



February 15, 2018

Dear Cherished Patient,

With great enthusiasm, this letter announces that I will be staying on the Big Island and will begin practicing at Ali`i Health Center in Keauhou on **March 5, 2018**. New address: **Ali`i Health Center** at Keauhou Shopping Center, 78-6831 Ali`i Drive, Suite 422, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740. Phone: (808) 747-8321.

After the letter in January announcing the closure of my practice on March 2, 2018, there was a great tsunami of support from the community at large and from Ali`i Health Center, asking me not to leave the Islands. I have been overwhelmed by the support, encouragement and gratitude from my patients and colleagues during this time of transition. Ali`i Health Center graciously offered me the opportunity to continue providing medical services as a cardiovascular disease specialist to Ali`i Health Center patients. I am excited to be a part of this growing team of professionals who constantly strive to provide quality care and treatment to their patients.

In addition to working at Ali`i Health Center's Keauhou clinic, I will also have privileges at Kona Community Hospital and will continue to have privileges at North Hawaii Community Hospital.

I appreciate how difficult these past few years have been for many of my patients and I fully understand that some of you may have already found another heart specialist here on the Big Island – that's okay. For those patients who are still looking, please know that all current and former patients are welcome to receive their cardiology care at Ali`i Health Center.

Ali`i Health Center will be able to bill commercial plans, Medicaid and VA for my services. Because I opted out of Medicare for two years, Medicare patients will need to sign a contract (stating that they will not submit the claim to Medicare and neither will Ali`i Health Center) and pay for their services out-of-pocket until January 1, 2019. The fees at Ali`i Health Center for Medicare patients will be less than what Island Heart and Vascular was charging.

Please know that Ali`i Health Center has requested a waiver from CMS/Medicare so that it can begin to bill Medicare earlier than January 2019. If the Center receives the waiver, a follow-up letter will be sent to you announcing the date when Ali`i Health Center will be able to bill Medicare for my services.

We are also happy to share that Melody will be joining Ali`i Health Center as well. Please feel free to call Ali`i Health Center at (808) 747-8321 after March 5th to schedule an appointment. You can also call our office (808-498-4176) if you have questions.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Derbes".

Lawrence Derbes, M.D., FACC