August 2019 E-Newsletter

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The 4th Annual Hawaii State Law Enforcement Surfing Classic Made Waves in Waikiki

Last month, the Hawaii State Law Enforcement Surfing Classic welcomed law enforcement and first responders from around the world to compete in a variety of water sports at Waikiki Beach. During the first two days of the event approximately 65 participants from China, Hawaii, Germany, Brazil and the Continental United States descended upon Queen's Beach as the event played host the World Police & Fire Games. Police and fire personnel made a splash in longboard, shortboard, stand up paddle board and boogie board divisions.

During days three and four, competitors formed four-person teams of various age groups and used different types of boards to compete against one another. Close to 110 participants, the largest number the event has ever hosted, competed from law enforcement agencies around Hawaii. Participants were from police, customs, the Federal Detention Center, military police, fire, EMS, lifeguards, and many others; as well as first responders’ immediate family members.

Continue story on next page.
Hawaiian Miles
Share your HawaiianMiles and help our athletes!
Donate today!

Athlete Renee Manfredi Sings the National Anthem at the Boston Red Sox Game

A BIG MAHALO to Bank of America for giving Hawaii athlete, Renee, the power to share our athletes’ abilities at the Boston Red Sox game earlier this month. Renee, you did Hawaii proud!

Watch Renee sing the national anthem at: bit.ly/reneeredsox
Credit: New England Sports Network

Athletes Compete in the 24th Annual Aukake Classic

This year's Aukake classic celebrated the end of the 2019 summer season with more than 300 athletes and coaches from across the state. The event included a five-a-side soccer tournament and individual skills soccer competition as well as traditional, singles and unified bocce doubles.

Winners from each division included:

- Team Shortboard: Cali Boys II -- 266.0
- Women's Individual: Tenn Kusaka -- 27.4
- Hydrofoil Individual: Lanson Ron Quilio -- 91.9
- Longboard Open: Water Safety -- 279.4
- Team Longboard 45 and Under: Focus on the Head -- 166.5
- Longboard 46 and Above: Courts Crew -- 250.5
- Team SUP: Wet Noodles -- 201.8
- Novice Team: Golden Hour -- 109.8
- Keiki Individual: Hunter Chun Fat -- 87.0
- Kapakahi: Federales -- 255.8

This weekend-long event raised $3,860.72 to benefit Special Olympics Hawaii. In addition, eight lucky participants, including two keikis, went home with new surfboards! The event is part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraising efforts, which has since 1986, provided an opportunity for local, off-duty law enforcement volunteers to raise funds and awareness for athletes statewide. Mahalo to Louki Wong, Owner of 88 Tees for sponsoring the 4th Annual Hawaii State Law Enforcement Surfing Classic!

Unified Spotlight: Farrington Friends Program Breaks Down Barriers

The Farrington High School Friends Program is a club that brings students with and without disabilities together through weekly lunches, playing sports, and participating in various team building exercises. This creates a wonderful bond between students who don't normally interact with each other. The club was originally started by teachers who noticed that students enrolled in special education spent a majority of their time alone since their classrooms are in one corner of the school and the students rarely left that area. The special education students didn't know any of the general education students and the general education students hardly knew special education students existed.

In ten years, The Friends Program has grown from just two football players sitting with the students from special education class during a few lunch periods, to a very popular club. This year, forty students attended their first meeting. The Friends Program performs at Homecoming and May Day, showcasing their abilities in front of the whole school. It's now impossible to attend Farrington High School without knowing students from special education!
Interested students completed a survey regarding the Friends Program. The questions included:
1. What does it mean to be a friend?
2. Why do you want to be in the Friends Program?
3. What can you contribute to the Friends Program?
4. What does it mean to be committed?
5. What is your commitment level?

There were many inspiring answers. Some of the student's answers included:
Unified partner: "I want to be in Friends Program because I felt I wasn't really doing anything for my community and I wanted to give back."
Unified partner: "I want to show everybody that we shouldn't be looking down upon the people with special needs and we should be there for them and spend time with them."
Athlete: "I want to make friends, continue my Special Olympics experiences because new experiences make me happy."
Unified partner: "I want to make sure the athletes have a special high school experience with lots of memories to look back on."
Athlete: "I can't wait to do Special Olympics with my new friends!" Unified partner: "I love to hang out with my friends because they are so loving and truly enjoy our company. I love to see them happy."
Unified partner: "My little sister has Down Syndrome and I don't want anyone to feel like they are different from anyone else."

This year's plans include field trips, hosting and participating in Unified flag football, promoting the campaign, "Spread the Word: Inclusion" at the State Capitol, and of course, weekly lunches together. Special Olympics Hawaii can't wait to support them throughout the year as they continue to share the message of inclusion and promote friendship and acceptance for all.

A Grand Presentation

Special Olympics Hawaii athlete and Sargent Shriver's Global Health Messenger, Renee Manfred and Healthy Communities Manager, Jen Ernst co-presented, "Special Olympics - Sports and Health for Individuals with Special Needs" to physicians at a Grand Rounds training event held at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children on Thursday, August 15.

Also presenting were, Kapiolani physician, Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto specialist in Developmental - Behavioral Pediatrics and Special Olympics Hawaii’s MedFest Clinical Director and Kaiser Permanente Hawaii’s Sports Medicine physician, Dr. Ben Chun. Participants learned more about Special Olympics Hawaii, the Healthy Athlete program as well as the health disparities that face individuals with intellectual disabilities. Renee ended the session by sharing her personal experiences and suggestions regarding

Sign-up today for the 11th annual Over The Edge. Now until September 6th receive a discounted price on "Individual Registration" by using discount code "EARLYBIRDOTE" at checkout!
Holoholo Club

Windward Mall - Every Tues. Afternoon
4:00 - 4:30 pm in front of Big City Diner

Ala Moana Center - Every Wed. Afternoon
4:00 - 4:30 pm in front of Target on Mall Level 2

Top Walkers This Month:

Athlete - Andrew Magallones: 258.49 miles
Parent - Randall Yokota: 258.48 miles
Athlete - Marcellino Galdones: 207.87 miles

Overall Top Walker:

Parent - Randall Yokoto: 6,406.64 miles

Amazon Smile

Be sure to shop with Amazon Smile and select Special Olympics Hawaii. A portion of your proceeds will be donated to our athletes!

Sponsor Feature: Walmart

This month we're recognizing Walmart, a company that has been an integral supporter of our annual Cop on Top fundraiser for the past eight years. Since 2011, Walmart has been a Year-Round Mission Partner as well as a host location for Cop on Top, allowing us to hold our fundraiser at stores statewide on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. "It's an honor to be part of Cop on Top's 18th year and to once again connect our customers and associates to the life-changing work that Special Olympics Hawaii does," said Lance McAlister, Walmart Hawaii Market Manager. "It's inspiring to see our local law enforcement engage with the community and our customers to raise awareness for an important cause." In addition to their continued Cop on Top assistance, Walmart supports us each year with grants to help our programs. A warm mahalo to Walmart and all of the generous Walmart shoppers who donate each year to make Cop on Top a success!