



# PALOLO CHINESE HOME



FEBRUARY 2020

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501 (c)3 Nonprofit  
Federal ID #99-0073521

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO | DARLENE NAKAYAMA

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020



**H**appy New Year from Palolo Chinese Home! We hope everyone enjoyed ringing in the Year of the Rat with family and friends.

The Rat is the first in the 12-year cycle of Zodiac signs. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Rat tricked the Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat jumped down and maneuvered in front of Ox, becoming first. People born in the Year of the Rat are believed to be very industrious, thrifty, diligent and positive.

In 2019, Palolo Chinese Home enjoyed a prosperous year with an increasingly high demand for services. Occupancies were up for both the nursing home and the adult residential care home

by 94 percent and 97 percent, respectively. We also focused our efforts on improving different areas of the home by upgrading our electronic medical records and enhancing our air conditioning system.

Looking to the future, we're proud to expand our services to include care for our veterans. A vastly underserved community not only in Hawaii but throughout the United States, veterans often struggle to receive basic assistance throughout their time as civilians. Many senior veterans, no matter how much time has passed since they left the service, also need support to coexist with civilian culture and values, find and make a home, manage the psychological effects of traumatic experiences, and live with physical handicaps. Stay tuned for updates on how we will offer support to this community in Hawaii whose long-term care needs are growing.

In closing, we're so grateful to our Hawaii community for its ongoing support, and we look forward to continue delivering on our promise to provide "better care, better lives" for Hawaii's seniors.



# RESIDENT CARE AT THE HEART OF PALOLO CHINESE HOME



One of the greatest honors is caring for people during their final days. At Palolo Chinese Home, we've had the privilege of providing residential and in-home care for Hawaii's kupuna for nearly 125 years, getting to know and befriend thousands of seniors in the local community. The late Colonel Louis Carmona was one of these seniors, and Palolo Chinese Home had the distinct honor of traveling his end-of-life journey with him.

From 1958 through 1986, Colonel Carmona had an illustrious military career, first serving as an occupational therapist before being appointed Chief, OT Section, Office of the Surgeon General at Tripler Army Medical Center and then OT Consultant to the Surgeon General and Chief, OT Section at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In 1981, he was once again stationed at Tripler Army Medical Center until his retirement in 1986, living out his golden years in his Hawaii home.

Colonel Carmona was a resident of Palolo Chinese Home from February until his passing in November 2019. During the nine months he spent at our home, he touched the lives of Palolo

Chinese Home staff members and residents alike, and brought true joy to everyone he met. After his passing, his daughter Laura offered her deepest thanks to the Palolo Chinese Home team for being a part of her father's life, particularly during his final months.

*"After spending many months with my mother in various facilities on the island after her stroke, I can say without a doubt that Palolo Chinese Home is by far the finest care facility on Oahu,"*

Laura said. "Thank you for all the effort you have put into making Palolo the outstanding facility that it is. I'm so glad my father was able to spend his last months there."

One of Colonel Carmona's closest friends, **Dr. Satoru Izutsu**, also spoke about their nearly 70-year friendship, which first started when he was at Columbia University and Colonel Carmona was at New York University in 1951. As students in the occupational therapy program, Dr. Izutsu and Colonel Carmona



followed each other's careers, befriended each other's families, and never lost track of each other. Dr. Izutsu had the privilege of spending time with Colonel Carmona at a special Palolo Chinese Home donor appreciation event, which took place the week before he passed.

When asked about the value of Palolo Chinese Home for patients like Colonel Carmona, Dr. Izutsu pointed to the sense of community. "What sets Palolo Chinese Home apart from others is its foundation in community partnerships, and the support it receives from the community due to the incomparable hard work of its staff and leadership."





# PCH BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR AND MEMBERS, HONORS OUTGOING PRESIDENT

We are pleased to share that our former **First Vice President Douglas Smith** now serves as PCH Chair and President, and that three individuals—**Benjamin Woo, Rena Hwang and Gary Simon**—will be joining our Board! It is also with our deepest gratitude that we recognized the incredible contributions of outgoing **President Eric Wantanabe**. Mahalo nui loa to Eric for his tireless dedication and inspiring leadership in service to the senior community.



