



### **DR. RICARDO C. CUSTODIO**

As a child, spending summers in the Philippines exposed Dr. Ric to wonderful experiences, as well as extreme poverty, hardship and need. So, for the last 40-years, he has dedicated his career to providing healthcare to the poor and underserved. He has been a medical director and practiced pediatrics in community health centers in Kalihi-Palama, the Big Island and Waianae.

His formal exposure to public health was through the Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University where he earned his M.P.H. Since the fellowship, or the last 20 years, he has focused on improving healthcare workforce issues and shortages. This has resulted in starting a medical school in Waianae, a nurse practitioner residency in Kalihi-Palama and a longitudinal, state-wide mentorship program.

Failing miserably at retirement in 2013, after only 3 months, he was coaxed back into clinical practice to serve uninsured, non-English speaking, immigrant children at a clinic near Chinatown. In 2016, he was offered the chance to build the U.H. West Oahu Undergraduate Health Science Program. He realized that this was the best way to give West Oahu youth the opportunity and training into healthcare careers of the future that can earn a living, sustainable wage.

Dr. Ric graduated from Radford High School, Stanford University (B.A.), UH John A. Burns School of Medicine (M.D.) and Harvard University (M.P.H.). He is a Harvard Medical School Reede Scholar and a member of the Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii. He enjoys farming, playing music, and loving his wife of 30 years, 2 sons and an English Bulldog named, "Roxy".