



ELIZABETH ANN  
IGNACIO, MD

*Independent Radiologist*

📍 Maui, HI

🏥 9 Years in Practice

### *Practice/National Leadership Activities*

- Founded her independent practice
- ACR Council Steering Committee
- ACR Councilor for Hawaii State
- ACR Commission on Interventional and Cardiovascular Radiology
- ACR Commission for Women and Diversity
- SIR Small and Rural Practice Advisory Group
- SIR ACR Joint Task Force for General, Small, Emergency and Rural Practice
- SIR Underrepresented Minorities (URM)
- Many local leadership roles in the community & Hawaii state

### *What is your favorite thing about private practice?*

I love that I can work in private practice and keep my academic affiliations without the stressors of an academic career. I am still involved with teaching medical students and residents which I enjoy. I also get to travel around the other islands for my practice, and I enjoy that independence to my schedule when I travel.

### *Why did you decide to join private practice?*

I decided to join private practice because it gave me more freedom. I was looking for part time work because my children were young, but there were not a lot of part time jobs available. I couldn't find any practices that wanted a part time IR physician. I found a part time practice in Hawaii and decided to go there for the opportunity. Our practice began having difficulties, and I realized that I did not just want to be a worker bee in a practice. I decided to start my own independent practice because it seemed like the right time and I could create a part time job opportunity for myself.

### *If you had to give one piece of advice to trainees considering private practice vs academics what would it be?*

Give yourself room to forgive yourself and your choices regarding your career. Physicians grow up in an environment of competition and excellence. And yet we also must cultivate balance and wellness, in order to be successful. Testing out a new practice is stressful and scary, but even if its not a perfect fit, don't feel trapped by your choices. In my experience, I could've totally failed starting my own practice or it could've even turned out worse than the practice I was in. Change is good and if it doesn't work out, then you change again. The worst thing is to end up somewhere where you are unhappy.

Also, for any young physicians-to-be, stay active in conversations with those outside of their group or specialty field and outside of medicine. Through my advocacy and outreach projects, I hear from community leaders and legislators; physicians must stay active in the conversations. Be expressive, and learn, learn, learn. Don't be discouraged and stop talking when a policy or initiative or legislation does not go precisely your way. Several state and federal legislators tell me that physician groups often give up on important policies and measures if they don't "get their way," and end up abandoning a discussion just as its reaches a progressive critical tipping point. It is so much better to continue the conversation and make small incremental gains than throw away work that takes unexpected turns.

### *Interesting Facts & Hobbies*

- I love being outside and spending time with my husband, 3 kids, and 3 dogs.
- I also enjoy having some quiet times to do meditation and reading.