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- News
- Sports
- Opinion
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- Classified
- Other Features
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## Motorcycle ride raises funds for memorial

July 16, 2011 - 10:09pm

BY BRENDAN SHRIANE | WEST HAWAII TODAY

Motorcyclists are going to be taking to the streets for a good cause -- or two -- or three.

Local nonprofit Kaanalike is sponsoring its first Run for Heroes Aug. 6, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Kona Elks Lodge No. 2616 on Pawai Place.

Kaanalike President Nalani Freitas is anticipating about 300 riders to show up for the event that will primarily raise money for the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, which plans to build a monument to the 60 police officers killed in the line of duty in Hawaii.

"We're very appreciative (for the potential donation)," said the memorial foundation's Joan Gribbin-Aiu. "Every little bit helps."

It's an issue that hits close to home for Freitas, who is also a Hawaii County Police Department officer.

"Being a police officer, knowing what it takes to do our job and the sacrifices police make to protect others, it's incredible the sacrifice these officers made," she said.

The Run for Heroes will feature a police escorted ride to Queens' MarketPlace in Waikoloa and back. There will also be a scavenger hunt for motorcycle riders -- Freitas calls it a fun run -- around Kailua-Kona; and display booths, food and entertainment from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge.

Tickets for the ride are \$35 per rider if purchased before Saturday; \$45 per rider after. Cost is \$15 per passenger. That fee includes a fun run ticket, a ride pin and a drawing ticket. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The escorted ride starts at 9:30 a.m.

The fun run starts at 11:30 a.m.

Music at the Elks will be provided by Nathan Grace, Jeff Keanaaina, Jack and The Rippers, Voggy Mountain Ramblers and guests.

The police officer memorial, planned to be built in Honolulu, is the brainchild of Gribbin-Aiu and her daughter, Tiffany Johnson. Johnson's father, Honolulu Police Department Officer Bryant Bayne, was one of two police officers killed in a helicopter crash in 1995 while trying to rescue lost hikers. A fire department pilot was also killed in the crash.

Gribbin-Aiu and Johnson made regular pilgrimages to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, and often wondered why Hawaii didn't have a similar memorial to honor officers killed while doing their jobs.

Hawaii, Gribbin-Aiu said, is one of the few states without a tribute to fallen law enforcement officers.

So Gribbin-Aiu and her current husband began a charity in late 2009 to raise money for the project, which will cost an estimated \$1 million.

"I think everybody realizes it's long overdue," she said.

The nonprofit has raised a little over \$130,000 and has convinced the state to donate land at the Kalanimoku Building, across the street from the Capitol in Honolulu.

"Although it's in Honolulu, it's the state's memorial," she said.

Freitas said some proceeds from the event will stay closer to home with Kaanalike.

Freitas said her organization, which despite an annual operating budget of less than \$8,000, puts about \$80,000 back into the community each year working with other nonprofits around the Big Island.

In addition to raising money for the memorial and other Kaanalike beneficiaries, there will be a booth set up to benefit 20-year-old cancer patient Naomi Lindo and raise awareness about the disease.

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- Police dog set to retire... (221)  
A police narcotics dog in West Hawaii will retire Friday and live out his day
- Old South Marlin Club in... (203)  
WHT STAFF REPORTS
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"It's not easy having cancer and keeping it all boxed in -- that's not the way," said Lindo, a Kailua-Kona resident who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma last year.

Lindo, who's been undergoing chemotherapy since January, will be selling soft drinks, donated baked goods and other goodies.

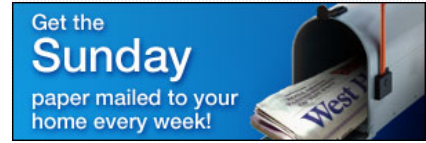
She's also going to have a donation box for the American Cancer Society -- she wants to give back to the organization that assisted her.

"They helped me get tickets to fly to Oahu for doctors appointments," said Lindo, a young mother with an 18-month-old daughter.

For more information on the Run for Heroes, call 990-3011.

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BY PETER SUR | Stephens Media



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