THE QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER’S KAZUMA NAKAGAWA, M.D., TO PRESENT STUDY ON NATIVE HAWAIIANS AT HIGHER RISK OF HEMORRHAGIC STROKE AT YOUNGER AGE

HONOLULU – Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders may be at higher risk for hemorrhagic stroke at a younger age and more likely to have diabetes compared to other race/ethnicities, according to a recent study that will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology’s 63rd Annual Meeting in Honolulu from April 9-16, 2011.

“Racial differences in stroke risk factors have been well-studied in Hispanic and African-American populations, but this is the first study to address people of Native Hawaiian ethnicity,” said study author Kazuma Nakagawa, M.D., Neurointensivist and Clinician Scientist at The Queen’s Medical Center, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at University of Hawaii who recently transferred from University of California San Francisco.

Data on 573 people hospitalized for intracerebral hemorrhage was taken from the “Get with the Guidelines-Stroke” database from The Queen’s Medical Center over a period of six years. Of those, 18 percent were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 63 percent were Asian, 16 percent were Caucasian, 0.2 percent were African-American and three percent were described as other.

On average, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who experienced a hemorrhagic stroke were around the age of 55, more than 10 years younger than those from other racial groups which had a combined average age of 67 when a stroke occurred. More Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders also had diabetes; 35 percent compared to other racial groups at 21 percent. There were no differences in gender or other cardiovascular risk factors between the groups.

“Knowing risk factors for certain populations is an important step toward recognizing, treating and preventing stroke. More research needs to be done to determine which risk factors and socioeconomic modifiers are contributing to hemorrhagic stroke at such a young age in the Native Hawaiian population,” said Nakagawa.

The study was supported by The Queen’s Medical Center and its Neuroscience Institute and Stroke Center.

The Queen’s Medical Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility houses 505 acute beds and 28 sub-acute beds and is widely known for its programs in cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and trauma, and behavioral medicine. Queen’s is home to a number of residency programs offered in conjunction with the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen’s has achieved Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet® recognition is held by less than six percent of hospitals in the United States. Queen’s is the first hospital in Hawaii to achieve Magnet® status.