

# NURSES WEEK

2025

A photograph of three healthcare professionals smiling. In the center is a woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a teal patterned scrub top and a red stethoscope. To her left is a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a red scrub top. To her right is a man with short dark hair, wearing a blue scrub top and a stethoscope, holding a tablet. The background is a blue and red graphic with a large white plus sign on the left.

***Celebrating  
our nurses and  
health care providers***

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# What Is Nurses Week?

By Kyle Galdeira

**F**lorence 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 former 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 number of nurses who serve in leadership positions."





## 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.

**HAWAII  
PACIFIC  
HEALTH**

KAPI'OLANI  
PALI MOMI  
STRAUB BENIOFF  
WILCOX

CREATING A HEALTHIER HAWAII

[HawaiiPacificHealth.org](https://HawaiiPacificHealth.org)





**DENNIS FRANCIS**  
*President and publisher,  
Oahu Publications Inc.*

Aloha Friends,

Nurses are the heart of our health care system. Often, they're the ones we turn to when a doctor isn't available — and even when they are, it's the nurses who stay by our side.

They are there when no one else is — offering hugs, words of kindness and quiet reassurance that things will get better. In times of illness and sorrow, nurses truly are our unsung heroes.

These outstanding professionals use their training and instincts to respond quickly in times of need. Whether they're giving a gentle shot, checking our vitals or simply making us feel better, they make every visit to the clinic or hospital a bit more bearable.

As we honor Nurses Week, let's remember that our gratitude shouldn't be limited to just one week. Throughout the pandemic and beyond, nurses have given so much of themselves to care for our communities — and they continue to do so with passion and dedication.

To all the nurses in Hawaii: Mahalo for treating us like family. Your compassion and aloha mean more than words can express.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis Francis", followed by a horizontal line.



**DR. JOSH GREEN**

*Governor, state of Hawaii*

Nurses are the heart of our communities, and it is a privilege to recognize their compassion and dedication to the health of Hawaii. Amidst the uncertainty and challenges our nation has encountered in recent months, nurses play a critical role now more than ever. They work on the front lines around the clock, respond to our everyday health conditions and jump into action for emergency disaster recovery efforts. All the while, they offer respect and aloha for each human life.

Our nurses endure ongoing workforce shortages and quickly adapt to contagious and evolving epidemics, and through every challenge, they remain pillars of strength, healing and hope. Nurses are a saving grace for many who suffer in silence, caring for those experiencing disease, injury, and ailments both physically and mentally. They understand us inside and out, and offer comfort and care that reminds us of the value in every life.

In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have more than 1,600 licensed practical nurses, 16,000 registered nurses, and 1,200 advanced practice registered nurses serving across hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities and community health centers; yet the demand for nurses continues to rise. Each nurse is vital to advocate for health equity, address the various social determinants of health and expand access to care for our most vulnerable populations, including keiki, kupuna and those experiencing homelessness, chronic illness or behavioral health challenges. They are the everyday heroes who safeguard each precious life.

To the nurses across Hawaii, with the utmost honor and respect, mahalo nui loa for your tireless efforts, your sacrifices and aloha. Your work makes a lasting impact on every patient and beyond.

With warmest aloha,

*Josh Green*

## KAPIOLANI MEDICAL CENTER FOR WOMEN &amp; CHILDREN

# A Haven For Women And Children

In 1890, Queen Kapiolani founded the Kapiolani Maternity Home to provide quality health care to the women and children of Hawaii. More than 130 years later, the queen's vision continues to inspire the nurses today at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children.

"Our nurses play a pivotal role on our medical team in providing life-saving care to patients in Hawaii and across the Pacific," says Joan Kanemori, Kapiolani vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. "We are thankful for their commitment to our patients when they need us most."

Kapiolani is continuously working to bring in the latest technology

and treatments so patients don't have to leave Hawaii.

This includes an innovative cancer treatment known as chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy. The treatment involves collecting a certain type of white blood cells from a patient, reengineering them in a lab to target cancer cells, then infusing those white blood cells back into the patient. Hawaii Pacific Health, in partnership with the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, was the first health organization in Hawaii to offer CAR T-cell therapy.

Kapiolani will further expand its cancer services through the future Martha B. Smith Cancer & Infusion Center. The center is named in honor of Kapiolani's late CEO who

dedicated more than 30 years of her career to improving health care in Hawaii.

The future center will provide the most advanced services for pediatric, breast and gynecologic cancers, and more. The new space will be nearly five times larger than the existing area. It will also provide space for families and friends to accompany their loved ones.

"Kapiolani is the only medical center of its kind in Hawaii. Our patients rely on us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our nurses care for our patients with the utmost compassion and expertise, and they're well-deserving of the recognition during National Nurses Week and all year-round," Kanemori says.



**POLLY SLADE, RN**

*Charge Nurse for the Telemetry Medical Surgical Unit, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children  
Nurse for 20 years*

## What is your favorite thing about being a nurse?

The privilege of caring and comforting people during some of their most vulnerable moments. It's fulfilling to help them navigate through these challenges, whether that's offering them a smile, holding their hands or sharing their tears.

## STRAUB BENIOFF MEDICAL CENTER

# Caring For Generations

Straub Benioff Medical Center's beginnings date back to 1921, when Dr. George F. Straub opened "The Clinic." Over the course of more than a century, the medical center expanded and grew with its founding vision at the core: to provide high-quality, convenient and specialized care for the whole family under one roof.

Today, that patient-centered care entails physicians, specialists, clinic and medical center nurses, clinicians and various other staff working together to ensure patients receive the right care at the right time, in the right place.

