



## **Kapiolani Park**

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Kapiolani Park was dedicated on July 11, 1877 as Hawaii's first public park and has steadily remained one of the most enthusiastically patronized recreational facilities on Oahu. This beautiful 170-acre park, named for the queen consort of King Kalakaua, was landscaped by Archibald Cleghorn, father of Princess Kaiulani, and originally included a racetrack and later, a polo field. Kapiolani Park is a favorite of Hawaii's multi-ethnic population, a popular center for running, kite flying, a variety of ball games, picnicking, concerts, cultural events, and other community and family activities.

On Marathon Sunday, this tranquil park is transformed into a carnival-like extravaganza complete with multicolored tents, festive flags, and people of many nations all gathered together to participate in the world-renowned HONOLULU MARATHON!

Preparation for this one-day affair means reconstructing the wide-open spaces of Kapiolani Park into efficient operational sectors able to accommodate more than 27,000 runners and 48,000 well-wishers, supporters, volunteers, and people-watchers.

Preliminary planning begins months before the Marathon. Coordination is made between the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, Police Department, contractors, dozens of volunteer groups and the Honolulu Marathon Association (HMA).

Several days before the Marathon, Kapiolani Park is a beehive of activity. More than 7,750 feet of electrical cables and power lines are strung up. Several portable electric generators must also be brought in to provide electrical power to remote race operational sites in the park.

Telephone, radio broadcast, facsimile, computer data, television, and video cables must also be installed. These lines and cables total over 18,000 feet.

More than 14,850 feet of rope barriers must be set up around the various work areas. A large, portable shower station must be installed at the Finish Line. Wooden stands must be erected to facilitate the distribution of more than 27,000 leis for the Finishers. Hundreds of tables and folding chairs must also be disbursed to various race day operations within the park.

Approximately 465 porta-johns must be positioned and installed at strategic locations to provide maximum use for the general public with a minimum of exposure and smell and with plenty of toilet paper to spare.

Kapiolani Park literally becomes "tent city" as HMA contractors put up what amounts to more than 14.5 acres of tents - 652,500 square feet of tenting material. This figure does not include the tents and coverings put up by the public.

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Bleachers must be picked up from several locations around the island, delivered to Kapiolani Park, and installed along Kalakaua Avenue. Arrangements are made to bring in 16 massive dumpsters that are placed in central locations for the tent users and clean-up crews.

The day before the Marathon, more than 13,000 feet of red nylon fencing is installed along Kalakaua Avenue using 800 fencing posts. Before any fencing is put up, each of these 5-foot posts must be manually driven into the ground, a thankless back-breaking job by any measure!

A huge tower is erected on the medial strip near the Finish Line. Many an exhausted runner has been spotted by the look-outs in the tower and medical help immediately dispatched to their aid.

More than 125,000 pounds (63.5 tons) of ice cubes are brought in for the comfort of the runners and for use by medical and shiatsu personnel for people who are suffering from heat exhaustion.

The result of all this is a carefully planned, well-organized base of operations for this annual world-renowned event – the Honolulu Marathon! Kapiolani Park welcomes the ecstatic finishers and provides a perfect setting for everyone to share in the Honolulu Marathon's Aloha Spirit promoting health and fitness!