



NEWS RELEASE

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Special Olympics Hawaii Announces Team to Represent Hawaii at 2026 Special Olympics USA Games

*Athletes from across Hawaii will compete in basketball,
bowling and track and field in Minneapolis in 2026.*

Special Olympics Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y5B_wB9BtwuoX7RROnTOTYTy3udCS2vl

Photo Credit: Stanley Chun

HONOLULU – The aloha spirit is headed to Minnesota! [Special Olympics Hawaii](#) announced its delegation of athletes, Unified Partners, and coaches selected to represent the islands as part of team Hui O Hawaii at the [2026 Special Olympics USA Games](#) in Minneapolis. These inspiring individuals will join competitors from all 50 states in a powerful celebration of inclusion and sportsmanship that will take place June 20-26, 2026.

“The athletes selected to compete at the national level have the strength, spirit, and determination to make Hawaii proud,” said Dan Epstein, President and CEO of Special Olympics Hawaii. “They represent the very best of our islands and the heart, values and aloha spirit that we hope to share with other Special Olympics delegations from around the country.”

This year’s Hui O Hawaii delegation includes athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and youth leaders from across four islands: Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii Island. Athletes will compete in basketball, bowling and track and field, showcasing their skills on a national stage. The delegation also features two Unified Champion Schools Youth Leaders from Campbell High School. The purpose of Youth Leadership is to prepare our youth leaders to take on meaningful roles within their school setting, Special Olympics and then into the general community.

Also joining the delegation is Chief Benjamin Moszkowicz, retired Hawaii Police Department

police chief and Law Enforcement Torch Run officer. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics engages law enforcement personnel worldwide to champion acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities. This year, LETR participants will run the longest route in USA Games history and the first-ever coast-to-coast run, beginning at the Eternal Flame of Hope in Chicago before the final leg makes multiple stops throughout Minnesota.

“I’m excited to be going to the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games and leading my team to gold! But, no matter what, we are giving it everything we’ve got,” said Kaleo Carvalho, team captain of the Hui O Hawaii Basketball Team. “I want the whole country to feel the Aloha Spirit. All our hard work will show in the results at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, whether we come home wearing the gold or not!”

Below are the 30 Special Olympics Hawaii athletes, Unified Partners and coaches that will make up Hui O Hawaii:

Basketball

Athletes:

- Jordan Ah Quin: Honolulu, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Jordan get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/jordanahquin
- Stanley Alvarez: Waianae, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Stanley get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/stanleyalvarez
- Shane Caluyo: Waianae, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Shane get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/shanecaluyo
- Kaleo Carvalho: Waianae, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Kaleo get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/kaleocarvalho
- William Cho: Honolulu, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help William get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/chowilliam
- Jules Cuban: Ewa Beach, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Jules get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/julescuban
- Armando Dickerson: Makakilo, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Armando get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/armandodickerson
- David Okuda: Aiea, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help David get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/davidokuda

Coaches:

- Brandon Shiira: Pearl City, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Brandon get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/brandonshiira
- Chad Dias: Honolulu, Oahu (Pirates). To make a donation to help Chad get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/chaddias

Bowling

Athletes:

- Johnathan Anderson (Unified Partner): Kapaa, Kauai (Kauai Lanakila). To make a donation to help Johnathan get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/johnathananderson
- Bradley “Kaimana” McDermott-Sa: Anahola, Kauai (Kauai Lanakila). To make a donation to help Kaimana get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/bradleymcdermotts
- Brandon Taitingfong: Ewa Beach, Oahu (Team Arise). To make a donation to help Brandon get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/brandontaitingfong
- Herbert Taitingfong (Unified Partner): Ewa Beach, Oahu (Team Arise). To make a donation to help Herbert get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/herberttaitingfong

Coach:

- Anne Kim: Mililani, Oahu (Team Arise). To make a donation to help Anne get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/annekim

Track and Field

Athletes:

- Danielle Castrence: Wailuku, Maui (Maui). To make a donation to help Danielle get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/daniellecastrence
- Maja Gonya: Hilo, Island of Hawaii (Red Waves). To make a donation to help Maja get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/majagonya
- Cassandra Okinaka: Hilo, Island of Hawaii (Waiakea High School). To make a donation to help Cassandra get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/kassandraokinaka
- Eva Ujano: Wailuku, Maui (Maui). To make a donation to help Eva get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/evaujano

Coaches:

- Doreen Hernandez: Haiku, Maui (Maui). To make a donation to help Doreen get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/doreenhernandez
- Jeffrey St. Pierre: Canada (Maui). To make a donation to help Jeffrey get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/jeffstpierre

Youth Leaders

- Aiden Apolinario: Ewa Beach, Oahu (Campbell High School). To make a donation to help Aiden get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/aidenapolinario
- Aha’iloni Isaia: Ewa Beach, Oahu (Campbell High School). To make a donation to help Aha’iloni get to the USA Games visit: bit.ly/ahailonaisaia

Leader

- Emerald Chun, Unified Champion Schools Manager (Special Olympics Hawaii Staff)

Leadership

- Head of Delegation: Greg Terhune, Director of Sports (Special Olympics Hawaii Staff)
- Assistant HoD: Nip Ho, Senior Vice President of Programs (Special Olympics Hawaii Staff)
- Assistant HoD: Cindy Ujimori, Vice President of Community Outreach (Special Olympics Hawaii Staff)
- Medical Staff: Danny Kao, Operations Supervisor at American Medical Response
- Families Coordinator: Adrienne Laurion, Neighbor Island Regional Director (Special Olympics Hawaii Staff)
- LETR: Retired Police Chief Benjamin Moszkowicz, Hawaii Police Department

Those who wish to support Special Olympics Hawaii can also make a donation by visiting bit.ly/huiohawaii and make a donation to any of our athletes, coaches, sports, or the Hui O Hawaii team.

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will be one of the largest, most inclusive sporting events in the country, bringing together 3,000 athletes, 1,500 coaches, 10,000 volunteers, and an expected 75,000 fans from all 50 states. Through the power of sport and inclusion, the Special Olympics USA Games aim to spark a ripple effect that transforms lives, unites communities, and changes the world. To learn more about the Games visit <https://2026specialolympicsusagames.org/>.

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About Special Olympics Hawai'i

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports. Through year-round programs in sports, health, education, and leadership programs, Special Olympics creates inclusive opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities, improving health outcomes, building confidence, and fostering acceptance while working to end discrimination.

Founded in 1968, Special Olympics Hawai'i serves more than 7,000 athletes and Unified partners statewide. Supported by over 8,800 volunteers, along with community, corporate, and foundation partners, the organization delivers 10 Olympic-type sports, more than 60 competitions annually, free health screenings, and inclusive programming in over 75 schools—strengthening individuals, families, and communities across the islands. Participation is always free for athletes and their families. Learn more at www.sohawaii.org.