



Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Council of Clubs, Coaches and Paddlers,

It goes without saying that we are in a time and place we have probably never been before; there are businesses that have closed, stay at home orders in place, curfews and many, many people sick and even losing their battle with COVID-19. This disease affected every area of our lives, including paddling.

On April 7, 2020, your Hui Wa`a Executive Board met and discussed the likelihood of continuing to plan for the 2020 regatta season or to cancel the season. The primary concern brought up was the health and welfare of our paddlers, our 'ohana. Although we don't know everyone's unique situation, we felt that it was best to recommend to the Council of Club members to cancel the season. As stated, the primary concern is to protect and care for our paddlers. We did not want paddlers and clubs pressured into racing due to lack of preparation and or place undue financial stress on individuals and families through registration fees and other expenses that come with participating in a sport.

Tonight, April 14, 2020, the Council of Clubs met. There was a full agenda, including the recommendation from the Executive Board to cancel the 2020 regatta season. Your Club Representatives brought up similar concerns; financial strain and lack of physical preparedness, but the main concern was the health and welfare of our paddlers. The Council voted and the vote was unanimous to cancel the 2020 regatta season. In all my years as a paddler, I have never experienced an entire regatta season canceled and it weighs heavy on my heart that this has to happen. On the other hand, it would be irresponsible for us to continue and place your health and welfare at jeopardy.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and on behalf of the Executive Board and your Council of Clubs, please stay safe, stay healthy and as much as possible, stay home.

Sincerely,

Elias "Eli" Nakahara  
Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a President