

Advertorial



## Care for the Rest of Your Life

By Kenneth L. Zeri, President & CPO, Hospice Hawaii

Hospice is about caring for the needs of the whole person. This is accomplished through a team of professionals working together to create an individualized care plan, which addresses the unique needs of your family. When starting with a hospice care service, you will meet with your nurse case manager to determine what your personal care needs are, and how to best address them. Each patient and family are then assigned a team of healthcare professionals that includes a registered nurse, licensed social worker, certified nurse's aide, and volunteers. And most importantly, this care can be delivered to you in your own home, usually completely covered by insurance and at no additional charge to you or your family.

The staff of Hospice Hawaii knows that a life threatening illness can bring uncertainty and fear. Each staff member brings their unique gifts to support the whole family. Nurses will monitor your symptoms and medications, and help educate you and your family about what's happening. Your nurse is also the link between you, your

family, and the physician. The nurse's aide will provide practical support, such as bathing, dressing, changing linens or whatever else is needed. A social worker will work with the family to help them locate community resources and perhaps more importantly, to provide in-depth personal support and counseling. Chaplains may visit to offer both religious rituals and help the family sustain hope. Your team may also include volunteers specially trained to offer practical help or even respite care a few hours a week.

A common question people ask is, "Will my own doctor be part of my care team?" The answer is, yes. Your doctor has been with you every step of the way through your care. Your hospice team will want to work with your physician

because he or she knows you best. Your physician will play a crucial role to implement a care plan which best meets your individual needs and those of your family and caregivers. In addition, the hospice nurse will keep your doctor regularly informed as to your condition and any changes, which may be occurring. A hospice medical director is also available to the attending physician, patient and the hospice care team as a consultant and resource.

With 30 years of experience, the Hospice Hawaii team truly understands how to care for you or a loved one who is facing a life limiting illness. If you have questions about hospice care or just want to get more information, please call us.



**For more information on Hospice Hawaii call (808) 924.9255  
[www.hospicehawaii.org](http://www.hospicehawaii.org)**