

NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteer, Off-Duty Law Enforcement Dish Out Support for Special Olympics Hawaii at Tip A Cop Fundraiser

Dine at California Pizza Kitchen or Goma Tei between February 28 and March 2 and leave a tip to support local Special Olympics athletes.

2024 Tip A Cop photos and videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1loo5qQ0flO-wtm5Yifpd7-B4yuJiAqdB?usp=drive_link Credit for all: Special Olympics Hawaii

HONOLULU – For a very special weekend, volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers will serve and protect during Special Olympics Hawaii's 34th annual Tip A Cop fundraiser. The event takes place Friday, February 28, through Sunday, March 2, at four California Pizza Kitchen locations and two Goma Tei locations across Oahu. During Tip A Cop volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers serve guests at participating restaurants by bringing their food and busing tables – all to raise awareness and resources for Special Olympics Hawaii athletes and programs. The event will take place during the following dates and times:

California Pizza Kitchen – Ka Makana Aliʻi, Kahala Mall, Kailua Town Center, and Pearlridge Center

- Friday, February 28: 5 p.m. 9 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1: 11 a.m. 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. 9 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2: 11 a.m. 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. 9 p.m.

Goma Tei – Kahala Mall and Pearlridge Center

- Friday, February 28: 5 p.m. 9 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1: 11 a.m. 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. 9 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2: 11 a.m. 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. 9 p.m. (Pearlridge Center 5 p.m. 8:30 p.m.)

"We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our local law enforcement and incredible partners like California Pizza Kitchen and Goma Tei for making this event possible," said Tracey Bender, Special Olympics Hawaii's Director of Development. "Tip A Cop is a shining example of how our community can come together – from our volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers who give their time, businesses which open their doors to us, and a community of generous diners who help empower our athletes and sustain vital programs. Together, we're helping local athletes achieve their dreams and inspiring change. We encourage everyone to join us for a meal, show their appreciation for our volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers, and celebrate the spirit of giving back."

Since its inception, Tip A Cop has raised \$546,092 for Special Olympics Hawaii. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help Special Olympics Hawaii continue to provide year-round sports training and competition and health, wellness and leadership programs for over 2,800 athletes statewide 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 Tip A Cop, please visit <u>www.sohawaii.org</u>. Follow Special Olympics Hawaii on Facebook at <u>http://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsHawaii</u>, on Instagram at <u>www.instagram.com/sohawaii</u> and on Twitter at <u>www.twitter.com/sohawaii</u>.

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About Special Olympics Hawaii

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities solving the global injustice, isolation, intolerance, and inactivity they face.

Founded in 1968, Special Olympics Hawaii has grown to serve over 7,000 athletes and Unified partners across the State of Hawaii. Through the unwavering commitment of over 7,800 volunteers, along with community supporters, corporate partners and foundations, Special Olympics Hawaii delivers 10 Olympic-type sports and over 50 competitions, hundreds of health screenings, and inclusive programming in more than 70 schools annually.

There is never a fee for any athlete or family to participate in Special Olympics programs. Engage with us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>. Learn more at <u>www.sohawaii.org</u>.