

# REACH

SUMMER 2022 ISSUE

Stories of Inspiration  
from *REHAB Hospital*

## The Naukas

A STORY OF  
FAMILY AND HEALING

In a moment, Pono Nauka's life changed completely. On a routine drive through Kakaako, Pono's vehicle was violently struck by an out of control driver. The next thing Pono remembered, he was on his back, looking up at the sky as paramedics loaded him into an ambulance. He couldn't have known it at that moment, but the road ahead would be long and full of challenging mental and physical demands.

*continued on pg. 3*

REHAB  
FOUNDATION



## TO OUR REHAB OHANA

With a heart of gratitude, we thank you for your support, your passion for our mission and for helping us make a difference in the lives of our patients. In this issue, we introduce you to Pono and his ohana who gave us a peek into their REHAB journey. They remind us how important shared time together is and to not take it for granted.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen new variants form and result in regularly fluctuating case counts. We understand and respect that everyone has different levels of comfort with meeting in person, so we continue to look for new ways to connect and stay in touch with one another. We would love to find new and better ways to connect with you so please consider filling out our 'Getting to Know You' survey on the back cover. This survey will help us learn more about you and how we can better connect with you.

Also in this issue, we provide brief updates of what's happening at REHAB. Even if we don't see each other, please know that we think of you often. **We look forward to staying connected with you!**



*Michael W. Perry*  
**Michael W. Perry**  
Board Chair



*Lori Suan*  
**Lori Suan**  
Chief Development Officer



## INTRODUCING REHAB FOUNDATION'S FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

In this report, we share updates on a few patients, feature a few of our services continued during the pandemic and highlight the positive impact you supported in the last fiscal year. Here is a small excerpt from the report.



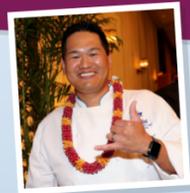
To see more of REHAB Foundation's Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report, please scan the QR code or visit [REHABhospital.org/foundation](https://REHABhospital.org/foundation).

## the Joy of Food & Wine

On May 6, REHAB friends and supporters came together for an in-person return of REHAB Foundation's Joy of Food & Wine event. **Through the generosity of all who supported, this signature event raised \$291,000 to support the mission of REHAB Hospital!**



Showcasing Halekulani's Banquet and Special Events Chef, Shaden Sato, and special wine pairings carefully selected by Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, guests enjoyed an evening of fine food and wines.



We were happy to have the Nauka family join in the celebration. During the event, Pono, joined on stage by his wife Ululani, graciously shared his REHAB journey with our event guests.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening so special and so impactful - especially our special guests, the Nauka family, our title sponsors, Clyde & Holly Kaneshiro and Stanford & Kathy Carr, as well as our event chair, Dr. Laurie Tom, for their incredible efforts in making this event a success.



## Donor Highlight: FRIENDS OF HAWAII CHARITIES

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, REHAB has prioritized maintaining our high standard of patient care while also adding in new safety measures to protect our patients and staff. Since nearly 60% of the patients we serve are elderly, and many have underlying health conditions, our advanced COVID safety measures are essential.

We are grateful for the generosity of Friends of Hawaii Charities, which recently awarded REHAB a grant to support us in Protecting Our Healthcare Heroes. Friends of Hawaii Charities' gift will be used for the purchase of essential protective equipment. On a daily basis, our patient care staff wear personal protective equipment (PPE) that includes gloves, gowns, booties, masks, and goggles.

**Friends of Hawaii Charities has been a friend and supporter of REHAB for over 20 years.**

## Featured Friend: LARRY DOONG



A U.S. Navy veteran and Oahu resident, Larry Doong enjoys a happy and healthy retirement thanks to his time at REHAB Hospital of the Pacific. In his 44 days at REHAB, Larry recovered from a spinal cord injury, learned to walk again, and improved his overall health, leaving REHAB 81 pounds lighter. He even continued his recovery at REHAB at Aiea, the outpatient clinic near his home.

Larry says he loved his time at REHAB. Because of his recovery, he is able to go to the pool every day, spend time in Washington State with his grandkids, and talk story with the tour guides at the Battleship Missouri, a ship on which he served as Chief Engineer. Larry also enjoys getting together with former colleagues over lunch and spending time with his wife. He and his wife recently attended Larry's 50th high school reunion at St. Anthony School on Maui.

Larry turned 68 this year and hopes to continue exercising, traveling, and sharing his stories and engineering experience with the Missouri staff.

