



Special Olympics Hawaii 2025 Awards

Each year, Special Olympics Hawaii recognizes the individuals, families, and organizations that exemplify dedication, inclusivity, and the spirit of our mission. This year's recipients have gone above and beyond, making an extraordinary impact on our athletes and community.

Please join us in celebrating the remarkable contributions and achievements of our 2025 Special Olympics Hawaii Award recipients!

Area Organization of the Year: Turning Point Chiropractic



Turning Point Chiropractic has made a profound and lasting impact on Special Olympics Hawaii through their unwavering support and commitment to our Oahu athletes. Their contributions range from donating financial resources and organizing holiday appreciation events to actively supporting our fundraising events. They have served as true community partners, providing hands-on involvement at various events and uplifting athletes and coaches. Turning Point Chiropractic is more than an organization; they are true champions for inclusion, empowerment, and the success of our athletes.

Delegation of the Year: The Ducks

The Ducks are truly an exceptional team that embodies the spirit of Special Olympics Hawaii through their enthusiastic participation throughout the year. Their dedication to inclusivity and teamwork shines as they consistently support and encourage one another, both on and off the field. Through their positive attitudes, strong sportsmanship and commitment to showing up for one another, the Ducks continue to inspire teammates, coaches and their broader Special Olympics Hawaii community.



Unified Partner of the Year: Juliette Rosales O'Shaughnessy

Juliette Rosales O'Shaughnessy has been an inspiring force within Kauai's Team Unify since 2020, growing from a shy sixth grader into a confident leader and mentor. Her dedication to inclusion, friendship, and advocacy extends across unified bowling, track and field, leadership classes, and Hawaii's Youth Activation Committee. Despite attending

a high school far from her original teammates, Juliette continues to travel long distances to remain actively involved. She encourages younger partners, leads activities, supports fundraisers, and always finds ways to uplift her peers through kindness, creativity, and genuine joy. Her commitment to staying connected, even while balancing varsity sports and packed schedules, reflects her extraordinary heart and leadership.



**Outstanding Volunteer of the Year:
Tanya Nakama**



Tanya Nakama has dedicated more than five years to Special Olympics Hawaii, bringing unmatched enthusiasm, commitment, and encouragement to athletes, coaches, and families. Whether stepping in to coach (even learning basketball from scratch) or spending long hours assisting at fundraising events, Tanya consistently goes above and beyond. She provides hope during difficult moments, lifts team morale, and serves as a reliable, compassionate presence for the East Hawaii athletes, making her an invaluable asset to the Special Olympics Hawaii ohana.

**Outstanding Coach of the Year:
Sirena Lacour**

Sirena Lacour is admired for her exceptional dedication, tireless effort, and deep compassion for our athletes. Her commitment shines in everything she does — from motivating athletes to do their best to overcoming any challenge thrown at her. This past year, she organized a special award ceremony following an area competition, personalizing framed photos and certificates to celebrate athletes' achievements. Always seeking new ways to uplift her team and improve the program, Sirena continually demonstrates leadership rooted in love, respect, and genuine care.



**Outstanding Family of the Year:
The Graham Family**



The Graham Ohana has supported Special Olympics for many years with unwavering dedication to the organization and its athletes. As part of the Terminators, Vicki and Kyle demonstrate a strong commitment to fostering inclusion, growth and unity across the Oahu community through coaching and volunteer service. From creating a welcoming, joyful environment for athletes to arriving early, staying late and ensuring everyone gets home safely, they embody the true spirit of volunteerism and demonstrate that when hearts come together, extraordinary things can happen.

**Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year:
Stephanie Lomeli**

Stephanie Lomeli is a dedicated year-round athlete, actively participating in bowling, tee-ball, and bocce, and always giving her best at every practice and competition. She strives to improve with her coach's guidance and consistently shows up to represent her team with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Beyond sports, Stephanie regularly volunteers at events and fundraisers, offering her time and energy to support others. Her commitment, leadership, and encouragement of fellow athletes make her an invaluable member of the Special Olympics Maui family.



**Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year:
Joshua Afoa**

Joshua Afoa exemplifies the spirit of an outstanding Special Olympics athlete through his skill, dedication, and enthusiasm. Competing in basketball, soccer, and track and field, Joshua consistently displays remarkable determination while uplifting those around him with unwavering positivity. His sportsmanship and leadership make him an inspirational presence within the Mililani Trojans and throughout the Oahu region, reaching beyond the sports field. Joshua's joyful attitude and commitment to excellence motivate his teammates and enrich the entire Special Olympics community. His contributions reflect the heart of our mission and inspire all athletes statewide.



**Above and Beyond:
Eric "Big E" Imada**

Eric “Big E” Imada has been an invaluable volunteer with Special Olympics Hawaii for many years, often working behind the scenes to ensure events run smoothly. His dedication, work ethic, and infectious sense of humor have supported countless competitions, making him an essential part of the team. Eric is always the first to jump in, and his selflessness and tireless efforts are a huge part of what makes Special Olympics Hawaii such a success. Beyond his hands-on support, his positive attitude and encouragement uplift both athletes and fellow volunteers, inspiring everyone around him.



**Hall of Fame:
Nadine Bensman**



Nadine Bensman has served the Special Olympics Hawaii community with extraordinary heart, patience, and dedication for many years as the Co-Head of Windward Delegation for bowling. Known for her gentle support of athletes with greater needs, Nadine’s reliability and loving presence help athletes feel safe, understood, and empowered to succeed. She steps up for our athletes, assists with fundraising events, and officiates at multiple bowling competitions across Windward Oahu — even going the extra mile by coordinating individual athletes’ schedules and donating supplies for our athletes. Her kindness, generosity, and selfless spirit make a lasting impact on the athletes and families she supports.

**Hall of Fame:
Duane & Sheila DeLuz**



For nearly 20 years, Duane and Sheila DeLuz have been devoted champions of inclusion, service, and opportunity within Special Olympics Hawaii. From helping launch the Honokaa delegation in 2006 to coaching multiple sports and eventually becoming Heads of Delegation, they have shaped a thriving program where athletes feel supported, encouraged, and valued. Their dedication extends far beyond practices — fundraising, transporting athletes to competitions across the island and state, and fostering a belief that everyone can participate regardless of ability. Their compassion, resilience, and generosity have transformed the Hilo community and inspired countless athletes and families.

Mahalo and congratulations again to all our well-deserving award winners for making a difference in the lives of our athletes

and fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.

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