

Maui Memorial Medical Center has another side

By JOSEPH W. BEAN

A hospital is a hospital, right? Well, yes it is, but there's a lot more to Maui Memorial Medical Center than meets the eye. Ask yourself, how can a hospital in a small community like Maui do all that Maui Memorial does? How do they have so much amazing, life-saving technology, things you'd only expect to find only in a big metropolitan hospital? For that matter, how does a wheelchair happen to be available when you need it, and how can they manage to have nice seasonal flowers — ever? The answer is frequently to be found in the medical center's usually unseen other side: Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation.

The members of the Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation board raise funds in various ways throughout the year to achieve their mission to "support the health and wellness of the community of Maui and our visitors by ensuring that Maui Memorial Medical Center has the resources needed to provide the highest level of medical care."

Often that means a golf tournament, a gala of some kind or a community walk, but sometimes it means that a board member puts together a

fundraiser at home, as Fran Peart Mitsumura, a branch manager (and owner of the net branch) with First Hawaiian Mortgage, did on Saturday, July 17. The after-event announcement from the Foundation described the party as its "Summer, Sizzle & Slip-



pers event at the beautiful up-country home of board member Fran Mitsumura and husband Don." That's nice, but the heart of the matter is in the next sentence: "This fun-filled evening helped to raise more than \$20,000 for the Lifenet Stemi EKG system."

Maybe you don't know what the Lifenet Stemi EKG system is. Who does? Lani Correa, MMMC Foundation executive director said of it, "This vital technology has proven effective so many

times when heart attack patients have been monitored *en route* to Maui Memorial Medical Center, saving minutes, heart muscle and lives as a result of expedient treatment." So, this machine, or system that each of us hopes never to depend on could save our lives or the lives of our loved ones on the way to Maui Memorial. Yes, this is something we want, isn't it? If you couldn't write a check to buy or maintain it, you have to be glad the Foundation is finding the funds.

"We are very fortunate to have true communitarian board members like Fran," Correa said, "as well as Jeanie Kong, Dave Jorgensen and Leslie Ann Yokouchi, from the real estate community, who share our belief that life is precious and in giving back to one's community."

The board, by the way is not all real estate professionals. There are people on the board from medicine, banking, a credit union, business and education. What they have in common is a determination to see that Maui has the best medical care possible.

At Fran and Don Mitsumura's home, friends and guests — to borrow a phrase from Correa — "raised the paddle" and pledged donations that will be used to continue the



Guests at a MMMC Foundation fundraiser, left to right, Attorney Dave Jorgensen, hosts Fran and Don Mitsumura, Foundation Executive Director Lani Correa and MMMC Chief Executive Officer Wesley Lo.

critical service of the state-of-the-art, mobile EKG units "currently outfitted in all ambulances here on Maui, Molokai and Lanai. These devices enable paramedics to transmit diagnostic-quality EKGs via the internet to the hospital prior to arrival. It's invaluable data that is helping Maui Memorial save the lives of heart attack patients." And, although not all the guests that pledged that Lifenet Stemi EKG money were from real estate related businesses, some were: Mike and Marianne Gaertner, Mary Anne

Fitch and Nam Le Viet, all of Maui Estates International; Sunny Vermaas of Kapalua Realty; Clyde and Gerrienne Sakamoto of Island Sotheby's International, Warrick Price of Century 21 All Islands, and RAM affiliates from First Hawaiian Bank and Bank of Hawaii were all there "raising the paddle."

So, no matter what your day job is, real estate or not, you can still help the Foundation achieve its goals — by sending a check, for example. You can even designate a donation to be used for the de-

partment or program that most interests you. The check, if you're sending one, should be made payable to MMMC Foundation, 285 Mahalani Street #25, Wailuku HI 96793. Or call 242-2630 for more information. Maybe you'd even like to pitch in some of your own time, volunteering.

"It's going to take a lot of energy and a lot of people to make health care on Maui at MMMC all that it can be," Mitsumura said. She's hoping you'll want to help in some way.