

Special Olympics Hawaii: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Date: March 11, 2020

To: Special Olympics Hawaii athletes, coaches, volunteers, families, and supporters

Subject: Cancellation or Postponement of all sports training and competition activities through March 31, 2020

Your health and safety are top priority, as well as the health and safety of the entire Special Olympics Hawaii community. We have been monitoring updates on the Coronavirus very closely via the CDC, WHO, and local authorities.

With direction from Special Olympics International, guidance from the CDC and after discussions with numerous local health officials, **Special Olympics Hawaii is suspending and/or canceling all sports training and competition activities involving our athletes through March 31, 2020.**

Therefore,

- All practices are canceled through the end of March
- The Oahu Regional Track and Field, Swimming, and Powerlifting competition is canceled
- The Kauai Swim meet is canceled (May be re-scheduled)
- All Holoholo walking clubs are canceled through the end of March
- Unified Champion School activities will be determined by the Dept. of Education and/or their respective school(s)

No decisions have been made for upcoming events in April and May. At this time, we are still planning as if they will happen. Fundraising events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if they can be held. If an Area or Regional event is canceled, affected athletes and partners will still have the opportunity to participate in the State Summer Games, if held.

We are continuing to monitor the situation on a day-by-day basis & we are consulting with Special Olympics International and public health officials for further direction. We will provide ongoing updates as more information becomes available. All information will be posted to our website at <http://sohawaii.org/>.

Please follow all recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus and to protect yourself. **If you do not feel well, or show signs of illness, please stay at home.** Please do not attend any Special Olympics Hawaii events. Wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, avoid high-fives, avoid handshakes, and avoid contact with your face. Try to stay healthy by getting enough sleep, exercising, and staying hydrated.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure the safety of our athletes and all constituents within the SOHI community.

Please see the following links for more information.

SOI - <https://www.specialolympics.org/stories/news/coronavirus-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know>



CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

HI Dept. of Health - <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and support of Special Olympics Hawaii.