

Special Olympics
Hawai'i



Special Olympics Hawai'i Newsletter: September 2026

Support Our Athletes

Mission Partners



Year-Round Partners



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

Do Something Scary in October for a Good Cause



October is the perfect month to do something a little scary. But instead of watching a spooky movie or visiting a haunted house, how about **rappelling 40 stories—400 feet—down the side of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa?**

On **Saturday, Oct. 17**, Special Olympics Hawai'i's **17th Annual Over The Edge** invites you to step outside your comfort zone, challenge yourself and raise funds for athletes across Hawai'i.

Still not convinced? Here are five reasons to go Over the Edge this October:

1. You'll have a great "What I did last weekend" story.

Good story: "I had a nice weekend in Waikiki."

Great story: "I rappelled off the rooftop of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa!"

2. You'll have serious bragging rights.

And photos, a t-shirt and a medal to prove it!

3. You can do it with your bestie or that person who says they're up for anything.

Sign up with a friend, coworker or family member and together you'll create amazing memories.

4. You'll challenge yourself and feel energized and empowered.

Our athletes face challenges every day and overcome them. Let their determination inspire you as you step outside your comfort zone and prove to yourself that you can do this too.

5. You'll make an impact in the lives of our athletes!

Every dollar raised stays right here in Hawai'i and helps us provide free, life-changing programs for our athletes.

Register for Over The Edge, commit to raising a minimum of **\$1,000** and get ready for an experience you won't forget! To register or learn more, visit bit.ly/sohiote2026.

Sponsor Feature: American Medical Response



From the moment our events begin to the final celebration, the team at American Medical Response (AMR) is there to help ensure the health and safety of our athletes, coaches,

volunteers, and families. From Area and State competitions to fundraising events, their dedicated team is always available when we need them.

This year, AMR took their support one step further by participating in our Tip A Hero fundraiser, generously volunteering alongside other first responders to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Hawai'i. Their willingness to jump in and support our mission in a new way is just another example of how this incredible team continues to go above and beyond.

We are also incredibly grateful to AMR's Assistant Chief of O'ahu Operations Danny Kao, whose leadership and commitment have helped build such a strong partnership with Special Olympics Hawai'i. Whether they're keeping our athletes safe, lending a hand at an event, or cheering from the sidelines, the AMR team brings genuine care, compassion, and aloha to everything they do. Mahalo nui loa to American Medical Response for continuing to show up for our athletes and our mission in so many meaningful ways.

More Than \$172,000 Raised at Badges & Buckets on O'ahu

From September 18–20, community volunteers took to scaffolds and storefronts across the state for Badges & Buckets. While teams were out raising funds throughout Hawai'i, here's a look at what happened on O'ahu.

Across 13 locations, more than \$172,000 was raised! Volunteer officers and personnel from county, state and federal agencies spent the weekend alongside our athletes and volunteers collecting donations, talking story, and connecting with the community.

Mahalo to HPD Chief of Police David Lazar who stopped by our Waimalu Plaza Shopping Center site to visit the officers, athletes and volunteers.



Mahalo to all those who climbed a scaffold, held a bucket, and made a donation. And of course, mahalo to all those who made this weekend happen, from our law enforcement partners, site hosts, and event partners.

Together, we continue building stronger communities and creating more opportunities for our athletes.

Health & Wellness Corner: Stay Active with Health Messenger Nicole Inouye



Special Olympics Hawai'i athlete and certified Health Messenger Nicole Inouye continues to inspire our community through movement and leadership. In 2022, Nicole developed "Get Moving with Nicky," a dynamic 30-minute workout created as part of her Health Messenger project. Special Olympics Hawai'i later featured the program during our virtual fitness sessions, and we are thrilled to welcome Nicole back as an instructor for our Hale 'O Mauiola programs.

Nicole leads sessions once a month using a hybrid approach: Participants follow her pre-recorded workout video while Nicole leads the modified, low-impact versions live in person.

Join the next session on Oct. 29:

- In-Person: Special Olympics Hawai'i Sports & Wellness Complex
- Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84745688398>

Check out next month's Hale 'O Mauiola health and wellness schedule here:

OCTOBER 2026

SOHI FITNESS PROGRAMMING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

"Exercise your thoughts, dreams and actions into the things that make you smile."

