

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION *Rev. 4/4/24
Ka 'Oihana Mākama Pāka a Me Nā Hana Ho'onanea
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
1000 Ulu'ohia Street, Suite 309, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707
Phone: (808) 768-3003 • Fax: (808) 768-3053
Website: www.honoluluparks.com

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATIONS
2027 SOUTH SHORE SURFING EVENTS**

The 2027 South Shore Surfing Event Calendar covers the summer surf season dates of May 1, 2027 to September 30, 2027.

Applicants must file a separate Application and Application Supplement for each event for the 2027 south shore surf season.

**DEADLINE FOR THE 2027 SOUTH SHORE SURFING EVENT CALENDAR: APPLICATION
MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DPR PERMITS OFFICE BY 4:00 p.m. MAY 29, 2026.**

Shore Water applications must be received by the Permit Office by the deadline. Applications mailed prior to the deadline but not received by the Permits Office before 4:00 p.m. May 29, 2026 will not be accepted. Applications may be delivered in person or mailed via FedEx, UPS or similar courier service. Applications must contain a "wet" signature. Digital documents or copies cannot be accepted and will be deemed incomplete. The DPR Permits Office shall date stamp all applications upon receipt.

Late or incomplete applications submitted without required documentation or without an original signature shall not be considered in the ranking system.

Department of Parks and Recreation Permits Office
833 Piikoi St., 1st Floor
Honolulu, 96813.

Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Questions regarding the application process: Call Permits Office 808-768-3440.

Process of Ranking Applications

The City and County of Honolulu adopted new Shore Water administrative rules in December, 2023. The final rules are posted at the following link on the Department of Parks and Recreation ("department") website: <https://bit.ly/shorewaterrules>

All applications for surfing events on the South Shore Surf Season calendar shall be ranked. The highest ranked application will be allotted their first choice of location and time. Remaining slots will be

offered to applicants in order of their ranking. Applicants may provide second and third choices for dates. In the event an applicant's 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice dates are already allocated upon reaching their offer, or if there is a tie in rankings, the department may mediate a resolution of conflicts between the applications. If conflict mediation results in any changes in dates, each applicant whose requested dates have been changed shall submit an amended application reflecting the new date.

Ranking Criteria

All applications are ranked by two main categories, each with several criteria, each with a maximum number of points that may be obtained by applicants based on their proposed event and event plan.

1. Mitigation of Community Impacts
 - Traffic and parking (3 pts)
 - Crowd control (3 pts)
 - Resident and government service access (3 pts)
 - Cleaning park restrooms and grounds (3 pts)

2. Diversity
 - Type of primary event (3 pts)
 - Age (3 pts)
 - Amateur or Professional (3 pts)
 - Abilities (3 pts)
 - Gender (12 pts)

Applicants shall be held accountable to deliver any and all elements of their event plan that were ranked and received points.

Applications awarded permits shall have conditions placed into the permits requiring them to fulfill their plans. After-event reports are required to demonstrate the delivery of the plans. Failure to provide after-event reports, or failure to provide elements of the plan that were ranked and awarded points, shall result in an automatic deduction of points from the next application for a surf event on the south shore calendar.

Five points shall be deducted for the failure to deliver each ranked element of an applicant's plan. *Example: If an application proposed to operate an event that is 50% amateur and 50% bodyboarding and is awarded a slot on the calendar, and then holds an event that is 75% professional and 100% surf board, the next application shall be subject to a 10-point deduction.*

Applicants' plans should only propose ranked criteria that they are capable of delivering. No alterations of ranked criteria are allowed after the Surf Calendar is finalized.

Content of Plans to Address Ranked Criteria

The examples below are provided solely for the purpose of explanation, and are not the only means of satisfying the ranked criteria, nor should they be considered examples of the highest ranking.

1. Plans to Mitigate Impacts on Communities

Mitigating community impacts shall be ranked based on how the event plan addresses each of the four criteria. Zero to three points may be allotted for each of the four criteria, for a maximum total of twelve points. The panel will evaluate applications and rank them in order of effectiveness in mitigating the community impacts, and award points accordingly.

Plans to mitigate impacts should consider the size of the crowd drawn to their event, and propose to mitigate the impacts of that crowd size. Events that have run for one or more years prior to the 2026 south shore surf season will be required to address crowd sizes at least as large as their prior event(s). The department may also consider historic crowd sizes for South Shore surfing events when ranking plans to mitigate community impacts.

Each applicant's plans will be ranked based on their effectiveness of mitigating the impacts of the crowd size that their proposed event will draw. Accordingly, a traffic and parking plan for an event that draws a small crowd may receive the same number of ranked points as the traffic plan for an event that draws a large crowd, even though the number of off duty officers in the two plans are different. The ranking will be based on how well the plan proposes to mitigate the impact of the crowd size it will draw - and historically has drawn.

