

Medtronic Cardiostim 10th Anniversary Award – in recognition of his many contributions to the pacemaker industry, 1988

For Meritorious Service in the Healthcare Profession, Medical Alley, 1988

Achievement Award, Leadership in the Business Application of Science and Technology, Science Museum of Minnesota, 1988

Governor's Award For Medical Leadership, Minnesota Medical Alley Association, 1988  
Outstanding Minnesotan of the Year, Minnesota Broadcasters Association, 1988

Centennial Medal, College of St. Thomas, 1986

NASPE's Distinguished Service Award, 1985

Centennial Medal, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 1984

"Engineering for Gold" Award, National Society of Professional Engineers, 1984 (honored cardiac pacemaker as one of the ten most outstanding engineering achievements in the last 50 years)

Med-Tech Outstanding Achievement Award, 1984

Outstanding Achievement Award, University of Minnesota, 1981 (highest alumni award)

Medtronic's Authors Award, 1979

Minnesota Business Hall of Fame, 1978

Enterprise Award, Minnesota Technology, Inc.



**ROYAL ORDER OF KAMEHAMEHA I**

*Earl receives the title of Ali'i Kahuna La'au Lapa'au  
and honorary membership, The Royal Order of  
Kamehameha I, Kiholo Bay, 2005*

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# *Earl E. Bakken*

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



EARL E. BAKKEN, M.D., HON. C.  
HON. D. SC. (3)  
HON. D.H.L. (2)  
F.A.C.C. HON.  
F.I.C.S. HON.  
F.I.E.E.E.  
F.I.S.A.

In 1949, Earl Bakken co-founded Medtronic, Inc., as a partnership with the late Palmer J. Hermundslie. Bakken was Medtronic's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board from the company's incorporation in 1957 until 1976. He was Senior Chairman of the Board through 1989 and retired from the board in August 1994. As Founder and Director Emeritus, Bakken remains active in company relationships involving customers and employees, focusing primarily on the company's mission in the bioengineering industry as outlined in Medtronic's mission statement.

Born in 1924 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Bakken was educated in the Columbia Heights public schools. He served four years in the United States Air Force as a radar maintenance instructor until 1946 when he enrolled at the University of Minnesota. After earning a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree in 1948, Bakken studied electrical engineering with a minor in mathematics at the University of Minnesota Graduate School.

Bakken developed the first wearable, external, battery-powered, transistorized pacemaker in 1957 for Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, a University of Minnesota heart surgeon. He has authored several professional papers and delivered numerous speeches to medical, technical, educational and business groups throughout the world.

In 1975 he founded The Bakken, a nonprofit library, museum, and education center devoted to the history of electricity and magnetism and their uses in medicine and the life sciences. The Bakken's collection of rare books and antique instruments and devices has grown to be the finest of its kind in the world. The education programs of The Bakken are renowned for their integration of hands-on learning, history, and the arts.

In retirement, Bakken has been actively supportive of many groups in Northwest Hawaii that support the health and well being of its 30,000 people. These include North Hawaii Community Hospital, Friends of the Future, Five Mountains Hawaii, North Hawaii Outcomes Project, The Kohala Center, and Na Kalai Waa Moku O Hawaii.

Medtronic, Inc., headquartered in Minneapolis, is the world's leading medical technology company, providing lifelong solutions for people with chronic disease. The company serves markets in 120 countries.

## *Degrees*

M.D. Honorary Causa, University of Minnesota Medical School, December 2007

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, 2008

Honorary Degree of Humane Letters Degree, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, 2004

Honorary Doctor of Science Degree, Albany College of Pharmacy, 1995

Honorary Doctor of Science Degree, Tulane University, 1988

Russ Prize for achievements in bioengineering, National Academy of Engineering, February, 2001

Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year, National Philanthropy Society - Aloha (Hawaii) Chapter, 2000

Tekne Lifetime Achievement Award, Minnesota Technology, November, 2000

Innovator Award, Texas Heart Institute, 1999

Living Treasure of Hawaii Award, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1999

International Milestone of Electrical Engineering, IEEE, October 1999

Gold Medal, the European Society of Cardiology, June 1999

NASPE Pioneering Award for Contributions to the Fields of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology, June 1999

American Heart Association, West Hawaii Division Hall of Fame, 1998

Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Foundation Laufman-Greatbatch Prize, 1998

