

# Jitsuo Yoshimori's Lifetime of Sacrifice Creates a Legacy for Maui and Malulani Health & Medical Center.

Jitsuo Yoshimori was only four years old when an accident changed the course of his life. Three-quarters of a century later, that experience would make a difference in the lives of the people of Maui.

Born in Wailuku in 1922, "Jits" was little more than a toddler when he injured his right leg and contracted a life-threatening infection, recalls his cousin Helen Sueoka. To save his life, Jitsuo was sent to Shriners Hospitals for Children—Honolulu, where he could be taken care of free of charge. His mother went with him on the boat. "This is to save your life. Be brave. You will walk again and you will come home one day." To walk again was his only wish.

That day was long in coming but his wish was granted though he was left with a life long physical limitation.

With a degree in economics, Jitsuo returned to Maui and got a job with Wailuku Sugar Company. Jits stuck to this job for about 30 years, all the while caring for his mother and creating the trust that would some day enable him to realize his wish to give back to his community.

Jitsuo Yoshimori died on April 30, 2003, at the age of 81. Only after his death did Helen Sueoka learn the extent of her cousin's savings and depth of his charity.

A grant was given to the Shriners Hospitals for Children in appreciation for giving him back his life many years ago.

The other was a generous gift of a \$100,000.00 grant to help Malulani Health & Medical Center to become a reality, to serve the community and continue a legacy of helping those in need of medical care.

*This July, the State Health Planning and Development Agency will begin a series of public hearings on whether to accept or reject the Certificate of Need required for Malulani Hospital to be built. For information on Malulani, and on what you can do to help, call (808) 244-5022, or visit [www.malulani.org/help.html](http://www.malulani.org/help.html), or [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org).*

Joyous to be back with his mother on Maui, he wished to share his joy with others. It became his life's passion to give back to his community. He was grateful for the extended life his "family" of care-givers gave him.

After high school, he enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, determined to get his degree. A year later, his father was killed in a truck accident, leaving him head of the house.



*Artist's Rendering*

