



HAWAIIAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION
March 14th, 2021

Aloha paddlers:

Hoping each of you is staying safe and healthy. Your Board of Directors and Association Reps continue to work hard behind the scenes advancing all things paddling.

Some updates for you:

Some of our member Associations have already made determinations about the season based on a number of factors such as participation numbers, venue availability, active COVID case numbers, percentage of persons vaccinated, County requirements and guidelines, and costs. As of this writing, MCHCA & MOKU have declined to have a regatta season. Hui Waa and OHCRA have just been advised that the Tier2/3 modifications for sports do not include the ability to host regattas. KOA has successfully hosted some limited distance racing but has not made the call on regatta season. MCRA has not yet determined what it will do for the season.

The official determination as to whether the State Championship will be held and in what form will be made at the April HCRA meeting. As of this writing, we do not anticipate that we will have sufficient participation to host the event nor do we expect that an event of our size would fit within the guidelines on Oahu.

While not hosting regattas is disappointing, we have found that most clubs seem to be using this as a time to do canoe and hale maintenance, education, smaller practices, and community outreach. It is reassuring that when our "normal" paddling resumes, we will be ready.

As to distance races, most Associations are still entertaining those options. Your executive board continues to receive questions about what can/cannot be done for distance. That determination is not ours. So long as a club or Association is able to put together a protocol that meets the County and State requirements for permitting, gathering, safety, etc., the race may be hosted. Your club still needs to report the event to your association representatives so that insurance can be informed. If you are looking for a model of what is possible, KOA has successfully hosted a small distance event using limited crew participation, detailed schedules for rigging and staggering of start times, masking, and boat cleaning. Their plan has been shared with all HCRA Association representatives so reach out to yours if you have questions.

The HCRA Board has also been asked to prepare "return to the water" plans. Again, that is up to each club to prepare an appropriate plan that meets all of the County guidelines and which works within the confines of your own hale space. From HCRA's perspective, so long as the return to water is in anticipation of racing, with coaches and clubs governing the practice (ie no casual paddling groups or kupuna programs or pure recreational programs), and HCRA waivers

are signed, you are good to go and we would encourage you to develop workout programs so people can safely resume paddling.

Aloha,

Keri