



HAWAIIAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION
APRIL 26, 2020

First, we hope that you are all staying healthy and well during the COVID-19 restrictions that have impacted all of our lives. Your Executive Board, Association Representatives, Committee Chairs and Members and others have continued to email, talk, and see each other via Zoom. We are working very hard to determine the best course for HCRA in light of this community wide crisis.

State Championships: After much deliberation and weighing of options, the decision was made on April 25, 2020 to cancel the State Championship Race in 2020. We recognize the work that was already undertaken and the plans already made and we appreciate the help of the County of Honolulu, Hui Waa (the 2020 association host), our vendors, our sponsors and all of the paddlers. There is no way given the current amount of information available that we could guaranty it could be held, be held safely and within any necessary guidelines, or that it would be financially feasible to attempt to host the race. Guidance was taken from other large even planners, here in Hawaii and internationally. Our goal, like that of our paddlers, is to have as little disruption as possible so that we can host large events in the future without concerns about the welfare of our participants. Giving up the championship race this year we felt was the best course.

Paddling in General: Although as of this writing we all remain under “stay at home” restrictions that prohibit 6-man paddling, we are hopeful that some of the strides made recently in reducing the number of new *coronavirus* cases will allow us to return to the canoes shortly. We expect that safety protocols will remain in place (such as disinfecting canoes or wearing masks) and will communicate those when we are given the green light to return to the water.

Long Distance: No decision has been made by any association, or by NWOKK or MH as to whether the long distance season will happen. We are hopeful that some distance races will be held, even if the format and length of them end up modified. We expect to know more in that regard by the end of May.

We Are Still “Working”: Although HCRA is not doing its “normal” we are still hard at work behind the scenes. And we assume you might have a little more free time than normal. So, as in the past we are always looking for historical information about each member club that we can archive. This would be a club history, photos, interviews of your founding members, and information about your original canoes. You can send any information collected to Aloha Mauhili at amauhili@yahoo.com.

We are also busy working on *RaceDay Live* which was scheduled to go to live testing in a few short weeks. Instead, Jonathan and his team will be working with the associations to run some virtual testing/feedback sessions so that in 2021, we will still be able to roll out the system.

The Merchandise committee had designed awesome things to sell at the Championships and will be rolling that hard work into the 2021 gear. Maybe we can even get them to design us a t-shirt for the race that didn't happen and sell it at the annual meeting as a fundraiser!

Please thank your association representatives and committee chairs and members – we've already had more meetings this year than we did in the entire 2019 year. But, we will continue to meet, continue to work hard, and continue to make it possible for us to take to the water as soon as we can.

Stay healthy.