

March 30, 2015
Mokihana Aquatics
P.O. Box 1996
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

An Open Letter to the Hawaii Swimming Community

Mahalo to all of you who gave so generously to help our swimmer, Gracie Stokes, in her recent medical challenges! On behalf of our family, we thank you with full hearts.

We just wanted to give you all an update of Gracie's condition. As you know Gracie had surgery on February 19 2015 at Kapiolani in Honolulu to correct a malformation in her brain and spinal cord area. This condition, if left untreated, would have caused continued growth of spinal cord cysts and possible neurological problems, progressing in severity over time. Great News!! The surgery appears to have been a success and Gracie and her family returned home to Kauai on February 24, 2015.

This amazing young lady has been recovering at home and is doing well. Her muscle range of movement is still limited, but is improving. Her headaches, though improved initially, have returned, probably due to a return to her schoolwork. She has some limitations relating to lifting, but not much more. She will be traveling back to Oahu to see her surgeon on April 8, 2015. Her next MRI is scheduled for August 14, 2015. This MRI will tell the doctors the status of the existing spinal cord cysts. We're very hopeful that this MRI will show that the surgery was a complete and total success. Until that time we will continue to be positive that she is on the road to recovery.

And the greatest part for Gracie? She's returning to the water today, Monday 30, 2015 for a modified program. Easy does it Gracie! This last month she's been coaching on the deck and cheering her fellow swimmers on.

So, again, from our family of swimmers THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

Catherine Shimabukuro, Executive Secretary
Mokihana Aquatics Board of Directors