**Benjamin Woo** is a professional architect and longtime supporter of Palolo Chinese Home. After attending

both University of Hawaii and Arizona State University, Woo graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. He worked at an architectural firm in Minnesota for two years before moving back to Honolulu in 1980, when he also received his Architecture license. He opened his firm Benjamin Woo Architects in 2000, and has worked on a number of high-rise condominiums including Hokua, Capitol Place, One Ala Moana, and Park Lane. Additional project types have included schools, hotel renovations, multi-family subdivision, and retail. Woo grew up in Kaimuki and graduated from Kalani High School.



**Rena Hwang** is an administrator for Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., where she provides special

administrative support to both the President and CEO as well as to the utility and bank Board of Directors. She has previously worked as an executive assistant for American Savings Bank F.S.B. and Meadow Gold Dairies, Inc. Hwang also previously held leadership positions on the board of the Honolulu Chinese Jaycees Junior Chamber and served as a trustee for Sacred Hearts Academy. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



**Gary Simon** is the former director of corporate affairs and advocacy for St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii,

where he was responsible for corporate compliance to meet federal and state regulations and for maintaining a positive public image for the St. Francis Healthcare System. He also served as executive director of St. Francis Hospice and program director for St. Francis Health Services for Senior Citizens. Simon has a long history of community service, and has held a number of leadership and board positions with AARP Hawaii, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, Kokua Maui and other organizations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS *(continued on page 5)*

### **Navian Hawaii: Providing Care for Every Life Journey**

March 12, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Ricshara Knight and Melinda Cooley  
Palolo Chinese Home

### **30th Annual PCH Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament**

May 8, 2020, check in 9:30 a.m., tee-off 12:00pm  
Ala Wai Municipal Golf Course



## PCH POUNDS IN THE NEW YEAR

On Saturday, December 28, 2019, Palolo Chinese Home hosted its 3rd Annual Mochi Pounding event. A beloved Japanese tradition in Hawaii, mochi pounding is said to bring good luck for the new year while bringing together the diverse ethnic communities of our island home.

The event was widely attended, and staff, volunteers, residents, and family members alike had a wonderful time preparing these sticky rice dumplings by hand. As one person pounded the rice with a large wooden mallet (kine) in the mortar (usu), the second

person turned it between strikes until the rice achieved a batter-like consistency. Attendees then hand-molded the mochi balls and stuffed them with tantalizing fillings such as azuki bean and peanut butter.



## PCH CELEBRATES ITS EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

It's our pleasure to recognize two very special individuals who consistently go above and beyond for our residents: **Larae Bumanglag** and **Kristine Fontanilla**, our 2019 Employees of the Year!



**Larae Bumanglag** is a full-time nurse aide who has been with Palolo Chinese Home since February 2017. Since joining the team, Larae has not called out or taken any vacation time, working more than 500 overtime hours in 2019 alone. She is a hardworking and dedicated team player who

assists all Nursing department units by answering call lights, calming restless residents, and providing direct patient care. Her peers nominated her for the Employee of the Year recognition for her exceptional customer service, fantastic resident care, and positive attitude.



**Kristine Fontanilla** is a full-time housekeeper who has been with Palolo Chinese Home since October 2015. Like Larae, Kristine consistently goes above and beyond to care for our residents and ensure they have a clean and comfortable environment in which to reside. Without being asked, Kristine

has tackled a number of maintenance tasks such as pressure-washing the exterior cement walkways, replacing damaged window screens, and fixing broken cabinet hinges. She has even helped to deliver food carts to the units when the kitchen was short-staffed, explaining that the carts were already late and the residents were waiting for their food. She is widely praised by the staff for her excellent customer service, attention to detail, and high quality of work.





# 30TH ANNUAL PCH DYNASTY INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Tee up for a great cause at Palolo Chinese Home's 30th Annual Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament!** On Friday, May 8, 2020, we're hosting our largest fundraising event of the year to support our mission to deliver high-quality care for a better quality of life for seniors.

