

## **FINALISTS**

### **KAUA'I COUNTY SEAT**

- **Dileep G. Bal**
- **Charlene K. Ono**
- **Robert F. Westerman**

Dileep G. Bal, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.  
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Dr. Dileep G. Bal worked for the Hawaii State Department of Health from September 2005 to July 2016, as the District Health Officer for the Island of Kauai, and as Special Advisor to the Director of the Department on Cancer, Chronic Disease, Tobacco and Nutrition. He is a Clinical Professor at both the University of Hawaii Cancer Center and the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health of the College of Medicine (University of Hawaii). He retired on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Bal had been with the State of California from 1981 to 2005, when he served as the Chief of the Cancer Control Branch within the Department of Health Services. With the advent of Proposition 99, which added a \$.25 tax on each package of cigarettes sold in California, he became responsible for implementing California's tobacco control efforts. This tobacco use prevention and cessation program was one of the largest of its kind in the world and has been universally acclaimed for its innovations and effectiveness. He is the founder/director of California's Tobacco Control and Obesity Control efforts. His branch's annual budget was in excess of 250 million dollars.

From 1981 to 2005 was a Clinical Professor at the Medical School of the University of California at Davis, where he was active in the teaching and research programs. He has published extensively in the areas of cancer prevention and control, especially about diet and cancer, tobacco, and cancer and the underserved. Dr. Bal has been Principal Investigator on several large National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control cancer prevention and control projects. Dr. Bal serves on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control. He has been on the editorial board or, is an active reviewer, for several peer-reviewed medical journals as well as for the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Bal is a frequent speaker on public health, medical and social issues, both nationally and internationally. He was the commencement speaker at Brown University Medical School in May 2005. As a former Regent of the University of Hawaii, he is now a Regent Emeritus. Dr. Bal has received innumerable awards, the most recent (in 2016), being the Lifetime Achievement Award from AMA and the Alumnus Award of Merit from Harvard.

Prior to going to California in 1981, Dr. Bal was in Tucson, Arizona for ten years, where he was the Director of the Pima County Health Department and on the full-time faculty of the University of Arizona, College of Medicine. Dr. Bal was born and educated mainly in New Delhi, India. His medical degree is from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He also has graduate degrees in Public Health from Columbia and Harvard Universities. He has been board certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine since 1975 and was elected to the American College of Preventive Medicine soon thereafter.

Dr. Bal is very active with the American Cancer Society at the local, state, and national levels. He has been a member of the National Board of Directors and a National Officer, in addition to being an Honorary Life Member, and Past President of both the Sacramento Unit and the California Division of the American Cancer Society. He is an Honorary Life Member of the American Society in Hawaii. In 2000-2001, Dr. Bal was the National President of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Bal and his wife Muktha have two children. Their son Vijay who has Psychology, Business and Law degrees from Harvard, the University of Rochester and the University of San Diego respectively, is employed in Los Angeles. Their daughter Suniti has a degree in Political Science from the University of California and works in Washington, D.C.

## Charlene K. Ono

Charlene (Char) K. Ono worked for Kauai Community College (KauCC) from August 1991. She was a Nurse Practitioner in the Campus Wellness Center from 2001-2017, providing health care services, addressing the physical and psychosocial needs of students, faculty, staff, and special populations. In 2006, she became the Clinic Director, in which capacity she developed policies and procedures for the clinic and was instrumental in obtaining the Title X Family Planning grant to provide services to the community for free or at greatly reduced rates. She remained as the Clinic Director until her retirement in December 2017. She also held the position of Health Education Division Chair from 2006-2014 and oversaw the Early Childhood Education, Health, Physical Education & Recreation, Nursing, MEDA, and Massage programs. Over the years, she had obtained over \$1.5 million in grants from such agencies as the Department of Health, HRSA, Mabel Wilcox, Young Brothers, Rural Development, Geriatric Education Center, Perkins, and Charity Walk. The funds were used for family planning, medications, scholarships, equipment, and curriculum development. In spite of wearing all of these hats, oftentimes multiple ones simultaneously, she still performed her primary function as an instructor, teaching Nursing courses. She developed the International Nursing course, teaching students about the healthcare and education systems in Japan and taking them abroad to experience the culture, visit healthcare facilities, and explore the consequences of war. She played a major role in the successful full 8-year reaccreditation of the Nursing program in 2009 and 2017 and spearheaded the development of the Hawaii Statewide Nursing Curriculum, which allowed KCC graduates automatic admission into the BSN program at UHM.