Nurses have always been a key part of upholding Straub Benioff's legacy of exceptional patient care

and serving the community. Their commitment resonates through the deep relationships with patients in the 159-bed medical center and those who visit the network of neighborhood Straub Benioff clinics throughout the islands.

"Caring for a patient is a team effort, and our nurses play such a crucial role in creating the best possible result for everyone who comes through our doors," says Andrew Moats, Straub Benioff vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. "Our nurses are always focused on providing excellent care, which allows Straub Benioff to offer services at the highest level."

That commitment was recently

honored with a world-class distinction. The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization presented Straub Benioff with the Gold Level ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support. The award recognized Straub Benioff's extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program. The program utilizes specialized equipment to provide life support to some of the sickest patients in the state, including those with heart and/or lung failure, until they can receive further treatment.

"We are fortunate to have such an amazing team at Straub Benioff," Moats says. "Our nurses are truly deserving of the honor they receive because their work makes a difference in our community."



**JEIKO MARIE DURUSAN, RN**

*Intensive Care Unit, Straub Benioff Medical Center  
Nurse for seven years*

## What is your favorite thing about being a nurse?

Having countless opportunities to grow and learn throughout every shift. I find myself not only learning from my fellow colleagues and amazing doctors, but from our patients as well.

## PALI MOMI MEDICAL CENTER

# Vital Resource For Central, West Oahu

**P**ali Momi Medical Center was founded in 1989 by Dr. Joseph Nishimoto. He envisioned creating a hospital for those “out in the country,” as he would say, so that they didn’t have to drive into town for health care. Thirty-five years later, Pali Momi continues to serve the growing Central and West Oahu community, and nurses have been an integral part every step of the way.

“We are so grateful for our nurses and their dedication to every single patient,” says Robyn Kalahiki, Pali Momi vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. “Whether they are helping a first-time patient or a familiar face who

has been coming to Pali Momi for years, our nurses take care of everyone with such warmth and kindness. They truly embody the aloha spirit!”

Forty-one percent of nurses at Pali Momi have been with Hawaii Pacific Health for 10 years or more. Pali Momi’s commitment to quality is reflected in numerous accolades given to the medical center. In 2025, Pali Momi received numerous five-star ratings from Healthgrades for treatment of heart failure, stroke, hip fracture and more.

One of Pali Momi’s most important services for the community is its emergency department, which

sees more than 40,000 patients every year. Pali Momi is the only Level III Trauma Center serving Central and West Oahu. To better serve the growing needs, the ED recently added a new space called Laulima. It is designed so medical teams can quickly assess and treat patients who have less serious conditions. This helps decrease the time patients spend in the ED while improving their overall experience.

“Health care is complex and ever-changing, but it always boils down to one thing: the patient,” Kalahiki says. “We’re proud that our nurses always keep our patients at the forefront in all that they do.”



**LYNDA VOILES, RN**

*Telemetry Medical  
Surgical Unit, Pali Momi  
Medical Center  
Nurse for four years.*

## What is your favorite thing about being a nurse?

Meeting people from all walks of life and learning from their life experiences while providing care, comfort and support in their vulnerable moments. It’s a rewarding and fulfilling profession that allows me to make a difference in others’ lives.

## WILCOX MEDICAL CENTER

*Dedicated To Community*

Wilcox Medical Center opened in 1938 to serve the Kauai community. As the population increased and the medical center expanded, Wilcox brought many innovative treatments and services to the island. Today, Wilcox Medical Center and Kauai Medical Clinic comprise Wilcox Health.

Wilcox is the largest medical center on Kauai, offering more than 30 specialties and programs. Its 18-bed emergency department serves as the island's Primary Stroke Center, and its state-of-the-art acute care facility has four birthing suites, seven intensive care beds and 20 same-day surgery beds. Wilcox is the first American College of Surgeons-verified Level III Trauma Center in the state of Hawaii.

Kauai Medical Clinic is the island's largest multi-specialty medical group, offering primary and specialty care at clinics in Eleele, Kapaa, Koloa and Lihue as well as an urgent care clinic in Lihue.

"Our nurses are a core part of our team, and we are deeply grateful for them," says Cathye Sataraka, Wilcox vice president of patient services and chief nurse executive. "Kauai is a tight-knit community, and our nurses play an important role in looking out for the health and well-being of everyone on this island."

To inspire the next generation of nurses, Wilcox, in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education, offers a program at local high schools that trains students to be nurse aides while they're still in school. The program, which launched at Kapaa High School in 2022, is a semester-long course that includes a minimum of 70 hours in the classroom and 40 hours of hands-on clinical training. Graduates of the program can demonstrate 87 fundamental nurse aide skills and are given priority employment consideration at Wilcox and other Hawaii Pacific Health facilities across the state.

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The program has since expanded to Waimea High School. Last year, 17 students from Waimea and Kapaa participated in the nurse aide program. All 17 graduated.

“As the largest health care provider on Kauai, we know the responsibility we have

to this island, now and into the future” says Sataraka. “We’re thankful for all our nurses because they’re dedicated to our community and strive to exceed the expectations of our patients. There’s no other place like Kauai, and our nurses take that to heart.”



**MADELLE  
FLORENDO, RN**

*Care Management,  
Wilcox Health*

*Nurse for five years*

**What is your favorite thing about being a nurse?**

Growing alongside my patients, being a part of their ups and downs. Being someone my colleagues can look up to for support. I receive so much care and love from my own family, and being a nurse allows me to share that with my patients.