



Special Olympics Hawai'i Newsletter: April 2026

Support Our Athletes

Mission Partners



Year-Round Partners



ALEXANDER & BALDWIN
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Year-Round Supporters



What's Going On at Special Olympics Hawai'i?

Area and Regional Competitions In Action

Area and regional competitions are in full swing across the islands this April and May, bringing the excitement of competition right into the heart of our local communities. For many athletes, these events mean the chance to compete at home, in front of family, friends, and supporters who have been part of their journey every step of the way. It's where confidence grows, connections deepen, and the true spirit of inclusion shines.

From track & field and swimming to powerlifting and softball, hundreds of athletes are showcasing their passion, determination, and skill—powered by the incredible support of more than a thousand dedicated volunteers who help make each event possible.



These inspiring competitions serve as the pathway to the State Summer Games, happening June 5–7 at the University of Hawai'i and Sand Island Park, where our athletes will take the next step and shine on the big stage.

Click here for a calendar of events: <https://sohawaii.org/about-us/calendar/>

Teams Showed Up Strong at the Truck Pull & Spring Fest, Presented by Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawai'i

We want to extend a special mahalo to the 39 participating Truck Pull teams and their supporters who helped us raise more than \$101,700 for our athletes and programs! Mahalo to our Presenting Sponsor



Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawai'i – The Odom Corporation, our Silver Medal Sponsor Phoenix Pacific Inc., and our Bronze Medal Sponsors Aloha Roadway Services and JSS by Design.

Additional thanks to our Venue Sponsor Ka Makana Ali'i, Media Partners KHON2 and KSSK/iHeartRadio Hawaii, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, as well as vendors, entertainers, volunteers and community members who helped make the event a success!

Par Hawaii Continues to Fuel Dreams

For more than 36 years, Par Hawaii has been a dedicated partner of Special Olympics Hawai'i, contributing more than \$1,686,000 through sponsorships, donations and employee involvement.

This year marks the 21st year of their annual Fueling Dreams campaign, which runs May 13–24, 2026. During this time, customers can support our athletes by making a donation at participating Hele and 76 stores statewide. While fueling up, customers can also join HELE Kama'aina Rewards to save 25¢ per gallon while giving back to the community. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$1,105,000, helping provide free sports training, competitions and health, leadership, and inclusionary programs for our local athletes.



Beyond Fueling Dreams, Par Hawaii continues to support key events including the State Summer Games Opening Ceremonies, Cheer for Champions, Truck Pull, and Over the Edge.

Mahalo to Par Hawaii and its employees for their decades of incredible support, and to John Peyton, Par Hawaii's Vice President of Hawaii Retail and a dedicated member of our board of directors, for his continued leadership and commitment to our athletes.

Visit Zippy's This May and Support Our Athletes

Zippy's is proud to celebrate Special Olympics Hawai'i this May with the return of its annual Mahalo May campaign! Kicking off Monday, May 4 through May 31, 2026, all Zippy's locations across the islands will be joining in to support our athletes and their journey.

Throughout the month, a portion of proceeds from the beloved Kokua Pac will be donated to Special Olympics Hawai'i. This local favorite features Zippy's famous Korean fried chicken, Portuguese sausage, half a red hot dog, and a slice of SPAM, all served over a bed of white rice.

Guests can also make an impact by simply rounding up their purchase at checkout, turning everyday meals into meaningful support for our athletes.



Stop by Zippy's during Mahalo May—because every bite builds a champion.

CKMS Earns ESPN Honor Roll Recognition

Chiefess Kamakaha Middle School (CKMS) was recently recognized as an ESPN Honor Roll North America Unified Champion School, a prestigious distinction honoring its commitment to inclusion through the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools initiative. CKMS was one of only 45 schools across North America selected to receive the 2025 ESPN Honor Roll award, placing it among an elite group leading efforts to build more inclusive school communities.

