

\$2.7 million malpractice judgment awarded

LIHUE (AP) — A Kauai man who was left partially paralyzed from a stroke has been awarded \$2.7 million in damages for medical malpractice.

William Theobald, 60, sued Dr. Thomas Harrison of the Kalaheo Clinic for negligent care.

A Circuit Court Jury deliberated less than a day Wednesday before finding Harrison negligent.

Theobald, the director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden on Kauai, testified in the trial that he had gone to see Harrison about a minor stroke and was told to go home rather than to check into a hospital. Two hours later, Theobald suffered a stroke.

But Harrison claimed he told Theobald to go to the hospital, even though he never wrote those instruc-

tions in his notes, said Harrison's attorney, Gary Hagerman on Friday.

Because of the stroke, Theobald lost some of his earnings and also racked up medical bills of about \$177,000.

"The jury saw someone they sympathized with and disregarded the medical evidence," Hagerman said.

Hagerman said he brought one of the top five stroke experts in the country to testify at the trial that nothing would have changed the outcome of the stroke.

Theobald's attorney Jerry Hiatt said his client was grateful for the suit's outcome.

"This monetary award will allow (Theobald) to get the care he needs in the future for his condition," Hiatt said.