



## **PRESS RELEASE**

To: News Editors & Directors

Contact: Lindsey Bashelor, Mana Means Advertising & Public Relations, (808) 521-1160

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Advanced, Premium Cataract Procedure Can Reduce or Even Eliminate the Need for Glasses**

*Hawaiian Eye Center Offers Premium Lens Implants to Help Cataract Patients See Better Than They Have in Years.*

*(Honolulu, Hawaii), May 21, 2007-* How many Americans, if they had the chance, would choose to reduce or eliminate their dependence on glasses for both near and far vision and restore youthful vision at the same time when they have a cataract removed? The answer; probably quite a few of the over 2 million Americans who receive cataract surgery each year. Now, with the Hawaiian Eye Center's surgical innovations, collectively called "Premium Cataract Removal," Oahu residents living with cataracts can have both the cataract removed and their vision without glasses vastly improved with just one outpatient procedure. As one of the first in the state to offer this service, the Hawaiian Eye Center continues to lead the way in cataract care in Hawaii.

"We are pleased to be able to offer our patients the opportunity and advantages of advanced lens implant technology which coupled with reduction of astigmatism results in reduced dependence on glasses and more youthful vision," said Christopher Tortora, M.D., Medical Director at the Hawaiian Eye Center. "We have always strived to be a leader in cataract care here in Hawaii and this is the newest and most advanced form of cataract care available anywhere."

When patients develop a cataract, the natural lens in the eye becomes cloudy or brown, which then impairs vision by causing blurriness or darkness. The only way to correct this is by removing the lens in the eye and replacing it with an intraocular lens implant. With a premium lens implant, the replacement lens is specifically designed to reduce or eliminate the need for glasses for both distance and near vision.

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Most patients see better following cataract removal. The advantages of the newer and more advanced intraocular lenses and surgical technique involve restoring more youthful vision for both distance and near tasks. Premium implants use a variety of new technologies to create a range of vision, distance, middle and near. The form of implant chosen for any given patient depends on their unique visual needs.

Beginning around the age of 40, many people begin to suffer from Presbyopia. This condition is very common and the result of the natural lens in the eye hardening and becoming less flexible making it difficult to switch focus from far to near and back again. Most often, a simple pair of bifocals or reading glasses can correct the problem. But with premium lens implants patients can regain most or all of the ability to see close-up, even without glasses in most cases.

“Premium lens implants allow us to treat more than one form of vision impairment during surgery,” Dr. Tortora said. “Of course, the primary focus is on removing the cataract, but it is a wonderful thing to be able to restore distance and near vision for our patients at the same time.”

Following surgery, almost 90% of patients who opted for premium lens implants report they either never or just occasionally wear their glasses. Many say they see as well as they did in their 20s or 30s and for a few, premium lens implants enable independence from glasses for the first times in their lives.

Dr. Tortora, a board certified ophthalmologist, is host of The Hawaiian Eye Show, a weekly informational radio program about healthy vision. He and his colleagues at Hawaiian Eye Center are committed to educating the public about the importance of preventive eye care. To learn more about other eye health issues, please call Hawaiian Eye Center at 621-8448 where *“life has never looked better.”*

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MANA MEANS ADVERTISING & PUBLIC RELATIONS 1088 BISHOP ST. STE. 1209  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 PH 808.521.1160 FAX 808.521-1104