



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Give Local Athletes a Hand by Sending Them a Virtual High Five!**

*The text-to-donate campaign supports the organization's Virtual High Five Campaign to help local athletes with intellectual disabilities as they prepare to return to the playing field*

**Virtual High Five Campaign Photos:** <https://we.tl/t-5uuSTdJGvH>

**Photo Credit:** Special Olympics Hawaii

**HONOLULU** – A quick tap of your fingers is all you need to support local athletes in Special Olympics Hawaii's first-ever Virtual High Five Campaign that aims to help athletes with intellectual disabilities who have all been impacted by the unprecedented shutdown of in-person sports. You can "send a virtual high five" by making a donation of \$5 (or more!) by text now through the end of April. For more information on the campaign and Special Olympics Hawaii's work visit: [www.sohawaii.org](http://www.sohawaii.org).

"Our athletes love receiving high fives during practices and competitions, which is why we wanted to create a safe and innovative way to engage the entire community and give everyone a chance to keep the high fives going," said Tracey Bender, Special Olympics Hawaii's director of development. "Every high five will have a lasting impact on our athletes who are now training for the upcoming virtual spring season. It will inspire them to keep up their hard work and dedication and remind them that the community is still there and supporting them, even though it's not in person."

To make a donation, simply:

- Text SOHI5 to 44321
- Immediately after texting SOHI5 to 44321, you will receive a secure online link that will direct you to Special Olympics Hawaii's Virtual High Five Campaign donation page.

- Tap the online link to donate and select your donation amount and payment method (via Apple Pay, credit card, or bank account).
- You can also make a donation directly online by visiting:  
<http://bit.ly/SOHVirtualHighFive>.

Donating by text or online allows a safe, easy and convenient way for the community to support local athletes. Message and data rates may apply when donating through this method. Individuals can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP.

Now more than ever, Special Olympics Hawaii needs the community's support to keep their athletes strong physically and emotionally until the time is safe for them to return to in-person sports. The funds raised through the Virtual High Five Campaign will help Special Olympics Hawaii continue to provide virtual and online programs, and ensure over 3,400 athletes can safely "return to play" with the proper personal protective equipment and supplies.

Special Olympics Hawaii provides year-round sports programs and training for athletes with intellectual disabilities, free of charge. Since 1968 Special Olympics has been changing attitudes about the talents of people with intellectual disabilities and raising awareness to build an inclusive and unified community.

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

### **About Special Olympics Hawaii**

Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education, and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. [Founded in 1968](#), Special Olympics Hawaii has grown to serve more than 5,196 athletes and Unified partners on every island in our state. With the support of more than 10,800 coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers [10 Olympic-type sports](#) and over 50 games and competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics is supported by individuals, foundations and corporate partners.

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).

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