

Aloha Surgical Center

Information about Advance Medical Directives

An advance directive is a document that allows patients to give direction about future medical care. Under the law, you have the right to give instructions about your own health care.

Advance directives can help:

- **YOU** by protecting your right to make medical choices that can affect your life
- **YOUR FAMILY** by allowing them to avoid the responsibility and stress of making difficult decisions
- **YOUR PHYSICIAN** by providing guidelines for care

Advance directives can protect people in extreme situations when they are unable to communicate:

- Irreversible brain damage
- Permanent coma
- Terminal illness

There are two types of advance directives:

- **LIVING WILL** – written instructions explaining wishes regarding health care should the patient have a terminal condition
- **DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY** – written documentation naming a person to make decisions for the patient if the patient becomes unable to do so

Talk with family members, friends, spiritual advisors, physicians, other health-care providers, and trusted individuals as you consider your decision about advance directives. For more information, please ask our receptionist for a brochure and forms for your use in making advance directives. You may also want to contact the Hawaii Department of Health, your attorney or www.caringinfo.org for more information.

The procedures performed at Aloha Surgical Center are elective procedures. Aloha Surgical Center will always attempt to resuscitate a patient and transfer that patient to a hospital in the event of deterioration. Should you be transferred to the hospital for any reason, we will forward a copy of your advance medical directives along with your transfer documents if you have provided them on admission.