## Ala Wai Municipal Golf Course

- Check-in: 9:30 a.m.
- Tee off: Noon
- Banquet to follow

Whether you choose to participate as a golfer or sponsor the tournament, your support means the world to us, and helps us raise valuable funds that will allow us to deliver better care for better lives in 2020.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Consider serving as a sponsor of the 30th Annual PCH Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament to give your company or organization optimal visibility at this well-attended event. Best of all, since Palolo Chinese Home is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a portion of your sponsorship fee is tax-deductible! For sponsorship opportunities and details, please contact Aiza Pobre, (808) 748-4904; apobre@palolohome.org.

## Register Today!

The \$200 registration fee for each golfer includes lunch, golf and cart fees, a special tournament Polo shirt, dinner and prizes.



## Palolo Wellness Program Receives Home Care License



Palolo Wellness Program (PWP)—Palolo Chinese Home's Home Care Agency—received zero deficiencies during its first Department of Health Inspection in December 2019. As a result, we proudly received our Home Care License for 2019.

Receiving our license is a huge accomplishment for our Palolo Wellness Program, which provides valuable services including assistance with dressing, feeding, personal hygiene, meals, and light housekeeping. We can't think of a better way to enter the new year!

Mahalo to Rachel Agustin and the PWP staff for all of the hard work that went into achieving this recognition!



## Navian Hawaii: Providing Care for Every Life Journey

March 12, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Ricshara Knight and Melinda Cooley



Ricshara Knight is the Integrated Care Manager at Navian Hawaii, formerly Hospice Hawaii, where she assists with developing the new Integrated Care Program while providing emotional and social support for patients. Accompanying

Ricshara will be Community Liaison Melinda Cooley, who conducts outreach to hospitals, facilities and physicians regarding hospice services and the new Integrated Care Program.

Formed from the words "Navigator" and "Guardian," the non-profit organization's new name reflects its expanded scope of services. With the addition of Integrated Care, Navian Hawaii provides care for every life journey, helping patients navigate in the direction of hope.

Complimentary dinner and transportation provided. Please RSVP to Rachel Agustin at (808) 748-4909; ragustin@palolohome.org.



**PALOLO CHINESE HOME**  
Better Care. Better Lives

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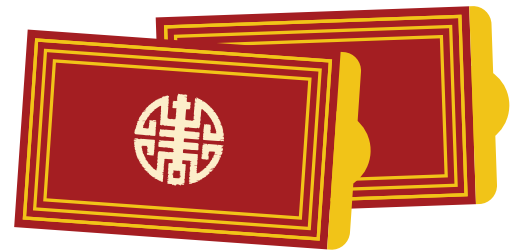
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*The blessing of “long life” is universally celebrated. At Palolo Chinese Home, the Chinese character for longevity (shou) has long been used as our symbol. By adding two brush strokes, the artist, the late Clarence Lee, incorporated the Chinese character for people or mankind (ren), and the result is an image of a roof embracing long life — our wish for you. The unbroken circle signifies our mission of continuous care and respect for our kupuna (elders).*

FEBRUARY 2020



## SUPPORT PCH WITH A PLANNED GIFT



For more than 120 years, Palolo Chinese Home has upheld a tradition of excellence in care, which was first started by a group of Hawaii’s leading Chinese residents who established a home for the “aged and infirm.” Since then, we have worked hard to make it possible for seniors of all ethnicities to be cared for in a beautiful, tranquil setting by compassionate and competent professionals.

In the spirit of giving in the new year, we ask for the continued support of the community as we work to provide numerous levels of care in response to the growing need for elder care in Hawaii. Following the completion

of our campus renovation, we’ve developed an endowment and planned giving program to create a permanent, growing source of income to support our various programs.

### ***This is where you come in.***

We’re asking our friends, family and others to support Palolo Chinese Home through planned giving. There are many ways to make a planned gift, including leaving a gift through a will or trust, or designating Palolo Chinese Home as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement fund, or bank or stock account. Gifts such as these are easy to make; simply consult an attorney

to add wording to your will or trust, or ask a plan administrator for a beneficiary form to fill out and return.

Once you’ve taken care of your family and friends, we humbly ask if you would consider a provision for Palolo Chinese Home in your will or trust. No matter the size of the gift, your support goes a long way as we work to fulfill our mission to assist and care for seniors and their families by providing a continuum of care that is professional and interdisciplinary, in a multi-culturally sensitive family setting.