The celebration featured a special banner presentation by student-athletes from Kauai High School, who entered the event and presented the national banner. Their participation reflected a shared commitment to promoting acceptance, leadership and meaningful inclusion.

Guest speaker Dave Hubbard inspired students and staff with a powerful message about teamwork and perseverance, sharing: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."



Volunteers Needed for Summer Games 2026

**BE A PART OF THE FUN!
VOLUNTEER AT SUMMER GAMES!**



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
JUNE 5-7
MULTIPLE SHIFTS THROUGH OUT THE WEEKEND**

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!!

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend at our State Summer Games, scheduled for June 5–7 at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa — and we need YOU to be part of the action.

The State Summer Games bring together athletes, families, and the community for a weekend full of energy, competition, and celebration. Behind every great moment is an incredible team of volunteers making it all happen — and that’s where you come in.

Multiple volunteer shifts are available throughout the weekend, so whether you can give a few hours or a full day, there’s a role for you. From supporting events and handing out awards to helping with logistics and keeping things running smoothly, every volunteer plays a key part in creating a meaningful experience for our athletes.

Bring your friends, coworkers, or come solo — either way, you’ll be welcomed as part of the team.

We truly could not hold events like this without our volunteers, and we would love to have you join us for this special weekend.

Interested? Reach out to Dallas at volunteer@sohawaii.org today to sign up or learn more.

Health & Wellness Keeps Athletes Moving

Our Health & Wellness team continues encouraging active participation. Recent highlights include a softball clinic with Hawai‘i Pacific University Softball Team, a pickleball clinic with the Oahu Pickleball Association and a tennis clinic with the United States Tennis Association.

Upcoming sessions include a social dance class, a zumba class and “Get Fit with Nicole Inouye” at the Special Olympics Hawai‘i Sports Complex. Athletes and families on the neighbor islands are invited to join via Zoom:

Social Dance Class (May 16): bit.ly/sohi-may-2026-dance

Zumba Class (May 26): bit.ly/sohi-may-2026-zumba

Get Fit with Nicole Inouye (May 28): bit.ly/sohi-may-2026-get-fit

For questions, please contact Kris at health@sohawaii.org.

SOHI FITNESS PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE
"If big challenges seem hard to accomplish, try breaking it into smaller wins!"

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Balance, Flexibility, Strength & Training 3:30-4:30pm Holoholo walk 4:30pm	5 *POET Workout 3:30-4:30pm Cross-training 8-9pm	6	7	8 ***Craft Club Activity 4-6pm **Hold for Fitness Programming - 5-6pm	9
10	11 Balance, Flexibility, Strength & Training 3:30-4:30pm Holoholo walk 4:30pm	12 *POET Workout 3:30-4:30pm Cross-training 8-9pm	13	14 *POET Workout 3:30-4:30pm	15	16
17	18 Balance, Flexibility, Strength & Training 3:30-4:30pm Holoholo walk 4:30pm	19 *POET Workout 3:30-4:30pm Cross-training 8-9pm	20	21	22	23 Young Athletes Liholiho Elementary 8:30-11am
24/31	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 Zumba with Dee Dee 8-9pm Zoom Link "Click here"	27 Garden Club 4:30-5:30pm	28 Get Fit with Nicole 9-9pm Zoom Link "Click here"	29	30 ***Tennis Clinic/Open Play Time 4-5pm

To register for any of these classes, scan the QR Code below:

CORE-FLEX
 STRENGTH AGILITY Motivation
 YOGA COMMITMENT
 DETERMINATION TRAINING



LOCATION: 91-610 MAUNAKAPU STREET, EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

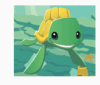



Join Our Annual Young Athletes Event During State Summer Games



Special Olympics
Hawaii

young athletes



2 through 7 year old children **with and without Intellectual Disabilities** are invited to the Special Olympics Hawai'i Young Athletes event. Activities for the day will focus on development of motor skills along with socialization through Play. We also promise tons of fun.

