



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2022

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RUNNERS TAKE YOUR MARK FOR CAROLE KAI!

Feb. 2023 race to complete 39 years of giving

HONOLULU — Runners take your mark! Feb. 20, 2023 will be Carole Kai's final year as lead promoter and organizer. This will be your final chance to run with Carole in the 39th Hawaii Pacific Health Great Aloha Run and support some of your favorite charities. After nearly four decades of philanthropy for more than 150 nonprofit organizations, Carole Kai, the run's co-founder and president, today announced.

"You can imagine how emotional this decision has been," said Kai. "Since the first Great Aloha Run in 1985, we have been able to raise \$16 million in support of more than 150 nonprofits. Watching as many as 25,000 people every year lace up their running shoes for their health and the health of our larger community, has been a tremendous gift."

"At the same time, I look forward to enjoying more time with my husband, Eddie, and we are looking forward to traveling more."

Deadline to register for early entry, which includes a discounted fee and a complimentary In-Training T-shirt, **is Oct. 31**. For more information or to register, visit www.greataloharun.com.

Kai pioneered the art of combining friendly competition with philanthropy in 1974, with the establishment of the Carole Kai Bed Race, which she ran until 1994. Eleven years after the first bed race, Kai and the late Jack Scaff, a cardiologist and founder of the Honolulu Marathon, co-founded the Great Aloha Run.

"The Great Aloha Run has always been a huge undertaking and its success is a direct reflection of our wonderful Volunteers, Board of Directors and staff," said Kai. "But the bedrock of our success has been the support of our Community. The people of Hawai'i are tremendously compassionate and generous, and it is only through that spirit of Aloha that this run has been able to contribute so much to those in need.

"Even as I look forward to the next chapter of my life, I am filled with gratitude for what we have all been able to do for our Community."

The Great Aloha Run Board of Directors will honor Kai's commitment to Hawai'i in December with a half-hour retrospective broadcast on KHON2.

The Hawai'i Pacific Health Great Aloha Run Expo will be Feb. 18-19, 2023, at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall and the final Hawai'i Pacific Health Great Aloha Run will be Monday, Feb. 20, 2023 (Presidents' Day). Then, our final event, "Aloha, Great Aloha Run," a celebration featuring Hawaii's finest entertainers, will be Saturday, March 18.

"Although I am retiring and stepping back from the day-to-day operations of this event, my heart will always be with the Great Aloha Run and for the countless volunteers who have made the GAR what it is today!" Kai continued.

"I wish them well as they continue the tradition of raising needed dollars for our Community."

ABOUT THE GREAT ALOHA RUN

The Great Aloha Run has achieved many milestones in its 38-year history. It was the first, largest first-time running event in the country with nearly 12,000 individuals signing up in its very first year. The Great Aloha Run has also been recognized nationally as one of the top "100 Great Road Races" by Runner's World Magazine.

Over the past 38 years, the Great Aloha Run, Hawaii's largest participatory race, has raised more than \$15 million for more than 150 non-profit health and human service organizations and community groups throughout Hawaii. Traditionally, the Great Aloha Run is an 8.15-mile foot race that starts at Aloha Tower and finishes at the Aloha Stadium. There are divisions for elites, age groups, wheelchair and hand-cycle competitors, Sounds of Freedom (military running in formation) and those who walk the course with friends and socialize along the way in the Back of the Pack.

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