



March 20, 2021

Aloha Hawaiian Swimming Members,

Hope all are well and safe. I know many have been waiting for the day we all can return to swimming...hopefully that day is coming soon.

Hawaiian Swimming, Inc. (HISI) has been monitoring the statewide and individual county orders that have been in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic. HISI is mandated to maintain its fiduciary responsibility as an extension of USA Swimming to ensure the safety of its members and comply with the State of Hawai'i (SOH) and the respective individual county requirements.

HISI has been advocating the "return to swimming" since May 2020. Letters with action plans and safety protocols were sent to the governor and each respective county mayors. All plans and safety protocols to reinstate organized competitive swimming and safely managing COVID-19 risks were presented as attachments to the letter. The plans and safety protocols were a compilation of guidelines from the Center of Disease Control, World Health Organization, and USA Swimming.

The governor authorized mayors to self-govern safety measures for each respective county, subject to his approval in March. After the initial lockdown was relaxed it became evident that the rules were not only different by county but also constantly changing with the fluctuation of COVID-19 cases.

Maui Age Group Swim Association (Maui County) and Big Island Swimming (Hawai'i County) advocated for their respective club members to voice concerns and to work with the respective aquatics authority to get swim clubs into the pools. Although the current situation may not be ideal for all clubs it was a big step to get swimmers into the pool. The anticipation is that increased access may result as COVID-19 conditions improve.

HISI advocated on behalf of the swimmers in Honolulu County in the following ways:

- Contacted the office of the Lieutenant Governor (12/16/20)
- Joined the virtual Safe Sports 808 (Organized Group Sports) on January 1/08/21)
- Submitted Testimony on behalf of HISI to the Safe Sports 808's resolution (RES21-018) urging appropriate adjustments to Honolulu Reopening Strategy on organized sports (1/12/21)
- Joined Action Meeting for Safe Sports Hawai'i for the safe reopening of organized youth sports (February 24, 2021)
- Joined the "Having Trouble with Permits?" virtual discussion with the County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Laura Thielen (March 18, 2021).

HISI has also continued to connect to USA Swimming on behalf of all HISI joining three virtual meetings each month since August 2020. The most recent meeting held March 18, 2021 declared that 100,000+ athletes are still out of the water and/or have no pool access in the United States.

Currently, HISI is anticipating swimming to reopen at County of Honolulu pools as the modified Tier 3 will allow training to resume on April 12. It is recommended that the teams desiring to use the County of Honolulu pool contact the respective DPR facility's manager or senior guard to request permit instructions and requirements. It is the expectations of HISI that all member clubs follow all state and county regulations.

HISI understands the COVID-19 pandemic has been very difficult time and appreciate the cooperation of our swim community. We also know it will be awhile before swimming in Hawai'i returns to hosting meets regularly.

Keep safe and please abide by the State of Hawai'i and your respective County order and safety protocols.

Sincerely,
Hawaiian Swimming Board