Facebook, share it with others, and like our page! Then write on our wall and share with potential and past donors about your experience donating!</p>	<p>Monetary Gift Make a tax-deductible monetary contribution to Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit to ensure that banking efforts can continue. If you encounter any difficulties trying to donate monetarily through Paypal, please give us a call at the office.</p>
	
<p>Educate Yourself and Others Check out our website and read the latest articles, learn about new program updates, and communicate with us via e-mail.</p>	<p>Donate to Us Using AmazonSmile Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Please help support Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank every time you shop on Amazon by clicking here to select Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank as your charity.</p>

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