We were happy to reconnect with Larry when he engaged with us on social media. **If you want to keep up to date on REHAB's latest, we would love to connect with you too!** Follow REHAB on any of the social media platforms below:



## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING

Our goal is to help our patients return home and back to doing what they love most. For patients like Pono, the road to recovery includes learning new ways of doing everyday tasks, like getting into a car.

REHAB's transportation safety training instructs patients and loved ones, who have become caregivers, on how to help the patient safely enter and exit vehicles, avoiding falls, mishaps and potentially harmful situations. Our REHAB training vehicle allows patients and their caregivers to participate in simulations in order to get them used to the process of getting into and out of the car.

During their training, Pono and Ululani practiced going from a wheelchair to the passenger's seat of the car and back using a transfer board. A transfer board, or slide board, is a long, smooth piece that bridges from one surface to another. Transfer boards are often recommended for patients like Pono who have good upper body strength but have some difficulty with standing and walking.



## THE NAUKAS

*continued from pg. 1*

In the weeks and months that followed, Pono went through intensive care and numerous surgeries. Pono shared, "I had a shattered pelvis, some internal bleeding, internal damage, compression fractures in my spine, a concussion, broken ribs, general cuts and bruises and glass in places." After finally reaching stable condition, Pono needed inpatient therapy. When he arrived at REHAB Hospital of the Pacific, one thing was certain - Pono was determined to get back to his family.

The Naukas are a close family. Pono and Ululani Nauka are Kamehameha Schools graduates and high school sweethearts. At the time of the accident, the Naukas' older son, Kainalu was in high school, their younger son, Kahiau was in middle school, and their daughter, Brianne, was in her final year of college, soon to become the family's first college graduate. When talking with Pono and Ululani about their children, you can see their faces fill with pride! When he came to REHAB, Pono made it his goal to be walking when he attended Brianne's graduation ceremony. However, Pono and Ululani soon realized that this goal wouldn't be an easy journey and it would take the entire family's support and involvement to achieve.

"It's funny how much you take for granted in your everyday life - being able to drive yourself, or use the restroom, take a shower, or go for a walk," says Pono. "So anytime I was able to hit those milestones, it kind of became a really emotional experience. I distinctly remember being able to stand up in the shower for the first time and I started crying. It had been, at that point, months since I stood up."

It wasn't just Pono who had to work to get life back to normalcy. For the Naukas, it was truly a whole family effort. Ululani and Pono's mother worked with REHAB staff to practice car transfers and learn how to assist Pono in day to day life. There were a lot of things that changed for the kids, too, after Pono's accident. When reflecting on the experience, Pono and Ululani shared that they realized it made their kids grow up faster, they took on a lot of responsibilities that they wouldn't have had to otherwise.

During the weeks that REHAB became Pono's temporary home, the REHAB courtyard became something of a sanctuary for the family. "We could take him outside," Brianne shared, "It was really nice. And it's so pretty here that it made life seem a little more normal. And that was a relief because when you're spending weeks in a hospital, you kind of start to forget what normal is like."

Pono and his family worked hard to get back to their life together. After a lot of work and four months in a wheelchair, Pono achieved his goal and he did walk at his daughter's graduation, making the day an even more special milestone for the Naukas. The Nauka family shared that one of the greatest takeaways from their journey after Pono's accident is to never take the little things for granted. The family is all the more aware of just how precious their time together is and even now, with almost all their children grown, they have standing Sunday family dinners every week.

"I couldn't imagine being without him," Ululani says, "Looking back at it, I'm grateful for every day that he pushed so hard to make sure he got home to us."



To see more of the Nauka family's journey, scan the QR code to watch a video feature of their inspiring story.

You are a valued member of our REHAB ohana and we like to keep up with and keep in touch with you. Please reply below and return in the envelope provided or follow the QR code or link below to complete the online version. Please share as much (or as little) as you are comfortable with!

1. **How did you get to know REHAB?**

- Former patient
- Family member
- Friend of a patient
- Volunteer
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **What makes REHAB special to you? Why do you choose to support REHAB?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3.  **I would like to sign up to receive email updates from REHAB Foundation.** *REHAB Foundation does not share or sell your personal information.*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Are there any comments or feedback you would like to share with us?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



To access the online version of this survey, please scan the QR code or visit [REHABhospital.org/donor-survey](https://REHABhospital.org/donor-survey)

# REHAB FOUNDATION



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*Read on page 1 & 3.*

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