



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Volunteer Law Enforcement Officers Rise to New Heights for Special Olympics Hawaii's Badges and Buckets Fundraiser, September 10-14**

*The annual fundraiser returns to Walmart and participating locations around the state.*

#### **Badges and Buckets photos and videos:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IjIZxUFGWZGpnfTmqL1p8f4oxtvXYNAH?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IjIZxUFGWZGpnfTmqL1p8f4oxtvXYNAH?usp=drive_link)

**Credit for all:** Special Olympics Hawaii

**HONOLULU** — This September, volunteer, off-duty law enforcement officers will go above and beyond to support [Special Olympics Hawaii](#) athletes during the 24th Annual Badges and Buckets fundraiser. The event returns statewide:

- **Maui:** September 10-12
- **Hilo & Kauai:** September 11-13
- **Kona, Oahu & Molokai:** September 12-14
- **Lanai:** September 18-19

Law enforcement officers will be stationed on 10-foot scaffolds and rooftops at Walmart and other locations across the state, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics Hawaii. On-the-ground volunteers will also collect donations and keep the excitement going for shoppers and supporters.

“Badges and Buckets is more than just a fundraiser — it reflects the incredible spirit of our community and the dedication of our volunteer officers,” said Dan Epstein, President and CEO of Special Olympics Hawai‘i. “Their ongoing support lifts our athletes, helping them reach their goals and reminding them they’re valued, celebrated, and never alone.”

Badges and Buckets locations on Oahu, September 12-14 include:

- Hawaii Kai Shopping Center
- Kaneohe Bay Shopping Center
- Kapolei Walmart
- Keeaumoku Sam's Club
- Keeaumoku Walmart
- Kunia Walmart
- Laulani Village Shopping Center
- Manoa Marketplace
- Mililani Walmart
- Pearl City Walmart
- Salt Lake Shopping Center
- Waimalu Plaza
- Windward Town and Country Plaza

Confirmed Badges and Buckets dates and locations on neighbor islands include:

- Hawaii Island:
  - Kailua-Kona Walmart | September 12-14
  - Hilo Walmart | September 11-13
- Kauai: Lihue Walmart | September 11-13
- Lanai: Richard's Market | September 18-19
- Maui: Kahului Walmart | September 10-12
- Molokai: Molokai Public Library | September 12-14

All donations collected from Badges and Buckets directly benefit Special Olympics Hawaii and its work to provide sports, health, leadership, and inclusionary programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round. Since 2001, the fundraiser has raised more than \$4,363,650 for Special Olympics Hawaii athletes statewide.

“Our volunteer officers are proud to ‘rise to the occasion’ once again for Special Olympics Hawaii,” said State Law Enforcement Torch Run Director, Ryan Nishibun. “Every hour we spend volunteering is a small gesture compared to the strength and perseverance our athletes show every day. We hope that everyone will come out, say hello, and help us make this year’s event a successful one for our local athletes.”

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

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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 programs in sports, health, education, and community building, Special Olympics is changing lives and addressing global injustices, isolation, intolerance, and inactivity faced by people with intellectual disabilities.

Founded in 1968, Special Olympics Hawaii now serves more than 6,000 athletes and Unified partners statewide. With the support of over 10,000 volunteers, community supporters, corporate partners, and foundations, Special Olympics Hawaii delivers 10 Olympic-type sports, more than 50 competitions, hundreds of health screenings, and inclusive programming in over 70 schools each year.

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).