Texas Heart Institute Innovator Award, 1998

Special Award Cardiostim 98 XX Anniversary for Engineers and Industry Founders, June 1998

American Creativity Association Lifetime Creative Achievement Award, 1996

American Heart Association, Hawaii, Heart Ball Honoree, 1996

Minnesota High Technology Council Lifetime Achievement Award, March, 1996

Minnesota Inventors Hall of Fame, 1995

Special Service Award, Richard Smart Big Island Community Achievement, Waimea, HI, 1995

IEEE Eli Lilly Award in Medical and Biological Engineering, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 1994

"Entrepreneur of the Year," Minnesota Entrepreneur's Club, 1993

A Salute to Founders, Institute of Technology at University of Minnesota, 1992

Lifetime Achievement Award, Entrepreneur of the Year Institute, 1991

"The Steersman" award for creativity which led to the field of Cyberphysiology, Archaeus Project, 1990

Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau (Royal decoration, The Netherlands), 1989

Acknowledgement for Earl's Inspiration linked to time, The Bakken Fellows, 1989

Honorary Fellow, Heart Rhythm Society (formerly NASPE)

Honorary Member, Will C. Sealy Surgical Society, 2004

Honorary Fellow, BMES (Biomedical Engineering Society), 2005

Member, Society of Heart-Brain Medicine, 2007

## *Awards:*

Lighting Our Way award, for inspirational leadership through a life of service to the people of Hawaii and the world, Pacific Buddhist Academy, September 2008

Visionary Caring Science Award for Transformation of Nursing and Healthcare, Dr. Jean Watson and the Watson Caring Institute, Mauna Lani Resort, July 2008

Pavek Museum of Broadcasting Hall of Fame, "Distinguished Service Award," 2007

NCVH Lifetime Achievement Award. 7th Annual New Cardiovascular Horizons conference of the Cardiovascular Institute of the South, New Orleans, LA, September 5-8, 2007. First non-physician recipient of this award

Tsinghua University Alumni Association of Minnesota, 2006

Distinguished Fellow for Life Award, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation 1921 Society, for extraordinary contributions of service and resources to advance the mission of The Cleveland Clinic, 2005

Title of Ali'i Kahuna La'au Lapa'au and honorary membership, The Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Kiholo Bay, 2005

Title of Ali`i Nui (High Chief), conferred by Daniel K. Akaka, Jr., Kauila Clark, Ski Kwiatkowski, Pomai Bertelmann, and Chadd Paishon, Native Hawaiian leaders and teachers. A traditional hand-carved fish hook, or makau, was presented to acknowledge extraordinary leadership and strength, and to honor efforts toward the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community, 2005

Lillehei Heart Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, University of Minnesota, 2004

Honorary Fellow, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, February 2004

Innovator's Award, Phoenix Medical Device Conference, October 2003

Kako`o `O Kalaniana`ole Award, Outstanding Non-Hawaiian for Service to the Hawaiian Community, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, 2002

Trailblazer Award, Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine, May 2002

Leland R. Kaiser Founder's Award from the Association of Healing HealthCare Projects, 2001



Honorary Doctor of Science Degree, University of Minnesota, 1988

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree, University of Minnesota, 1948

## *Boards*

President, Board of Directors, Five Mountains Hawaii

Board of Directors, The Bakken (A Library and Museum of Electricity in Life)

Member, Board of Directors, Pavek Museum of Broadcasting

Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, Friends of the Future, Hawaii

University of Minnesota Medical School, Dean's Board of Visitors

Board of Members, Children's Heart Fund

Honorary Board of Trustees, Science Museum of Minnesota

Member Visiting Board of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, Denver, Colorado (Under Dr. Jean Watson's Deanship), 1985 - 1990

Director Emeritus, Board of Directors, Medtronic, Inc.

Past Chairman, Board of Directors, Archaeus Project

Member Emeritus, Board of Directors, Medical Alley

Member, UH Manoa, School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene Advisory Board

## *Memberships:*

Fellow, Bakken Society

Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Fellow, Instrument Society of America

Member, American Antiquarian Society

Member, Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

Member, National Academy of Engineering, 1990

Honorary Fellow, American College of Cardiology, 1991

Honorary Fellow, International College of Surgeons, 1993

