

April 1, 2020
OHCRA Club Leads
Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response



Welina Ke Aloha Nui ia Kakou,

On behalf of the OHCRA Executive Board, I send our aloha during this difficult and unprecedented time in our world's history. As we all face trying situations and radical changes to our daily lives, we are learning to adapt to a "new normal", and as a canoe racing ohana we are proud to see you all support one another.

Over the course of history, paddling has proven its place in our culture and continues to be an integral part of our state and global connection. This rich legacy has been passed down through generations, enriched our definition of community and paved the way for our OHCRA ohana to thrive. And it is in this spirit that we stand together, united to hold fast in what matter most in this difficult time—each and every one of you!

While paddling remains steadfast in our lives, we believe that our focus during this window of time must shift to the needs of our clubs, crews, and individuals and how we can support one another. Currently, the COVID-19 statewide response calls for us to suspend gathering in groups and has us observing social distancing to collectively "flatten the curve". Current reports lead us to believe that this collective effort will extend for some time and will last the duration of valuable planning, training and financial preparation for our 2020 PreSeason and Regatta season. In response to the countless unknown variables, and the known economic hardships that we face as a community, the OHCRA Executive Board has decided to suspend the Pre-Season and Regatta Season.

No doubted, as clubs you are wrestling with similar decisions on how to plan ahead while supporting your paddlers and families through various hardships. We hope that this decision to suspend these events provides some relief to the weight that you feel and will allow you to focus on your community at a time when they need you most. We thank you for your support and understanding of this difficult decision that we faced during this window of uncertainty. Rest assured, we have not yet made any decision about the Long Distance Season, and should we have better indications that the State proclamations allow for our activities to resume, we stand at the ready to make the most out of what is left of the 2020 season. We have high hopes that the world will be in a much better position soon and the Executive Board will convene on this issue in early June.

We thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and steadfast commitment to our OHCRA community. Please continue to follow the statewide guidelines set forth by our government and health officials so that we can continue to be safe and healthy (and get back to being on the water soon). We continue to send our strength and aloha to each club, paddler, coach, staff, family and support system that allows our sport to thrive. Please find ways to build one another up--share resources responsibly, support each other, and stay connected on the phone or via social media—as this is what matters most!

Together we are strong! #OHCRAstrong

Mahalo Piha,
Lapule Schultz
OHCRA President