



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
CANCER CENTER

2022 Annual Report

H O ' Ō L A M A N A M A N A

DIVERSITY

HEALTH

KNOWLEDGE

NCI

Cancer Center

A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

PHILANTHROPY

Shirley and Drew Santos presents
check to Loïc LeMarchand, MD, PhD,
Interim Director



“

The UH Cancer Center is doing world-class research right here in Hawai‘i. We’re proud to raise money from local residents and businesses and keep it in Hawai‘i to support the fight against this terrible disease.”

- DREW SANTOS

Last year, CoolingCancer.org, a non-profit organization, expanded its support of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center with a gift of \$100,000 to aid in cancer research. Andrew "Drew" Santos, president of Cooling Cancer and president of Admor HVAC Products, Inc. and his wife, Shirley Santos, presented the gift in October 2022 to Dr. Loïc Le Marchand, Interim Director of the UH Cancer Center.

Drew founded CoolingCancer.org in 2013 with the goal of raising money for cancer research and patients in Hawai'i. Thus far, their nonprofit organization has given a total of \$445,000. Fighting cancer is personal for Drew because he lost his father to the disease. He shares his father's memory which continues to fuel his support of this cause.



Drew and Shirley Santos with their daughter, Keli, and dog, Sunny.

EVERY PHONE CALL ENDED WITH, "I LOVE YOU"

BY DREW SANTOS

I did not have any contact with my Dad for almost 30 years. We were strangers due to divorce when I was around 10 years old, and it wasn't until I was in my forties and married that we started a relationship.

Email brought him back into my life in a very slow way. A visit to his home to meet his new wife turned into weekends together and then trips to Napa, San Francisco, Australia, and Europe, to name a few.

We discussed the past, but we never dwelled on it. We only wanted to look to the future and spend time together, enjoying life and our families. He became my best friend, someone I could talk to, email, call and hang out with, and feel happy and comfortable.

We emailed sometimes daily, talking about sports, food, travel, or politics. Our relationship grew to where every email or phone call ended with "I love you." What a blessing this was after not hearing it for thirty years. Then, boom. After fighting cancer for a year, he was given a prognosis of six weeks to six months to live. He lasted about six weeks.

I visited him on Thanksgiving and he looked great—a little weak but smiling from ear to ear. A week later, hospice nurses were at his house, setting up a bed. Dad was gone by Christmas. I remember him saying, "I didn't think it would happen this fast."

Seeing my Dad's life pass before my eyes when he had so many years left, changed my life.

Now it included cancer.