

November 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

All of us at Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family all year, but never more than now, during this pandemic. 2020 has been an incredible challenge and we are inspired by the sacrifices you and your children have made with such determination. We are sending you much Aloha and prayers for continued strength. We are doing our very best to support you and your children **safely** through our clubs and through community outreach.

Serving your children through our clubs looks much different than it used to. Safety through this pandemic means observing many rules, including lower staff to child ratios, physical distancing, wearing masks, continuous hand washing and sanitization of the building, spaces and equipment. It means there are programs we cannot run right now, especially if they require close contact or shared equipment. It means wellness checks for our children and our staff. It means planned attendance, groups and no drop in club service. And it means ensuring we are making smart choices in our lives outside the clubs and staying home if we are ill.

This modified operating model will provide the safest environment for your children and our staff and will help to ensure we stay open and continuing to serve.

Pre Covid-19, our clubs were the place your children loved to drop in when they weren't in school. There were 50% - 70% more children and teens in the clubs and we loved it! Schools also for the most part operated the same hours for all children and that made it so much easier for us to plan how we could support our members. The pandemic has made it so that we had to drastically lower the number of members in our clubs at any time and it also means that each of our clubs schedules are modified to accommodate, to the best of our ability, each individual school's schedule.

While we are no longer able to serve as many children and teens directly in our clubs, we have created engaging and fun virtual programming to connect with them on a daily basis. We've also implemented personal phone calls to check in with the children, teens, and families! We are humbled to continue this connection with you as it also helps us to determine what resources you may need that we may help with. Like food, school supplies and other needs. Mahalo for taking the time to talk with us!

If you haven't done so already, please check out our website: www.bgch.com as we have created a **SAFETY FIRST** area where you can read more about what we are doing to keep your children and our staff safe. Under the SAFETY tab, there is a Covid-19 Resources & Updates area where you can find information on our virtual programs as well as parent, education and other resources.

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.



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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paddy Kauhane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paddy Kauhane
President & CEO