

"Health care that is safe, health care that works, and health care that leaves no one behind"

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**Hilo Medical Center Announces Joint Venture with
Hilo Community Surgery Center**

December 15, 2010 – Hilo Medical Center has entered into a joint venture with Hilo Community Surgery Center (HCSC) as a minority partner. HCSC's daily management and operation will continue under the leadership of HCSC's Administration. The joint venture, made with HCSC's Managing Partner, Dr. Allan Takase, is described as a good example of a public-private partnership.

"The joint venture allows our surgeons to leverage the Surgery Center's services for certain outpatient procedures," said Howard N. Ainsley, East Hawaii Regional CEO of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. "This agreement also follows the Accountable Care Organization's recommendation that encourages revenue generating partnerships between hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers."

The joint venture also coincides with the hospital's goal of caring for more patients on-island.

"Many Big Island residents go to Oahu for minor procedures," said Dr. Takase. "In actuality, we can perform those surgeries here at Hilo Community Surgery Center. I think we perform wonderful services. Patients are uniformly pleased with our service."

"As Chairperson of the East Hawaii Regional Board governing Hilo Medical Center and the Medical Director of the Community Surgery Center, I am most pleased to see these two medical facilities work together," said Dr. Robert Irvine. "I feel both are needed for our community, and by working together, the people of East Hawaii will benefit."

"The Surgery Center has a well deserved reputation for excellent, compassionate care. The surgeons employed by Hilo Medical Center are exceptional and will provide excellent care at the Surgery Center. This cooperation is a win-win for East Hawaii."

The agreement involves the purchase of \$500,000 in shares at the fair market value as determined by an independent third party. HCSC, a freestanding ambulatory surgery center, first opened in June 2000. It offers specialties in Gynecology; Ear, Nose and Throat; General Surgery; Ophthalmology; Orthopedic; Plastic Surgery; Podiatry; Urology; Pain Management; and IV Therapy. Surgical services are provided by fully credentialed and licensed physicians. The facility is staffed with nurses certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. Details about the facility include:

- 1 Procedure Room
- 2 Surgical Suites
- 9 Recovery Areas
- Emergency Equipped
- Licensed by the State of Hawai'i
- Medicare Certified
- Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare, Inc.