For Immediate Release
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North Hawaii Community Hospital Announces Retirement of Physician Dr. Niall Scully

KAMUELA, HI – Longtime Waimea physician Dr. Niall Scully has announced plans to retire from his medical practice after a career spanning more than 56 years in Hawaii, including 15 years in Waimea.

Dr. Scully opened his practice in Waimea in 1996 after retiring from Straub Clinic & Hospital on O’ahu where he served as a cardio thoracic surgeon for nearly 40 years. Dr. Scully served as NHCH’s Chief of Surgery from 1997 to 2000, Chief of Staff from 2000 to 2001, and as a member of NHCH’s Board of Directors from 2000 to 2008.

Although retiring from his surgical practice, he will take on a new role as Director of Quality Improvement in the newly formed North Hawai’i Medical Group at North Hawai’i Community Hospital. In his new role, Dr. Scully will be the key liaison with physicians concerning quality initiatives to achieve patient outcome goals, including patient satisfaction, care coordination, adoption of electronic medical records (EMR) and health information exchange (HIE), and standardization of treatment based on best practices.

“This new role is certainly different, challenging and necessary,” said Dr. Scully. “Providing the very best care for our neighbors and visitors is of utmost importance. To do this in the most professional way, we must excel in knowledge, skill and compassion” continued Dr. Scully. “Our community needed and fulfilled the dream to have this magnificent facility with an excellent staff and volunteers in this most beautiful part of the world. I am humbled and grateful to have been a part of NHCH since the hospital opened in 1996” said Dr. Scully.
Throughout his 56 year career, Dr. Scully contributed greatly to his field and was a major key player in moving Hawai‘i forward in thoracic surgery. Following his training in open heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Scully started the second open heart team in Hawai‘i at Queen’s Medical Center (1962). Other notable accomplishments include inserting the first epicardial cardiac pacemaker in Hawai‘i (1964), completing the first coronary artery bypass graft (1969), and introducing the first fiberoptic bronchoscope in Hawai‘i. Dr. Scully’s innovations to thoracic surgery in Hawai‘i continued in 1987 when he implanted the first automatic implantable defibrillator and completed the first video assisted thoracic surgical (1992).

"Dr. Scully is the definition of a complete and distinguished surgeon whose pioneering work speaks for its self. What is truly astonishing is that he is also a rare gentleman whose compassion for patients and colleagues is unmatched," says NHCH’s Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, William Park M.D.

In addition to his work as a surgeon, Dr. Scully gave his time generously to community and state efforts. He served on several Boards of Directors including the Hawai‘i Medical Library, Hawai‘i Island’s American Cancer Society, North Hawai‘i Hospice, Straub Clinic & Hospital and North Hawai‘i Community Hospital. In 1994, Dr. Scully met President and Mrs. Clinton while lobbying for the Hawai‘i Firearms Coalition to improve Hawaii’s state laws on gun control.

Dr. Scully was born in Dublin, Ireland, and moved to the United States at the age of three. He attended the University of Dayton on a football scholarship and graduated from St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1947. During the Korean War he served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, Surgical Team #7 on the hospital ship U.S.S. Repose. After the war Dr. Scully moved to Hawai‘i and worked at Leahi Hospital on O‘ahu, specializing in tuberculosis surgeries. In 1956, he joined the Straub Clinic and conducted thoracic surgery at Queens. In 1960, Dr. Scully completed a sabbatical at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio where he learned the techniques of open heart surgery. In 1961, Dr. Scully returned to Straub Clinic where he practiced for the next 35 years until retiring in 1996. Dr. Scully and his wife, Pegi, live in Kamuela, HI. They have seven children and seventeen grandchildren.

**NHCH Background:** North Hawaii Community Hospital (NHCH) is a rural 39-bed acute care hospital located in Kamuela, on the Big Island of Hawaii. Non-profit, community owned and locally governed, the hospital opened in May 1996 and cares for Big Island residents and visitors. NHCH offers an extensive set of hospital services that are centered on patient needs, creating a healing experience for the whole person – mind, body and spirit.