

## Special Olympics Hawaii Newsletter: October 2023

Thank you for your continued support! Take a look to see what Special Olympics Hawaii has been up to this past month.

Support Our Athletes

### Mission Partners



### Year-Round Partners



### Year-Round Supporters



## What's Going On at Special Olympics Hawaii?

### Over 800 Athletes and Partners Close Out a Month of Area Competitions

Throughout the month of October, more than 800 Special Olympics Hawaii athletes and Unified partners across the state competed in over 15 area-wide competitions. In total, five basketball tournaments, two bocce tournaments, and ten bowling competitions offered teams the opportunity to come together, train and qualify for our upcoming state competition.

The last state games of the year, the Holiday Classic will be held November 18-19, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu.



Thank you to all our volunteers who came out to help and a big mahalo to our six Special Olympics Hawaii area directors for their hard work in making this past month a success. We would also like to congratulate all of the athletes and partners who competed, and qualified for our state competition. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Classic!

### Oahu Area Basketball Competition a Slam Dunk for Unified Athletes



Alarms went off early Sunday morning for 39 young athletes and their Unified partners as they prepared to travel to Iolani High School to participate in the Oahu Area Basketball Competition. Three Unified Champion Schools: Ala Wai Elementary School, Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School, and Hahaione Elementary School participated, with the first game of the day featuring Hahaione vs Daniel K. Inouye Hawks, followed by Ala Wai vs Daniel K Inouye Eagles. The court was filled with teamwork and cheers as both athletes and Unified partners worked together to put points on the scoreboard, surrounded by parents and spectators cheering them on in the stands. After a long day of blocking and rebounds, Ala Wai Elementary School ended the day in first place, Hahaione Elementary School in second place and Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School in third and fourth place.

## An Update on Our Healthy Athletes!



We would like to extend our appreciation to Kaiser Permanente for hosting our MedFest event in Kona on October 7. We also want to thank the clinicians who volunteered their time for our athletes and our West Hawaii Area Director, Denise Lindsey, for her hard work and dedication to our program.

### Holoholo Club and Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar! Join us Friday, December 15, for a Holoholo Club Dance Party at the Special Olympics Hawaii Sports & Wellness Center. Refreshments will be provided as well as live music by The Barefoot DJs. This event is only open to current and new Holoholo Club members. Please RSVP on our website [here](#).



If you would like to join one of our Holoholo Clubs, please contact Emily at [ha@sohawaii.org](mailto:ha@sohawaii.org). Additionally, we still host virtual Health Corners and Dance Parties each month over Zoom through our Hale O' Mauiola Program. Our next Health Corner will be on November 27, and there will NOT be a November Dance Party. The calendar for this program can be found [here](#).

## 'Tis the Season for our Holiday Classic

The holidays are just around the corner and so is our annual Holiday Classic. On November 18 and 19, hundreds of athletes, partners, and coaches will come together at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii for this annual statewide event. The event will consist of a multi-division two-day basketball tournament and individual skills competition, singles, Unified® team bowling competitions, and traditional and Unified® doubles bocce tournaments that bring together hundreds of athletes from across the state. Athletes statewide have been training and competing in area and regional competitions for months to prepare for the Holiday Classic.



## The Guardian: Volunteer, Off-Duty Law Enforcement Officers Serve to Raise Dough-nations



Volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers and Special Olympics Hawaii athletes came together this month for our biannual Tip A Cop event. Working alongside servers from California Pizza Kitchen and Goma Tei restaurants across Oahu, these volunteers collected "tips" or donations for Special Olympics Hawaii. Mahalo nui loa to our Honolulu Police Department and sheriff volunteers who came out to participate. A special thank you to Goma Tei at Kahala Mall and Pearlridge Center and California Pizza Kitchen at Ka Makana Alii, Kahala Mall, and Pearlridge Center for hosting this event.

We are thankful for the community coming together to support our fundraiser. With your support, a total of over \$21,000 was raised for our athletes!

## Sponsor Feature: Decades of Hawaiian Telcom's Support

Mahalo to our newest Year-Round Supporter, Hawaiian Telcom! Their financial and in-kind services total over \$25,000 this year alone. Each year, Hawaiian Telcom employees volunteer at our competitions making events like our Holiday Classic bowling competition special for our athletes.

"This year Hawaiian Telcom celebrates 140 years of serving Hawaii and we have a long-standing tradition of supporting local organizations. Supporting our community is very important to us and to our employees who give generously from their hearts -- financially as well as of their time and talent," said Hawaiian Telcom President, Su Shin.

"Four years ago we launched an employee volunteer program called Mālama Hours that gives every employee up to 40 work hours per year to volunteer and support our community. In the first year, our employees logged more than 7,700 volunteer hours, helping hundreds of local organizations throughout our state. We're proud to support Special Olympics Hawaii with financial contributions and volunteer support as well as through in-kind services that help keep Special Olympics Hawaii connected and running smoothly."



In 2017, Hawaiian Telcom became a sponsor of our Polar Plunge event and employees even took the plunge themselves. They continued to support the fundraiser as a sponsor as we transitioned the event into the virtual Paradise Plunge. This year, they increased their support by becoming the \$10,000 Gold Medal Sponsors of Over the Edge. Four employees rappelled and raised funds; thank you to Joy Ibarra, Ben Morgan, Efen Pacol, and Filifotu Vaai for going Over the Edge!

Hawaiian Telcom also set up the infrastructure for our computer network at our new Special Olympics Hawaii Sports & Wellness Center and has provided great service and technical support. We are so grateful for their commitment to our athletes and believing in our mission. Mahalo Hawaiian Telcom!



### Planned Giving: We Want To Hear From You

We want to hear from supporters like you. Please take a moment to complete our brief online survey around planned giving. To share your input, visit our online survey [here](#).



### Mahalo for Going Over The Edge

Thank you to the 96 brave rappellers who went Over the Edge on October 7 and all the supporters who helped raise over \$152,000 for our athletes! We would like to give a special mahalo to our Gold Medal Sponsor, Hawaiian Telcom, Silver Medal Sponsor, Wai Koko Beverage Company, and the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa. We could not conduct this event without the amazing volunteers from the Honolulu Fire Department, the Hawaii Army National Guard, and all our community volunteers. A special thanks to our event partners, Armstrong Produce, BrandSafway, Channel808, and Starcomm Wireless.



### Young Athletes

Join us for our Young Athletes event! The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 11, from 1pm to 2:30pm at Liholiho Elementary School. Click [here](#) for the informational flyer and schedule and click [here](#) for the participant registration form if you are new to the program. We are excited to see you there!



### New Special Olympics Hawaii Website!

Our team is excited to announce the launch of our new Special Olympics Hawaii website! This is the perfect place online to find upcoming events, volunteer and leadership opportunities, Special Olympics Hawaii resources, and so much more. Explore our new website today and check out our upcoming events at [sohawaii.org](http://sohawaii.org).

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