March 14, 2012

Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars awards $50,000 to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center

On February 26, the University of Hawaii Cancer Center received a gift of $50,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. With nearly 500 members in attendance at the group’s mid-year conference at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, President Gwen Rankin presented the check to Drs. Jeffrey Berenberg and Erin Bantum. Drs. Berenberg and Bantum shared with the group their past and on-going work in cancer studies with the veteran and military community at the Tripler Army Medical Center. President Rankin, who was born and raised in Hawaii, was especially pleased when she learned about the collaboration between the two organizations to which she felt personally connected. She was proud to announce that The Ladies Aux to the VFW has raised over $100 million for cancer research and support since 1947 through its Cancer Aid and Research Program, and that over 100 research centers have received these funds.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was established in 1914 and boasts 520,000 members throughout the United States, Germany, Guam and Panama. Its members live by the motto, “Honor the dead by helping the living.” The Ladies Aux to the VFW members set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform. The Hawaii chapter of The Ladies Aux to the VFW has nearly 450 members throughout the islands.

Dr. Jeffrey Berenberg was formerly Chief of the Hematology-Oncology Program at
Tripler Army Medical Center and currently serves as a civilian physician at the facility. He is also Principal Investigator of the Hawaii Minority-Based Community Cancer Program, Principal Investigator for the Southwest Oncology Group, and a Professor in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the UH Cancer Center. Dr. Erin Bantum is an Assistant Professor in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Her research as a clinical health psychologist focuses on psychological adjustments to cancer.