Applicants are welcome to include maps in their plan, to illustrate locations where mitigation measures will be focused, and sample language they will use to direct security or special-duty police officers.

The plan must be clear on the number of special-duty police officers or security that will be used for each mitigation category. If the plan intends to use personnel for multiple purposes, that must be clearly stated. Otherwise, the department will total the number of personnel and include that as a permit condition.

Example: Plan states 3 special-duty police officers will be used for traffic mitigation (a) and 3 special-duty police officers used for crowd control and public safety (b). The department will count this as 6 special-duty police officers. If the intent is to use the same 3 special-duty police officers for both purposes, that must be clearly stated in the plan and supplemental application.

a. Plans to mitigate traffic congestion and overall parking (0-3 points)

Traffic and parking. Applications shall include plans to mitigate their event's impact on the flow of traffic and/or parking on the street and in the park. In regards to Kūhiō Beach Park, applications shall have detailed plans for traffic control in and around the hula mound roundabout area including loading and unloading of event vehicles within the area. Parking plan shall note that Department of Parks & Recreation and Ocean Safety vehicles will be the only vehicles allowed to park in the hula mound roundabout area. Considerations include, but are not limited to, special-duty police officers to enforce any parking restrictions and to minimize traffic backups. *Note: the number of special-duty police officers or other security noted in this section shall be used solely to mitigate traffic congestion and overall parking, unless the application states the officers/security personnel will do traffic and crowd control.*

b. Plans to manage large crowds and public safety (0-3 points)

Crowd Control. Applications shall include plans to manage large crowds drawn to surfing event to minimize their impact on any residential and/or any business community and maintain public safety for spectators and space for other park user groups. Applications must also take considerations to include, but are not limited to, special-duty police officers or other security in the park. *Note: the number of special-duty police officers or other security noted in this section shall be used solely to manage large crowds and public safety, unless the application states the officers/security personnel will do traffic and crowd control.*

c. Plans to address access for residents and government services (0-3 points)

Business and government service access. Applications shall include plans to maintain vehicle access for any businesses or government services to reach neighboring communities and/or desired park space for user groups. In regards to Kūhiō Beach Park, applications shall have detailed plans for water patrol vehicle(s) with any associated rescue watercraft trailers to safely park and not impede the flow of vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic or disrupt access to the park. Considerations include, but not limited to, assigning special-duty officers and/or extra security to manage access to restricted areas or any areas approved for loading and unloading.

d. Plans to keep park restrooms and grounds clean during and after the event (0-3 points)

Applications shall include plans that ensure the crowds drawn to their shore water event do not overwhelm park facilities and grounds or leave areas in a state of disrepair or in poor condition. Applications should include plans to address this criterion including, but not limited to, the type of services which shall be provided and the frequency of those services. For example: (1) maintaining the cleanliness of existing comfort stations and returning them to its original condition or better at the end of each event day; (2) providing additional trash receptacles during the event and relining the receptacles with trash bags as needed throughout the day. Applicant is also responsible to transfer all generated trash off the park site at the end of each event day.

2. Plans for Diversity

Diversity of shore water event shall be ranked based on how the event plan addresses each of the following five criteria. Zero to three points may be allotted for the criteria (2)(a), (b), (c) and (d); and zero to twelve points may be allotted for criteria (2)(e). The maximum total of points for this category is twenty-four (24) points.

The intention behind providing points for diversity is to encourage a surfing event calendar that includes historically underrepresented groups and types of events, to ensure residents of Oahu have an opportunity to view, and participate in, a variety of surf events at these popular surf breaks during the peak surf season.

Applicants may receive points in more than one category of Diversity, depending on the event.

Example: An event that provides “equitable opportunity” for bodyboarding, amateur surfers, and women, would receive a total of 10 points.

A specified number of points shall be awarded for events that include less than 100% of the underrepresented group/type of event. (For the purpose of this section, “equitable opportunity” shall mean an event that provides the underrepresented group/type of event **two out of three of the following**:

- Equal number of contestants,
- Equal number of heats, or
- Equal prize money (or in non-financial awards, equal awards).

Accordingly, all applicants that plan an event which includes one or more historically underrepresented group or type of event, should detail:

- The number of historically underrepresented type of contestants or type of event that will be included;
- The number of heats those underrepresented contestant/type of event will be allocated; and
- The prize money (or non-financial prize) to be awarded by type of contestant/event.

Point scale for Diversity of Type of Event 2(a); Age 2(b); Amateur 2(c); Abilities 2(d)

- Three (3) points are awarded for events that provide for 100% of historically underrepresented participants or type of event.
- Two (2) points are awarded for events that provide “equitable opportunity” to the historically underrepresented group/type of event.
- One (1) point is awarded for events that provide some, but less than “equitable opportunity” to the historically underrepresented group/type of event.
- Zero points are awarded if an event has no representation by an underrepresented group or type of event.

