

# Healing Touch Healthcare Facility Profile

## Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

1314 Punahou St, Honolulu, Hawaii

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Concerned about the welfare of Hawaii's mothers and their babies, Queen Kapi'olani opened the Kapi'olani Maternity Home in 1890. From its inception, the hospital has played a vital role in the health of Hawaii's women and children.

The queen endowed her legacy with the motto, "Kulia I Ka Nu'u" or "Strive for the Highest," a phrase that captures our organization's mission as well today as it did more than a century ago. Today, Kapi'olani continues the queen's mission to strive to improve the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents.

As the state's only specialty hospital, Kapi'olani is recognized as Hawaii's leader in the care of women and children.

**Type of Facility:** Medical Center, inpatient and outpatient

**How Healing Touch is currently being used in your facility:** In 1998

It started with the help of Anne Day, RN,MA,CMT,HNC,CHTP/I, and Gail Sugimoto-Leong, Chaplain at KMCWC, and Joyce Wong, RNc, CPON,CHTP, LMT. We had a vision, and Anne Day visited our medical center, spoke to groups, met with administration and the Director of Nursing who had a desire to bring Healing Touch to KMCWC.

We had great reception from this introduction, and started with the first Level 1 HT class in May of 1998. Since Then we have had 2-4 HT classes a year sponsored by the medical center. This led to a patient and family frequent requests for Healing Touch, and the nurses were not able to accommodate the demand. Joyce, coordinator for classes, was not able to meet the demand for requests. This led to the establishment of the volunteer program. Pain referrals were made on an individual basis, but there was no established method for healing touch provision.

Healing Touch from Volunteers evolved through a team approach:

- 1) **Kapi'olani Health Connection**, a group of nurses who make appointments, schedule tests and answer questions, also started scheduling Healing Touch and later, Reiki.
- 2) **Admissions**, who prints out a list of patients for the volunteers. They are open 24 hours a day, which allows volunteers to come on weekends.
- 3) **Volunteer Department**, who takes initial volunteers applications, screens and coordinates the necessary physical testing and basic orientation.
- 4) **HT/Reiki Coordinator**, Joyce Wong, follows with the HT orientation, connection with a "buddy" to complete orientation, has monthly HT/Reiki support meetings (every other month at KMCWC) and oversees the healing touch program..

The program has grown over the years and has proven itself successful, with referrals from patients, nurses and physicians. Patients who are in pediatrics, adult and pediatric oncology, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), pre and post operative in the surgicenter, and inpatient and outpatient medical center.

Three years ago, Reiki was included in the program. Part of the goal was to bring in more volunteers

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to the adult population at Pali Momi, but it also brought in more active volunteers to the children at KMCWC.

The integration of an additional modality has brought a better understanding and clarification of methods of complementary care and it's effectiveness. Some children request HT before starting any invasive procedure, and parents look forward to treatments for their children.

In March of this year (2007), we became more active in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and give HT along with pre-term infant massage. This growing program has been warmly received in the NICU, and staff tell us they can see differences in the babies. They grow faster, eat better and are discharged earlier.

The "magic" of healing touch is all over our medical center, and the volunteers. Staff, volunteers and Coordinator Joyce like seeing the progress the program has made and have had patients and families tell how relaxed and healing they feel, looking forward to their next treatment. We are "Holding the Light".

**We are "Holding the Light".**

**Contact for HT Services:** Joyce Wong

Phone: 808 983 8551 or 808 487 5824 E-Mail: [JoyceWo@kapiolani.org](mailto:JoyceWo@kapiolani.org)

**Can Patients Request HealingTouch:** Yes

**Physician Referral:** Yes (informal - we get referral verbally or by MD order)

**Physician Order Required:** No

**Billing for HT:** No Explanation: Free Service

**Minimum Healing Touch Skill Level:** Level 1

**Healing Touch Policy and Procedure in Place:** Yes

**When was HT Implemented and How?**

As above. We give HT to patients, from volunteers (primarily) and nursing staff hospital wide.

**Is There Marketing for HT Services:** Yes A little bit of marketing: we hand out brochures at

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bedside at high referral areas, and there is a mention on the web site.

**Other CAM Therapies Available:** Massage, Imagery, Reiki

**Other Information you would like to include about your facility:**

Healing touch has grown and become a large influence on our medical centers. The self-care concept for nurses had led to 3-5 sessions a year when nurses are offered a HT session, along with massage and Reiki. We also give treatments to nursing staff when they are working, and on break. HT is part of the bereavement "Butterfly" program. A practitioner gives HT to nursing staff who have cared for a dying patient.

