



## **New Metabolic and Bariatric Program in Kona:**

Kona Community Hospital and Ali`i Health Center Collaborate on Weight Loss Solutions

October 3, 2013 - Kealahou, island of Hawaii – Kona Community Hospital is pleased to announce the recent opening of the Kona Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Center. The center is a collaboration with Ali`i Health Center and is offering a comprehensive weight loss program including surgical weight loss procedures previously unavailable in west Hawaii.

A multidisciplinary team at the new center will offer patients with weight-related health issues a comprehensive weight loss program including medically managed weight loss and bariatric surgery. The team includes bariatric surgeons, physicians, a psychologist, nutritionist, and the surgery team at Kona Community Hospital.



“Our program will create an individualized plan of care to meet the medical, physical and emotional needs of each patient,” said bariatric surgeon Nathan Tomita, DO, MPH. “Obesity is a chronic disease that is difficult to treat. We work closely with patients to determine which weight loss option is best for each individual.”

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than one in twenty adults is considered to be morbidly obese. Those suffering from obesity often have obesity-related co-morbidities such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. Obesity patients are at increased risk for disability or premature death. For these patients, losing weight can be a lifesaver.

“Although we offer medically managed weight loss for obesity, for some bariatric surgery may be a more appropriate option,” said Tomita, who has performed hundreds of surgical weight loss procedures. Surgical weight loss options offered include Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, gastric sleeve and adjustable gastric banding, all using minimally invasive laparoscopic techniques.

“Our mission is to provide personalized treatment to each patient based on their needs and health status,” said April McGeorge, Nurse Practitioner. McGeorge who is the center’s Medical Bariatric Coordinator added, “We’re committed to helping our patients achieve long-term, life changing weight loss.”

To learn more about medical and surgical weight loss options at Kona Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Center, or to sign up for a free information session, please call (808)747-8321 (option #2).

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