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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HAWAII BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES
Give2Live Fundraiser Set for Friday, November 13**

HONOLULU – Each year, thousands of people of all ages are diagnosed with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases. Many of them will die unless they get a bone marrow transplant from a matching donor. Seventy percent of people do not have a donor in their family and depend on the Hawaii Bone Marrow Registry, and other national marrow donor programs, to find a match to save their life. Since it began in 1989, the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry at Hawaii Medical Center East has successfully matched nearly 300 patients and built a list of over 70,000 potential donors.

“We’ve not only been able to find bone marrow matches for patients in Hawaii, but across the nation,” noted Roy Yonashiro, recruitment specialist for the Registry.

“Because the markers used in matching are inherited, patients are more likely to match someone from their own race or ethnicity. With donors from Hawaii’s ethnically diverse community, the Registry is adding more donors from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, including multi-racial, and increasing the likelihood that all patients will find the match they need.”

The Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry conducts between four to six registration drives a month – from shopping centers to county and community fairs to employee health awareness events. The registration process is quick, simple and pain-free. “A swab of the cheek cells inside a donor’s mouth is taken, and the sample is collected and then sent to the National Marrow Donor Program repository for testing and storage. Donors need to only register once to become part of the registry,” said Yonashiro.

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Registry will hold “Give 2 Live,” a 70s-themed dance party to help raise funds to support the organization’s mission on Friday, November 13, 2009. The evening will feature food, raffle drawing and live music from Powerhouse and musicians from other bands, including Aura, Elements, Glass Candle, Greenwood, H2O, Natural High, Phase 7, RKSb, Shining Star and Soulz.

Tickets for this special event are \$50 (\$20 tax deductible) or \$500 for a reserved table for 10 or \$600 for 12. For ticket information, please contact Annie Yonashiro at (808) 741-1222 or send an email to Lisa Wong at give2livemarrow@gmail.com.

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