Point scale for Diversity of Genders 2(e)

- Twelve (12) points are awarded for applications that include 100% of the underrepresented genders of surfers;
- Nine (9) points are awarded for applications that include 75% of the underrepresented genders of surfers;
- Six (6) points are awarded for events that provide “equitable opportunity” to the historically underrepresented group/type of event;
- Three (3) points are awarded for applications that include 25% of the underrepresented genders of surfers;
- One (1) point is awarded for events that provide less than 25% of the historically underrepresented genders of surfers.
- Zero points are awarded if an event has no representation by an underrepresented group or type of event.

a. Diversity of primary event (0-3 points)

The city desires to provide a surfing calendar that includes a spectrum of types of surfing events. Surfing calendars are historically dominated by board surfing events. Additional points shall be awarded to applications that include underrepresented types of events, which include bodyboarding, bodysurfing or stand-up paddle surfing, in order to promote diversity in the type of event on this limited surf calendar.

b. Diversity of age range of event participants (0-3 points)

The city desires to provide equitable representation for young emerging, adult, and kupuna age surfers to enter surfing events. Maximum points will be awarded to an application that includes equitable opportunities for the three aforementioned age groups to participate in the surfing event.

c. Diversity of professional and amateur event participants (0-3 points)

The city desires to provide opportunities for both professional and amateur surfers. South shore surfing event calendars are historically dominated by amateur surfing events. Additional points will be awarded to applications that include professional surfers.

d. Diversity of abilities (0-3 points)

The city desires to provide opportunities to persons with disabilities. Surfing calendars are historically dominated by surfing events for able-bodied persons. Additional points will be awarded to applications that include disabled surfers.

e. Diversity of gender (0-12 points)

The city desires to provide opportunities to surfers of all genders and non-binary surfers. Surfing calendars are historically dominated by surfing events for male surfers. Additional points shall be awarded to applications that include underrepresented genders of surfers.

For purposes of these administrative rules, transgender athletes shall be categorized as their self-identified gender and non-binary athletes shall be categorized in the gender they self-select for the event.

FAQs

1. Will I be penalized if I go above and beyond my plans to mitigate community impacts or for diversity?

What happens if I do *more* than what I proposed in our plan on a ranked criterion? For example, if we proposed to have 50% women with equal number of heats, but ended up with 75% women and an equal number of heats. Will I be penalized for not complying with our application plan?

ANSWER: No. There is no penalty if you go above and beyond your plan to mitigate community impacts, or provide greater diversity.

The penalty provision only applies if you fail to meet the diversity baseline criteria you promised in your plan. The reason is applicants receive a slot on the surf calendar based on their plan. If the plan promised was less, the number of points that applicant received would have been less, and a different applicant may have been awarded the slot in their place. The penalty for not delivering the baseline criteria is to discourage applicants from inflating their plans to gain a slot on the surf calendar, and then failing to deliver on their commitments, at the expense of applicants who are proposing plans they will deliver.

2. If I'm offered a shorter time slot and/or a shorter waiting period than I applied for, will I still be held to delivering the same baseline criteria in my application plan?

ANSWER: That depends on (a) if you're being offered a shorter event period or not, and (b) the number of points the next applicant in line has based on their rankings.

- **Example 1:** You applied for a 4-day event at Beach _____. Your application is ranked with 10 points. The next applicant in line is ranked with 8 points. The calendar for all the beaches is nearly full. You're offered 2 competition days with a 7-day holding period.
 - Because the number of competition days is reduced from your application, you can discuss proposed changes to your plan due to the reduced number of competition days. However, DPR will re-calculate your points based on your proposed changes. If that recalculation would lower your ranking below the next applicant in line (in this example, 8 points), DPR cannot accept those changes. It would have to turn to the next applicant in line. The adjustments you could make to the plan would have to keep your ranking no lower than 9 points. You and DPR can discuss these options during the mediation/resolution process. If you come to an agreement, you will submit a revised application with the revised plan. If you don't come to agreement, DPR will contact the next applicant in line.
- **Example 2:** Same hypothetical EXCEPT you are offered the 4-day event. Only the waiting period is reduced to 7 days.
 - You will not be able to negotiate a reduction in the event plan on the ranked criteria, because the total number of event days is the same number in your plan.

3. Can Exhibitions or Expression Sessions be considered as part of the diversity ranking?

ANSWER: No. The rules state “expression sessions and exhibitions shall not be considered in the ranking process, but each day an expression session or exhibition is held shall count as a competition day.

This rule has been in place for many years.