



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Honolulu Ekiden and Music Festival Sets the Course for 2018**

*Registration and ticket sales are now open for both  
the music concert and race on May 19 and 20*

**HONOLULU** (April 9, 2018)—The return of an annual event is music to the ears of runners from around the world. Registration is now open for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Honolulu Ekiden and Music Festival which is set to take place Sunday, May 20, 2018. The 26.2-mile course is divided into six sections, and invites a maximum of six runners per team to stretch their legs as they take in scenic views from Diamond Head, overlooking Hanauma Bay and along the iconic Sandy Beach coastline.

“We are excited to bring the tradition of ekiden to Honolulu and showcase the beauty of the island for runners from all over to enjoy,” said Honolulu Ekiden Foundation President Tomohiro Murakami. “The Honolulu Ekiden and Music Festival promotes a collaborative environment as teams work together to cross the finish line and further strengthens the bond between Hawaii and Japan.”

The registration fee for the race includes admission to the music festival on Saturday, May 19, at the Waikiki Shell. Performers this year include artists from Japan and Hawaii, such as Kalapana, Mana’o Company, The Real Ho’aikane, Sunplaza Nakano-Kun, Pappara Kawai, May J., and Shiritsu Ebisu Chugaku.

Participants can register online at <http://hnl ekiden.org>. There is a cost of \$60 per person for those who sign up by May 15, 2018. A last-chance registration is available on May 19 for \$70 per person. Tickets for the concert can also be purchased separately at [Ticketmaster](#) starting from \$30.

Ekiden—which loosely translates to long-distance relay race—are popular in Japan. They originally started there when important news needed to be relayed from distant provinces to the capitol using a series of messengers, each carrying the message for a different leg of the journey. Today the tradition continues to promote unity and perseverance.

Proceeds from the race and music festival will go to the Honolulu Ekiden Foundation, which each year makes a donation to a local nonprofit. In 2017, the Honolulu Ekiden Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii.

For more information, visit <http://hnlekiden.org>, or visit their Facebook, [www.facebook.com/hnlekiden.hi](http://www.facebook.com/hnlekiden.hi), Instagram, [www.instagram.com/hnlekidenhi/](http://www.instagram.com/hnlekidenhi/), or Twitter, <https://twitter.com/hnlekidenhi>.

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**About Ekiden Foundation**

The Honolulu Ekiden Foundation was formed on January 3, 2013. Its mission is to promote the advancement of peace and social welfare among people of the Pacific Rim, Hawaii and Japan, in particular, through amateur sports and cultural activities. The Ekiden and concert will provide recreation, exercise, entertainment, cultural exchange, and an economic boost to the local community.