



HAWAII MEDICAL CENTER

February 9, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KANEOHE COMMUNITY FAIR HOSTS BONE MARROW DRIVE
FOR EIGHT-YEAR OLD**

HONOLULU – While most eight-year olds are playing video games or participating in an after school sport, eight-year old Mitchell Ganeku is fighting for his life instead. The Manoa Elementary third grader has been diagnosed with aplastic anemia and is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. His Asian Pacific background makes it difficult to find a match. In hopes of increasing the chances for Ganeku, and others in need of transplants, the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry will be holding a drive. Those from Asian Pacific backgrounds are highly encouraged to register.

Kapunahala Community Health Fair

Friday, February 12, 2010

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

45-828 Anoi Road, Kaneohe

Donors must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good general health. Donors need only to register once. If you have already registered and need to update your information or would like more information about becoming a donor, please call the Registry at 547-6154 or visit our national website at www.marrow.org

The Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry was founded in 1989 and joined the National Marrow Donor Program to help patients in Hawaii and all over the world find healthy and willing bone marrow or blood stem cell donors. Only 30 percent of patients will find matching donors within their families; therefore, others need to find unrelated matches. Matches are more easily found between people of the same ethnic background. Since 1989, the HBMDR has recruited approximately 73,000 registered donors throughout Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa. Over 300 of those donors have actually donated bone marrow or blood stem cells for patients all over the world.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Please see attached photo of Mitchell Ganeku.