BALANCE, FLEXIBILITY, STRENGTH & TRAINING

MONDAYS / 3:30-4:30PM

ZOOM LINK [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85651911996](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85651911996)

KAPOLEI HOLOHOLO WALKING CLUB

MONDAYS / 4:30-5:00PM

6, 13,
20, 27

CROSS-TRAINING

TUESDAYS / 5-6PM

10

SAT

ZUMBA WITH TANYA

2:00 - 2:45PM

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81629896197](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81629896197)

16

FRI

HE WAHI LOKAHI CRAFT CLASS

5 - 6PM

28

WED

GARDEN CLUB 4:30-5:30PM

29

GET MOVING WITH NICKY

5:30 - 6:00PM

ZOOM LINK [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85948282088](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85948282088)



All events are in person at our SOHI Sports Complex as well as on Zoom for most.

HEALTH@SOHAWAII.ORG

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



Unified Spotlight: Kaua'i Youth Leaders Step Up



We kicked off the school year with a great first Youth Activation Committee (YAC) meeting! Kaua'i showed up strong, with students from Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, Kapa'a High School, Waimea Canyon Middle School and Waimea High School coming together to connect, collaborate and start the year strong. Students connected, shared ideas, and got excited about plans for their Unified Clubs this school year and our upcoming Youth Leadership Conference next year.

Want your school to be part of the movement? Email Emerald-Leigh Chun, Director of Unified Champion Schools, at unify@sohawaii.org to get involved.

Staff Spotlight: Kellie Williams, Health & Wellness Manager



Special Olympics Hawai'i is thrilled to welcome Kellie Williams to our team as our new Health and Wellness Manager.

Kellie joins our organization following a distinguished 27-year career on active duty with the United States Air Force. She brings a wealth of expertise and leadership to the role, having served as an international health specialist, physical therapist, and fitness instructor. Her extensive background in health promotion and clinical care will play a vital role in strengthening our wellness initiatives and expanding fitness opportunities for our athletes statewide.

We are excited to have Kellie on board and look forward to the expertise, energy, and dedication she brings to our Special Olympics Hawai'i community. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Kellie!

What high school did you graduate from?

I graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in Chico, California.

What's your go-to plate lunch order?

Spicy Penne arrabbiata with sea scallops from my sweet grandmother's kitchen. Yum! She served up this favorite dish to my heart's content for lunch or dinner, whenever I asked. Even though she now lives in heaven, I always think of her whenever I see it on the menu.

Your favorite memory from a Special Olympics Hawai'i event?

Seeing our athletes' bright eyes & brimming smiles as HPD's helicopter touched down near the fields of play last month for our Aukake Classic to kick off the games. I could feel the happiness and it still makes me smile.

If you could compete in any Special Olympics sport, which one would it be and why?

Swimming! As a physical therapist I have an appreciation for all sports activities and the benefits each can bring to any athlete. But, I think I may be part mermaid because the water has always felt like a home away from home. I'm especially thankful to live in Hawai'i where I'm able to enjoy both my primary and secondary home 24/7.

If you could share one thing about Special Olympics Hawai'i with the community, what would it be?

I would share that Special Olympics Hawai'i believes in all of our athletes, families, & friends. Without a doubt, we are, and we believe in T.E.A.M.S.: Together Everyone Achieves More Success!

Support Reyse & Nicole as They Go Over The Edge!



Two incredible Special Olympics Hawai'i athletes, Reyse Sakima and Nicole Inouye, are going Over The Edge this October! Each is working to raise \$5,000, and a generous donor will match every dollar they raise, up to \$10,000 total. Help Reyse and Nicole reach their goals and double the impact of your donation by visiting bit.ly/reysesakima2026 and bit.ly/nicoleinouye2026.

First Responders Raise Funds For Special Olympics



Special Olympics Hawai'i in the News

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

- ["First Responders Raise Funds for Special Olympics" in Midweek West Oahu Voice](#)
- ["Raise a bucket. Rally your community. Support Hawai'i's athletes." in My Pearl City](#)



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.



Special Olympics North America Training Receives National Honor



9th Annual Law Enforcement Surfing Classic

Special Olympics North America is excited to announce that the Coaching Special Olympics Athletes online course won first place in the Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards in the Best Coaching Program category.

The Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards are an international awards program that recognizes excellence in learning and development. Special Olympics Hawai'i coaches can use this award-winning course to re-certify for their sport. Log in to access the course here: <https://elearn.specialolympics.org/sports/learn> (login required)

The 9th Annual Hawai'i State Law Enforcement Surfing Classic made another big splash for Special Olympics Hawai'i, raising \$6,000 to support our athletes! Held July 30–August 2 in Waikiki, the event brought together law enforcement officers, first responders, and supporters for a fun-filled weekend in the water.

A huge mahalo to the event sponsors, participants, and volunteers for making the event a success, and a special thank you to Derrick Kalahui, Gregg Aarii, Guy Demello, and the Surfing Classic committee for their continued dedication to Special Olympics Hawai'i.

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. 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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