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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUNG FATHER SEARCHES FOR BONE MARROW DONOR

HONOLULU (June 8, 2010) – Waianae resident Clarence “JR” Olicnaria Jr., a young father, is desperately in need of a bone marrow transplant. He has been diagnosed with leukemia and no one in his family is a match. As Olicnaria is of mixed ethnicity – Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Caucasian and African American – finding a match has been extremely difficult due to the critical shortage of minority and mixed ethnicity donors.

To help find a donor for Olicnaria, and others, in need of transplants, the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry at Hawaii Medical Center East will be hosting a drive this Saturday, June 12, at the Waianae Mall Shopping Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

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 68,000 registered donors throughout Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa. Over 250 of those donors have actually donated bone marrow or blood stem cells for patients all over the world.

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