



Chester (Chet) Adessa and Sydney Dickerson

Margaret F. Adessa Endowed Scholarship for Respiratory Education at Kapi'olani Community College

INSPIRATION FOR GIVING



The Margaret F. Adessa Endowed Scholarship for Respiratory Education at Kapi'olani Community College was established in 2023 to enhance opportunities for students seeking training in respiratory care.

Margaret Freitas Adessa passed away in 2022 from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) – an illness that required her to receive in-home and hospital respiratory care. After her death, her family decided to honor her legacy by addressing Hawai'i's critical need for qualified medical professionals. In addition to supporting students pursuing professional careers in respiratory care through Ms. Adessa's named scholarship, Margaret's family hopes to prevent more lives lost to respiratory illnesses.

ABOUT THE DONORS

Known for her fun and innovative ideas, Margaret's family recognizes the void that was created by her premature death – many missed the opportunity to benefit from her passion for education.

Born on April 6, 1951, Margaret developed a love for teaching at an early age. In Honolulu, she attended Holy Trinity and Star of the Sea, and then went on to Seattle University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Education. After she returned to Hawai'i, Margaret found it difficult to find an open teaching position and started working at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – where she retired as a Program Manager after a 43-year career.



During her time at Pearl Harbor, she met and married Chester (Chet) Adessa. As a former smoker, Chet saw the damage that long-term smoking created on a person's health – including those of his mother-in-law and wife. After leaving the Navy, he began volunteering for the American Cancer Society and began advocating for smoking and cancer prevention.

After her passing, Margaret's sister, Sydney Dickerson, decided to support Chet's wishes of establishing a named scholarship endowment in memory of her beloved sister – befitting Margaret's passion and love for education. The value of education is shared between the sisters, as Sydney is a former Hawai'i Department of Education teacher, former staff member of Kapi'olani Community College and retired Veterinary Tech Student Support Specialist at Windward Community College.

In honor of Margaret's legacy, Chet, Sydney, and their families believe the Margaret F. Adessa Endowed Scholarship for Respiratory Education will have a positive impact on the future of Hawai'i's respiratory care.

Margaret is survived by her husband of 41 years, Chester (Chet) Adessa and daughter, Jennifer Goslin, as well as siblings, Frank Freitas, Katherine Freitas, and Sydney Dickerson.