



2145 Kaohu Street, Suite 203 * Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
www.hcrapaddler.com

March 4, 2022

Welcome back (sort of)!

I laughed as I wrote that because I realized I have written that for almost every update in some fashion.

Yes, COVID rules are relaxing. The SafeTravels program is in wind down, mask fashion is becoming less important, and we are all getting to a point of seeing more people in person instead of via zoom. We are not entirely over this pandemic but by all appearances are well on our way.

Updates:

In a bit of sad news, both Na Wahine and Molokai Hoe race organizers have decided that those races will not be held in 2022. From the outside it is easy to question the decision but those decisions are always hard ones and have to balance the Molokai community needs, economic considerations, and the huge amount of lead time and planning with our desire to take to the water. We appreciate that each of the organizing groups is thoughtful in striking the balance.

On the up side however, as of this writing, all counties are reporting that regatta racing will be allowed in at least some format. Your race directors and governing bodies are navigating all of the extra steps they now have to take so when you see them, say thanks and give them a remote high five.

I am also happy to report that last weekend we held the 2022 World Sprint Trials at Sand Island on Oahu. For many of us it was our first time back racing or our first time back on the official stand (yes, I had to find my glasses – pretty sure those sock numbers got smaller in the last 2 years). Even with the smaller number of people participating it was great to see smiles, and the competitive spirit strong. We had lots of questions about how things worked, rules, seeding and the mechanics of making the race happen – I certainly appreciated the chance to talk to crews about what happens on the official stand and why it takes us a bit of time to post results or lanes. Congratulations to all of the paddlers that qualified and looking forward to seeing you in London!

We have been getting calls about whether the State Championship is happening in August. Unless something changes dramatically, YES! We are heavy into planning for the event as is our host association Hui Wa'a and can't wait to see the beautiful koa canoes back on the water.

Many of you have also probably heard that Hawaii accepted the bid for hosting the 2024 World Sprint races in Hilo. You will recall that COVID derailed our past hosting effort. IVF offered the event to HCRA for 2024 and we accepted. Your Vice President and soon to be President Dana (and her amazing team) have already begun working on the event and preliminary discussions regarding sponsorship, logistics, staffing etc. are underway. The official kick-off planning meeting is going to be held **Friday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m.** via zoom. If you would like to lend a hand, hear what is going on, or otherwise contribute, please contact Dana at dana@puuwai.org for the zoom link.

The next HCRA Board of Directors meeting is set for **Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** via zoom. Our meetings are always open so anyone is welcome to listen in. Feel free to contact Keri or Heather for the zoom link.

As always, thank you to everyone who does the behind the scenes work to keep the database live, practices happening, clubs functioning, coaches the paddlers, cares for the equipment and makes paddling happen. You are appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keri C. Mehling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keri C. Mehling
President

Upcoming HCRA Meetings:

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 5:00 p.m. via zoom

Saturday, July 30, 2022 (Lane Draw and Board Meeting) [hopefully in person]