

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am reaching out to you with much Aloha and hopes you and your loved ones are safe and well. We miss seeing you and the kids at the clubs on a regular basis and we truly look forward to the time when it is safe to open back up again with the same full and SAFE service we've always provided you.

The modified summer programs we were able to offer were a wonderful success and spending even those short few weeks with the kids made our hearts happy! We hope their time spent with the staff was as enjoyable for them as it was for us.

Since completing summer programs, our beautiful state has become one of the Covid hotspots in the country! With over 355 new cases yesterday, we reached a level that is unprecedented in Hawaii. As I weigh the pros and cons of opening our clubs for fall programs, the safety and protection of your children and our staff remains the number one priority of Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawaii. I have carefully considered the escalating number of new cases and our ability to keep everyone safe and I've made the very difficult, but responsible, decision to delay opening our **OAHU** clubs until **September 1, 2020**. Please know this is the target date that we are shooting for, but it may need to be pushed back if the situation does not improve. **Please be sure to contact your clubs directly to stay updated on our plans.**

Having said that, since **Kauai** is not facing the same rate of new cases and infection, we WILL open **KAUAI** clubs beginning **August 17 and August 24, 2020**. Please contact your club for additional information.

No matter when your child's club opens, we will have very strict safety protocols and wellness checks in place that are not negotiable. All clubs will be sharing with you the rules and regulations we've put in place to keep your child safe. I sincerely mahalo you for your respect and compliance as we work together to stay healthy and well.

Mahalo to all who have reached out to us to check in and let us know how you're doing! We are grateful for any opportunity to hear from you and we remain committed to sharing resources and support to help. Please do continue to reach out to your clubhouses, or to me directly, and let us know what you need. There are so many organizations providing assistance to our communities and we want to share these with you!

BGCH also remains committed to providing food and emergency supplies distributions in the communities we serve, for as long as it is safe to do so!

Please watch for club newsletters and check our website often for updated information:

www.bgch.com under the SAFETY FIRST tab.



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OF HAWAII

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In the meantime, we look forward to continuing our “hybrid” programming to include virtual programs to engage our children and teens!

- **BGCH has created virtual programming to engage our youth members from home!** If you haven’t checked out the virtual programming from your children's favorite BGCH mentors...please look at your club’s virtual weekly schedule! While nothing can ever replace being with our children and teens in person, we are so grateful for this opportunity to be with them virtually!
- If you have challenges with connectivity, including reliable WiFi connections and technology like smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers, please let us know that as well. We may have resources which can help!

We are advising all our Club staff, families and youth to continue to take preventative measures as recommended by the CDC. Should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact your Club.

As always, our commitment to our Club members and their families is unwavering. Thank you for being our partner as we navigate through this unprecedented situation together. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers a [Parent/Caregiver guide](#) for COVID-19 with more helpful information for families.

Please take care and know how much all of us at BGCH care about your children and your family. We look forward to the time when we can see you again in person!

Sincerely,



Paddy Kauhane
President & CEO