

### **Resume**

Kenneth Zeri is a proven healthcare leader with over 30 years serving his community and profession. Starting as a Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Zeri graduated from nursing school and commissioned into the US Naval Reserves as a Nurse Corp Officer. Following active Duty, he began a 2 year as a Hospice professional. He began his service at the bedside caring for individuals and their families in a homecare setting, and retired as President and Chief Professional Officer at Hospice Hawaii. His leadership expanded locally and nationally. The founding President of the Kokua Mau Board of Directors, he joined others to craft many of our state's laws impacting end of life care, including the Uniformed Health Care Decisions Act and the Providers Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) law. He is a past-President of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and also served two terms on the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and many years on the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

### **Professional Experience**

August 1998 – November 2017 Hospice Hawaii, Inc.

Served in a variety of capacities from 1998 to 2002, including

- Licensed Nursing Home Administrator: Provided administrative leadership for the Hospice Hawaii Kailua Home, a 5-bed hospice residential unit, the first in the state of Hawaii.
- Corporate Compliance officer: overseeing development of compliance and quality programs. (1998-2000)
- Director of Clinical Operations: responsible for all clinical programs, including home-based hospice care, after hours care, the Kailau Hospice Home operations and the development of services on Molokai in 2000.
- President & CPO: Responsible for overall operations of one of the larger non-profit organizations in Hawaii. Serve as President of Board of Directors and Chief Professional Officer of Organization. Oversaw staff of 120 with annual budget that grew from about \$3.5 Million to \$12 Million per year. Provider services to Oahu and Molokai. Initiated hospice services for the island of Lanai in 2014, in collaboration with Pulama Lanai, including creating a 2-bed hospice unit. President from Nov 2002 to Nov 2017.
- Legislation: Collaboratively worked on the development of several new laws, including Advance Health Care Directive, POLST and Pain Patient Bill of Rights.

December 1996 to June 1998 West HealthCare (Adventist Health), San Diego, CA

- Hospice Consultant: Long term consulting position with primary goal of providing quality improvement recommendations for the hospice program and promoting growth. Assisted with successful JCAHO Accreditation, Medicare survey preparation and marketing.

## Kenneth Zeri, RN, MS

Hospice Hawaii, Inc.

Operations Director

- Initial role included promoting growth of Hospice Hawaii through educational outreach to healthcare community on Oahu. Supported overall growth of program from an average of 14 patients per day to over 60 patients served per day. Participated in the creation and development of the Hospice Hawaii Kailua Home, a 5-bed hospice residential unit, including achieving licensure as a skilled nursing facility.

Montgomery Hospice Society

Served in various capacities, including:

- Direct patient care, serving patients and families in the Rockville, MD area and performing on-call nursing duties as assigned.
- Became first Patient Care Coordinator as program grew. Responsible for day to day nursing supervision for more than 12 nurses and an average census of 60+ patients.
- Became Education Coordinator, part time in September 1992 while attending university of Maryland at Baltimore for Masters in Nursing degree.

San Diego Hospice Corporation, San Diego, CA

Increasing responsibilities finishing as Senior Patient Care Coordinator:

- Began hospice career as direct care provider. Rapidly promoted to:
- Patient care coordinator, overseeing a team of 10 Registered Nurses
- Senior Patient Care Coordinator, overseeing nursing team, on-call team and nursing aide department.

US Navy Nurse Corps

Commissioned in as Navy Nurse Corp Officer.

- Served on Active Duty Bremerton Naval Hospital
- Active duty San Diego Naval Hospital
- Reserve Duty, drilling monthly. Served with Marine Corps 4<sup>th</sup> CSSD, Medical Company Alpha as training officer.

California Department of Forestry

Seasonal Firefighter / EMT with various Range units in Northern California.

- Butte County Fire Department volunteer fire fighter, during nursing school, Chico, CA.

### Volunteer Professional Organizations

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Board of Directors

Jan 2012 to Dec 2017

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, Board of Directors

1991 to 1996 and 1999 to 2001

Board President 1995-1996

## **Kenneth Zeri, RN, MS**

### Healthcare Association of Hawaii

- Member: Homecare and Hospice Division 2002 - 2017
- Chair Homecare and Hospice Division 2015 – 2017
- Board of Directors 2015 - 2017

### Kokua Mau

- 1999 to 2007: Served on initial grant program, funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Board of Directors: 2007 to 2017
  - Created in merger with Hawaiian Islands Hospice Organization
  - Founding President in 2007
  - Served various board leadership position during tenure

### Hawaii Cancer Pain Initiative

- Chair 2002

### Hawaii Island Hospice Organization

- Member 2002 to 2007
- Chair 2006 -2007

### California Student Nurses Association

- Chapter founder & President, 1981
- California State Vice President, 1982

### **Local Volunteer Community Service**

#### End of Life Education

Countless community educational offerings over    years on topics such as

- Hospice care
- Advance Healthcare Directives
- Providers Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment

#### Church Service

- Church Council (Church Board of Directors), Joy of Christ Lutheran Church 2004 – 2011
- Choir Director, Joy of Christ, 2008-2011
- First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu; Choir 2012 – present

Rotary Club of Honolulu                      Waikiki, 2006

Various service projects: Highlights include

- Renovations to YWCA Atherton Hall and the small cabins,
- Renovations to Boy's and Girl's Club Spalding Clubhouse
- Various work projects
- Rotary Board 2015 - 2017