Prior to KauCC, she was with Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital from October 1977 until August 1991 when she left as the Acting Director of Nursing. Her previous positions included Utilization Review and Quality Assurance Coordinator, Infection Control Coordinator, Psychiatric Head Nurse, and Employee Health Nurse, some simultaneously. During this period, she made changes in the care of the psychiatric patients; developed the programs for the Employee Health Department; developed and implemented the first structured psychiatric orientation; implemented the patient acuity system; served on the Safety and Risk Management Committees; investigated incidents; developed policies and procedures; and provided educational classes for all employees.

Char has received numerous community, county, state, and national awards, including the UH Faces of Nursing Award, American Red Cross Ann Magnussen and Clara Barton Awards, John A. Hartford Foundation Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Award, and Research Scholar Award from the University of Pennsylvania, Center for Health Disparities.

Char has served on various community boards, including Kauai County Subarea Health Planning Council (Governor-appointed), Na Lei Wili Area Health Education Center (AHEC) of which she was president; Kauai Community Mental Health, Friendship House, American Red Cross, Alzheimer Connection Board, Kauai Rural Health, Taiko Kauai, and St. Francis High School. She is an active member of the American Heart Association BLS Training Center Faculty and Lihue Senior Center Steering Committee. She continues to volunteer with the Youth Empowerment and Success Program at Hale Kipa, a program for at-risk youths, Lihue Senior Center, and AHEC.

Char has a Ph.D. in Nursing, an advanced certificate in Gerontology from School of Public Health, a Post-Master Certificate in Family Nurse Practice, a Master of Science in Nursing Administration, a BS and an AS in Nursing from University of Hawaii at Manoa. She also has a Certificate of Competence in Massage Therapy from KauCC and a Certificate of Completion in Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner from the SART Institute.

Char is married to Darrick Nordmeier, and they have two children, Dr. Sascha Naomi McKeon of Oregon and Dr. Akira Darrick Nordmeier of California.

Robert Frank Westerman, Sr. Fire Chief, MBA, CFOD  
County of Kaua'i, February 2005 to December 2018

As the Chief Administrator of the Kaua'i Fire Department it is his responsibility to ensure that the men and women of the Fire Department and Ocean Safety Bureau are highly skilled, well trained, professionally educated, adequately equipped, and truly motivated to provide the best service possible when saving lives and property on Kaua'i.

Chief Westerman was born in Spokane Washington and is married to Ann Marie Wooton of Kekaha, Kaua'i, they have 3 Children Steven, MaryAnn and Robert Jr, and nine wonderful grandchildren. From his days as a military dependent and his active duty time his travels have included Japan, Okinawa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, South Korea, Guam, Washington, Florida, North Dakota, Kentucky, Ohio, Arizona, and Hawaii. The most memorable times in life is traveling and immersing in the local cultures.

Chief Westerman earned his MBA from University of Hawai'i, Mānoa in the first NIMBA Cohort and a BSBA from the University of Phoenix. He is also a Certified Fire Officer IV from Texas A&M, and Certified as a CFOD, Chief Fire Officer Designee by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Prior to serving as the County Fire Chief, he served as the Fire Chief of the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, from October 1999 to January 2005, Fire Inspector from 1992 to 1999, Fire Captain/EMT Corona De Tucson, from 1985 to 1992.

Chief Westerman is a Vietnam Veteran retired from the United States Air Force after 20 years of service. His accommodations and medals include the Air Force Accommodation Medal, Joint Service Accommodation Medal, 2 Humanitarian Service Medals, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Chief Westerman is an active community member and currently serves as a Board Member for the Kaua'i United Way since 2009 and served as President, Vice President and on the Treasure Committee. Serves as a Board Member of West Kaua'i Business and Professional Association for over 20 years serving as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. He is a Life Member of the American Legion, Westside Post 51 serving as Commander, Vice Commander and DECMen. Life Member DAV.

His belief in life long educations is one of the pillars of his administration. He was the first Kauai Fire Chief to encourage and allow attendance at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg Maryland. KFD now has 3 Executive Fire Officer Graduates of the academy. He brought back the NREMT through Kaua'i Community Collage to improve the service the community. His hobbies include golf, travel, and home remodeling.