



## Fishermen bait their hooks for Meals on Wheels charity

The first-place victors donated their winnings to the organization

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Elton Tanaka should've been golfing yesterday, but instead he claimed the top prize at the first Papiro Tournament, Fishin' for Meals, held at Heeia Pier.

"We just got really lucky," his son, Sean, said of their 4.21-pound winning jackfish.

The tournament, hosted by Xpress Chefs, served as a fundraiser for Lanakila's Meals on Wheels program, which delivers 1,700 meals a day to Oahu's seniors.

"I think it's a good (cause), especially with the economic condition today," Elton Tanaka said.

In the spirit of the event, the Tanakas said they will donate their \$2,000 check to Meals on Wheels after covering the \$350 entry fee and expenses.

The father-and-son team was one of 11 teams that participated in the fundraiser, which raised \$3,800 for the senior meal service program through contest entry fees and souvenir sales.

Eric Batalon, a volunteer coordinator with Meals on Wheels, said that Xpress Chefs was hoping for 100 boats, but the turnout wasn't bad for the first year.

"I think it went great," he said. "Everybody had fun. Everybody came back safe. Next year it'll be bigger and better."

Xpress Chefs was forced to cancel its annual golf tournament due to the economic downturn but is experimenting with other fundraisers.

"Instead of putting all our eggs in one basket with the golf tournament, we decided to branch out," Batalon said.

He said fishermen "made a beeline for their secret spots" at 7 a.m. and returned to the harbor at noon to weigh their catches.

Lanakila "Meals On Wheels" Fundraiser



Eleven boats competed in the first ever Papio Tournament Fundraiser, raising \$3,000.

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James Chaffin, 13, didn't hook any papio yesterday, but he did snag a 5-to-6-foot needlefish.

"It was the biggest fish I ever caught," Chaffin said, adding, "I was hoping it was going to be a papio."

Chris Wright and Mike Clute of Kaneohe snared a 3.6-pound kagami ulua good enough for second place and a \$1,000 check.

Stan Wright watched his son from the pier and was happy with his performance.

"You had a lot of good fishermen down here. There are a lot of people I recognize over the years. Anybody could've taken it," said the senior Wright, a former co-host of the locally produced TV show "Let's Go Fishing."

Fishermen received donated prizes including golf balls, instant saimin, T-shirts and gift cards. The top three winners received \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500. The top three keiki fishers won \$100, \$50, and \$25.

"Everyone goes home with something, but overall the seniors win," Batalon said.

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