



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Special Olympics Hawaii's Paradise Plunge Fundraiser Returns with a SPLASH!**

*Registration opens today to safely support local athletes statewide*

**Special Olympics Hawaii Paradise Plunge Photos:** <https://we.tl/t-mRG3IuQrjL>

**Photo Credit:** Special Olympics Hawaii

**HONOLULU** – Following the splashing success of Special Olympics Hawaii's first Paradise Plunge, the fundraiser returns to make waves this summer for their second event. Last year the organization reinvented their traditional, in-person Polar Plunge event which previously allowed fundraisers to take the chilly plunge into a pool of ice water into a new, creative format called "Paradise Plunge." The socially-distanced event allows participants to safely support local athletes by sharing a video or photo of themselves taking a dip in the ocean or performing any type of water activity – such as beach bodyboarding, surfing, or taking the plunge in a swimming pool. Registration for this year's Paradise Plunge is now open at [give.classy.org/paradiseplunge2021](https://give.classy.org/paradiseplunge2021). For more information, please visit [www.sohawaii.org](http://www.sohawaii.org).

"While we work towards a safe return to in-person sports, fundraisers like our Paradise Plunge are more important than ever before, in order to allow us to continue to provide virtual and online programs for our athletes," says Special Olympics Hawaii's Director of Development, Tracey Bender. "This fundraiser allows us to continue to offer the community a safe (and fun) way to support our athletes, challenging them to take the plunge at their favorite beach – soaking in the breathtaking views our islands have to offer – or even taking the plunge at their favorite, neighborhood swimming pool."

The Paradise Plunge is open to individuals, families and student groups, and anyone else who wants to take the plunge to support Special Olympics Hawaii athletes. All plungers are asked to raise a minimum \$100 donation to receive a Paradise Plunge event shirt. There is also a reduced fundraising goal of \$50 for students of all ages, elementary through college. There are additional mahalo gifts for the plungers who raise \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more. Register as a Passionate Plunger and raise \$500, or as a Super Plunger and raise \$1,000.

Participants can take the plunge by planning a day to “sea” their favorite beach and going diving, boating, surfing, or even taking a dip in the swimming pool if they’d prefer. Plungers are asked to send photos or a 60-second, horizontal video clip of themselves performing their “Paradise Plunge” at [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com) to [development@sohawaii.org](mailto:development@sohawaii.org). The deadline for submissions is Sunday, July 11.

Following the completion of the event, Special Olympics Hawaii will release a 2021 Paradise Plunge compilation video that participants are “shore” to enjoy and can share with donors and supporters.

Polar Plunges are typically held across the Northeastern and Midwestern states, where participants jump into frozen lakes or ponds to help raise funds for local nonprofits. Since 2010, Special Olympics Hawaii’s annual Polar Plunge has helped raise \$565,200 for Special Olympics Hawaii health and sports programs.

Special Olympics Hawaii would like to thank its partners statewide whose support is key to making year-round sports, inclusion and health opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities a reality.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will help Special Olympics Hawaii continue to provide virtual and online programs and ensure over 3,400 athletes can one day return to in-person sports. Funds will also help to ensure the organization can provide the necessary equipment and PPE for athletes and coaches so when they do return to in-person trainings and competitions, they can do so safely.

Special Olympics Hawaii provides year-round sports programs and training for athletes with intellectual disabilities, free of charge. Since 1968, Special Olympics has been changing attitudes about the talents of people with intellectual disabilities and raising awareness to build an inclusive and unified community.

For more information on Special Olympics, please visit [www.sohawaii.org](http://www.sohawaii.org). You can also follow Special Olympics Hawaii on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/SOHawaii](https://www.twitter.com/SOHawaii), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsHawaii](https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsHawaii), and on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/SOHawaii](https://www.instagram.com/SOHawaii).

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**About Special Olympics Hawaii** Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education, and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination

against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. [Founded in 1968](#), Special Olympics Hawaii has grown to serve more than 5,196 athletes and Unified partners on every island in our state. With the support of more than 10,800 coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers [10 Olympic-type sports](#) and over 50 games and competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics is supported by individuals, foundations and corporate partners.

There is never a fee to any athlete or family to participate in Special Olympics programs. Engage with us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Learn more at [www.SOHawaii.org](http://www.SOHawaii.org).