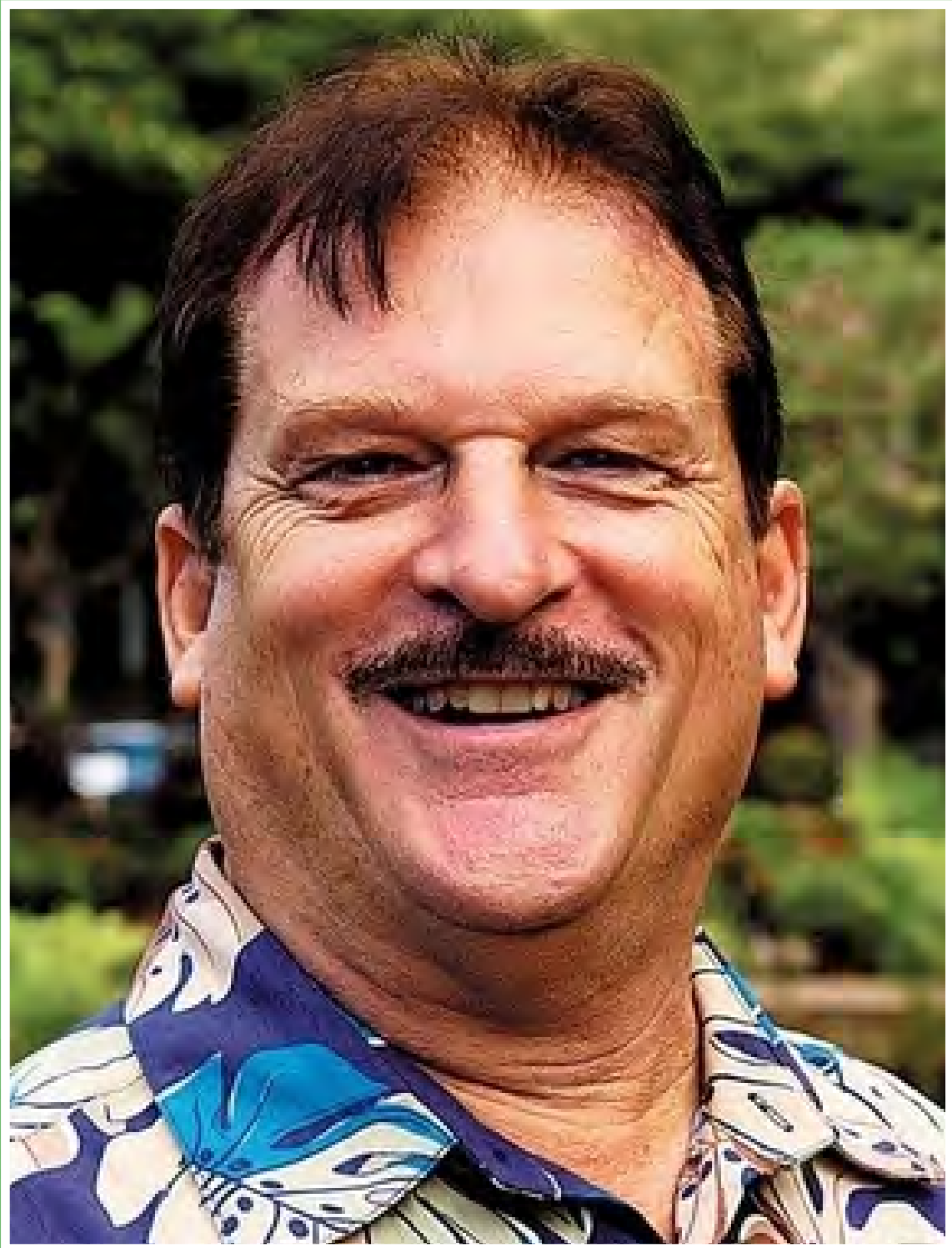


Richard Paul Kia'iikeolamaiola Bettini Gardens



The beautiful gardens on this campus were named after Richard Bettini, a member of our Health Center leadership team since 1979 and our president and CEO since 1994. In 1996, he had a vision to transform the barren hillside above our clinic buildings into a lush garden of tropical plants, trees and walking trails. Bettini certainly had gardening in his blood as his grandfather was a well loved and gifted gardener in California whose beautiful work often replicated the gardens of his Italian homeland.

On December 13, 2002, a traditional ceremony was held to bless the Health Center gardens and give them an official name. The naming task was the responsibility of Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope, Kupuna Council Chair and namesake of the Health Center's Native Hawaiian Traditional Healing Center. The ceremony was about to begin and "Auntie Aggie" had yet to reveal the name of the gardens. Many dignitaries were in the crowd and the assumption was that the gardens would be named after one of them.



When Auntie Aggie finally announced, "Bettini – we will call them the Bettini Gardens," nobody was more surprised than Rich Bettini. As he recalls it, "My father was in the audience that day, and I accepted that honor not so much for me, but for my father and grandfather."

HELE NO KE OLA | HELE NO KA IKE

Walk for Wellness / Walk to Learn



In 2012, in another very special ceremony, the executive director of the Health Center's Native Hawaiian Traditional Healing Center, Kahu Kamaki Kanahale (with the blessing of his mother, Aunty Aggie) bestowed on Rich one of the most honored cultural privileges, a Hawaiian name and a mele inoa (name chant). The Hawaiian name Rich was given was "Kia'iikeolamaiola", which means guardian of health and well-being.