When: June 6, 2026
 Where: University of Hawai'i Gymnasium 2
 Time: 9:30a – 11:00a, check in at 9:00a

Young Athletes t-shirts will be provided for all youth participants along with a meal from our hospitality crew for the full family. Register early to guarantee your child's shirt size.

There is no cost to participate.

To register your child, if you are new please fill out the attached registration form or you can find it on our website at <https://sohawaii.org/initiatives/young-athletes/> and scan and e-mail the form to program@sohawaii.org and if you are a returning participant, just e-mail program@sohawaii.org on or before May 10th.



Vote for Special Olympics Hawai'i in the Target Circle Giving Program



Jersey Mike's Month of Giving Raises Over \$87,000

Special Olympics Hawai'i has been selected as a featured nonprofit in the Target Circle Community Giving Program. Now through June 30, Target shoppers can earn votes with every purchase and direct them to Special Olympics Hawai'i to help us receive a portion of Target's community donation. Voting is free and votes can be cast at target.com/circle or through the Target app.

Mahalo to Jersey Mike's for their tremendous support and to everyone who donated during Jersey Mike's Month of Giving. The campaign raised \$87,056 for Special Olympics and Hui 'O Hawai'i athletes traveling this year to compete in the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, which will take place June 20-26 in Minneapolis.



Cheer for Champions Seeking Table Sponsors and Auction Items

Our annual Cheer for Champions fundraiser is coming up on Friday, June 5, at the University of Hawai'i's Les Murakami Stadium. We invite you to be a part of this inspiring evening by becoming a Table Sponsor or donating items to our auction. For more information, contact Tracey at traceyb@sohawaii.org.



Jenna Hasan's Strong Minds Through Art

We're proud to spotlight Jenna Hasan, our 2024 Female Athlete of the Year and certified Health Messenger, for creating Strong Minds Through Art — a seven-part video series that highlights how art can be a powerful tool for wellness, connection, and inclusion. Check out her video series on social media and submit your own artwork at bit.ly/sohi-health-messenger-project-2026.

Team Hui 'O Hawai'i Gear Up For Special Olympics Games

With the arrival of summer, the excitement is building for the Special Olympics Hawai'i athletes and their families as they prepare for the upcoming Special Olympics USA Games. The athletes are currently training hard, and the community is rallying behind them. The Special Olympics Hawai'i team is made up of athletes from various sports, including basketball, volleyball, and swimming. They are all looking forward to the games and the chance to compete at a higher level. The Special Olympics Hawai'i team is a testament to the power of sports and the importance of inclusion. They are all looking forward to the games and the chance to compete at a higher level. The Special Olympics Hawai'i team is a testament to the power of sports and the importance of inclusion. They are all looking forward to the games and the chance to compete at a higher level.



Special Olympics Hawai'i in the News

Check out the latest headlines featuring Special Olympics Hawai'i!

- "Truck Pull & Spring Fest by Special Olympics Hawaii" on KHON2 Living 808
- "Special Olympics Athletes Go For Gold" in Midweek Honolulu Voice
- "Community 'pulls together' for Special Olympics Hawaii event on Saturday" in Spectrum News

Create a legacy of giving:
empower future athletes

[DOWNLOAD ESTATE PLANNING TOOLS](#)

Planned Giving

One of the most important gifts you can give to your family, friends and community is a future where each person is accepted and appreciated for their unique strengths. Learn more about how you can leave a lasting impact when you include Special Olympics Hawai'i in your will, by visiting bit.ly/plannedgivinghawaii.

Forward to a Friend

Connect With Us!

Share your Special Story

If you have a story about your involvement with Special Olympics Hawai'i – such as a volunteer, coach, official or family member – we would love to hear from you! Please email your story to our PR team at [**crystalclearcomms@gmail.com**](mailto:crystalclearcomms@gmail.com). We can't wait to see what kind of stories you'll share!

Special Olympics Hawaii | 91-610 Maunakapu St | Ewa Beach, HI 96706 US

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