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For immediate release



A tribute to the late Levaopolo Seupule Mupopo Siaosi Tiava'asu'e

Waitematā DHB today extends its condolences to the Samoan community and the family of respected matua (elder) Levaopolo Seupule Mupopo Siaosi Tiava'asu'e, who died peacefully on Easter Sunday morning.

Matua Levao was a much loved and respected member of the DHB's Pacific Health Team and the lead matua (elder) on its Matua Advisory Council.

"He was a strong supporter of his people and a strong supporter of our DHB," Waitematā DHB Chief Executive Dr Dale Bramley says. "Matua Levao was a skilled orator whose cultural knowledge and wisdom was invaluable at multiple levels for both patients and staff alike – playing a key role in our continual drive for equity."

Matua Levao was also the Lead Matua for Takanga A Fohe, Waitematā DHB's Pacific Mental Health and Addictions Services.

Away from the DHB, he served many roles in the wider community and was a Justice of the Peace, a tutor of the Samoa PolyFestival Group at Kelston Girls College and a lay preacher and elder of the Glen Eden Methodist Church. His rich contribution was recognised in 2019 with a well-deserved Queen's Service Medal in honour of his services to health and the Pacific community.

"Many of us have lost a friend," Dr Bramley says. "Matua Levao's guidance and counsel over the course of many years will be sorely missed."

Ends.