

Aloha Booster Club Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of Hawai'i Athletics! With fall seasons in full swing, I would like to address a few questions regarding booster clubs and how you can continue to support our coaches and student-athletes.

Please rest assured nothing has changed in regards to the key role booster clubs play in supporting our teams. The update made last spring is consolidation of annual membership programs into the H-Club Athletic Fund. This simply means membership dues are no longer required to participate in booster clubs.

In the absence of membership dues, all boosters from 2023-2024 seasons have been renewed for their specific clubs this year. No action is needed on your end. New members may join booster clubs by completing our simple online registration form (link below).

H-Club was launched by AKA in 2014 to serve as the hub of our premium seating fundraising efforts. Funds are collected through season ticket premiums, membership dues, parking and other related activities. AKA delivers these funds directly to the UH Athletic Department (UHAD) in support of operating budgets for each our teams. New this year, H-Club has introduced an option for fans to direct membership dues towards their sport(s) of choice. This feature allows boosters to continue support of their favorite teams, while earning great benefits such as ticket priority, parking, and VIP access.

AKA also oversees our booster clubs, who fundraise for specific programs via the UH Foundation. Booster funds are used for supplementary team needs at the discretion of head coaches. Previously, each club featured a separate membership program with unique giving levels and benefits. This model proved to be confusing, inefficient, and led to donor fatigue as clubs competed for contributions. As we aim to align ourselves with best practices in intercollegiate athletics, we have consolidated membership programs into H-Club to address these concerns and increase support for team operations. In turn, larger operating budgets will reduce the fundraising burden on coaches and allow them to focus on leading winning programs.

We encourage you to support your favorite team(s) by joining H-Club and earmarking your membership dues accordingly. We also understand boosters may have a level of comfort in giving through the UH Foundation as they have in the past. This of course remains an option and you may make a tax-deductible gift to your team of choice via UH Foundation at any time. Please review the attached page for links to both giving options and answers to frequently asked questions.

Thank you for your continued support as we adjust our fundraising model to keep pace with the growing needs of a successful Division I athletics program. We will continue to evolve and are excited to move forward with your help!

Mahalo for your support,

Craig Angelos

UH Mānoa Athletics Director



WHY WERE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS UPDATED?

Membership consolidation allows for a more efficient and productive fundraising model. Previously, AKA administered eight different membership programs, which led to confusion, donor fatigue, and competition between clubs.

Growing H-Club is critical to providing our student-athletes with the resources they need to succeed, including in key areas such as scholarships, travel and nutrition.

HOW DO I SUPPORT THE TEAM?

Join the H-Club Athletic Fund

H-Club Brochure and Benefits Chart

Several of the benefits you previously enjoyed through booster clubs have been incorporated into H-Club, including access to coaches, exclusive apparel, and more.

NEW THIS YEAR – H-Club membership dues may be designated in support of your favorite team(s). Simply note your preference at the time of payment to ensure your funds support the program(s) you care about the most.

ARE BOOSTERS STILL NEEDED?

YES! Boosters are vital in providing extra support to our teams through special events, outright gifts, team meals, and more. In fact, AKA is exploring opportunities to expand booster operations by developing clubs for teams that do not have one at this time.

HOW DO I BECOME A BOOSTER?

All Boosters from 2023-24 seasons are automatically enrolled for the same sports this year. No action is needed. You will continue to receive communication and invitations to special events for your favorite team(s).

Fans that are new to booster programs may join by using our Booster Registration Form.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY FAVORITE TEAM THROUGH UH FOUNDATION?

Donations to specific teams via UH Foundation may be completed here.

ARE H-CLUB MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

H-Club membership payments earn ticket related benefits, including the opportunity to purchase football season tickets in select sections. Please contact your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

QUESTIONS? Please contact us anytime we may be of assistance.

H-Club David Estermann: (808) 956-6500 <u>david@koaanuenue.org</u>

Boosters David Kawada: (808) 956-8186 davek@koaanuenue.org