



# TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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## Hawaii's natural beauty hangs in Tripler hallways

Tripler Army Medical Center -- Change can be small, incremental, or as large as the horizon. Or both, which is how the Kastner brothers like it.

Kastner Design is now finishing up a project to mount large photos of Hawaii landscapes in several hallways near the mountainside entrance to Tripler Army Medical Center.

“The thing that I like about bringing in local pictures is that these are such beautiful islands. Most folks don’t know that they can go to some of these places,” Steve said, while he and his brother Jim mounted a 40-inch by 85-inch photo in a corridor connecting the two north-south hallways near the mountainside pharmacy.

“This one here is right above Aina Haina and Niu valleys. You go up this hiking trail and at the top of this ridge, you can see Waimanalo on one side and Hawaii Kai on the other,” Steve added.

Jim added, “It’s pretty steep in some areas...But we were up and down in about three hours. This one was a sleeper for me. It was the first time ever to go up this ridge. It was just the right day, had the kind of overcast. I really like how the clouds dance on the top like this.”

The infrequent visitor to Tripler may not notice the change. As part of the medical facility’s ongoing structural upgrades, the corridor walls near the mountainside entrance were repaired and the damaged veneer was removed. Many of Tripler’s mountainside (4G) hallways were decorated with framed posters announcing cultural events of the 1980’s.

According to Tina Watanabe, a Tripler interior design coordinator with Bowers and Kubota Consulting, Tripler has been undergoing interior upgrades since March 2007 as part of its interior design master plan. The new interior design scheme includes changing the wall color to a soft, neutral gray and replacing the art posters to photographs of Hawaii landscapes.

“The new scheme for the hospital is to try to have mountain images on the mountainside and leading to ocean images on the Oceanside, so visually you’ll have an idea of where you are, as well,” Steve said.

The Kastners have also done previous projects at Tripler, including the large mural of a mountain stream in the pharmacy waiting room installed about four years ago.

“Some of the big pictures like the one in pharmacy, that that is one of their meditation spots.” said Jim, in commenting on how even the Tripler staff appreciate the photos.

“When they get stressed, they go and sit in front of that picture. Can you imagine, going to the waiting room in pharmacy to get some peace? I was impressed,” Steve said with a chuckle.



**Steve (kneeling) and Jim Kastner mount a frame of a print from their extensive collection of Hawaii photographs in a hallway near Tripler’s mountainside pharmacy.**

**each of the framed photos has a small card with personal comments of the photographer, either Steve or Jim Kastner. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa**



**Jim (at left) and Steve Kastner of Kastner Designs installed one of their large landscape murals about four years ago in Tripler's pharmacy prescription refill waiting room. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa**