



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Minna Sugimoto

808-691-4105

msugimoto@queens.org

**THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER HONORS ITS
OUTSTANDING PHYSICIANS FOR 2020:
RYON NAKASONE, M.D. AND MALIA RAMIREZ, M.D.**

HONOLULU – The Queen's Medical Center (Queen's) has recognized **Ryon Nakasone, M.D.**, and **Malia Ramirez, M.D.**, as its 2020 Ke Kauka Po'okela Outstanding Physicians of the Year.

This annual award recognizes physicians of Queen's medical staff who exemplify high-quality care, professional conduct, outstanding contributions to the medical field and a spirit of aloha.

“As we go through this global pandemic, we are reminded of how Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV established The Queen's Hospital under similar circumstances, guided by a deep love for their people,” said Jill Hoggard Green, PhD, RN, President and CEO of The Queen's Health Systems. “Dr. Nakasone and Dr. Ramirez exemplify this spirit of aloha through their commitment to improve the health and well-being of our community. They truly embody Queen's C.A.R.E. values of Compassion, Aloha, Respect and Excellence.”

Dr. Nakasone received the award for **Outstanding Community-Based Physician**. He is an MD Anderson-certified oncologist and hematologist. He serves as Assistant Chief of the Department of Oncology at Queen's, and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Hawaii (UH). The Saint Louis School graduate received his Bachelor of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology from UH Manoa, and his medical degree from UH's John A. Burns School of Medicine. He completed his residency with the UH Internal Medicine Residency Program.

“I don't want patients to be afraid of coming to see me. Patients are not just a diagnosis – they're people. You have to think of how you can help them in many aspects of their lives, both physically and emotionally,” Nakasone said.

Dr. Ramirez received the award for **Outstanding Hospital-Based Physician**. She is the Associate Medical Director of the Queen's Hospitalist Program, and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. She works on many Queen's initiatives to streamline and improve overall patient care. She serves on the Patient



Experience Steering Committee and the Queen's Medical Group Executive Advisory Committee, and is a graduate of the Queen's Advanced Quality Training Program. The Punahou School graduate received her Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology from Stanford University, and her medical degree from UH's John A. Burns School of Medicine. She completed her residency at the University of California, San Francisco.

“Despite the challenges in health care, I really enjoy doing this work and partnering with all of the disciplines that make up the health care team. Embracing the team model is what gets me through the challenges and makes my work meaningful,” Ramirez said.

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The Queen's Medical Center (Queen's), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, is an acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility is licensed for 575 acute beds and serves as the major tertiary and quaternary referral center for cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and behavioral health medicine. It is the state's designated trauma center verified as Level I by the American College of Surgeons. It has the only organ transplantation program in Hawaii. Queen's is a major teaching hospital, serving as a clinical training site for the residency programs sponsored by the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen's is the only hospital in Hawaii to achieve Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.