

Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children: 100 Years of Pediatric Care in Hawaii!



Hawaii HOSA logs 1400+ hours for Community Service

By Jenna Maligro, Hawaii HOSA State President

After returning home from the HOSA National Conference each year, our state officers visit Hawaii Pacific Health (a generous supporter of Hawaii HOSA) to share accomplishments of our delegates at the national meeting. Unlike other years, we had heard that one of our local hospitals, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children was celebrating their centennial (100th Birthday) and were seeking volunteers from the community to help run this free public event at our local Honolulu Zoo on August 30, 2009.



Allen Orense and Sharie Rivera examine furry "patients", sterilize wounds, take blood samples, and apply bandages.

Without hesitation, we volunteered, because it was time that members gave back to our wonderful partner who has supported our state conference, scholarships, summer institute, internships and other initiatives for the past five years. Carl Hinson, Director of Workforce Development, was elated that HOSA members were willing to provide the volunteers needed for this special occasion.

Although most chapters usually finalize their membership by September or October, and postsecondary members were starting classes a week before the event, most chapters recruited returning and potential members, (Health Services Pathway students) and HOSA alumni to volunteer for the numerous health- and hospital-related booths. After the initial message went out, our advisors started responding to our e-mails, and in two weeks, we had over 300 student, alumni, advisor, and parent volunteers ready to serve.



Kaylie and Brianna guide children and "patients" through the Teddy Bear Clinic departments (Admissions, Lab, X-Ray, OR).

The day finally arrived, and some members worked six-hour shifts among numerous booths (Teddy Bear Clinic, health education, crafts, Keiki (children) I.D.'s, a Jungle Obstacle Course) and assisting with other duties (checking in guests, traffic control, passing out water, cake and goodie bags, set-up and clean-up) to help organizers run the event smoothly.



Children learn about their digestive system at this booth with Marci, Jae-Yun, Lance (State VP) and Jenna (State President).

Many Hawaii HOSA volunteers, such as Cori Komiyama, had positive things to say: "It was a great experience to help kids and families as well as gain social experience working with so many people." In the end, all agreed that it was a great experience working with the community, and a success with thirteen chapters from the island of Oahu making a difference. If there are opportunities in your local area, be sure to ask how you can help so that your partnership continues to grow!!!