

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HUI WA`A BEGINS ITS 28<sup>TH</sup> REGATTA SEASON**

*- Continued Growth and Popularity of Regatta Promises Exciting Season -*

*- New Board Members Elected to Hui Wa`a -*

**HONOLULU (April 14, 2002)**—The year 2002 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> regatta season of Na `Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a. Sponsored by Kamehameha at Ke`ehi Lagoon, the first race is scheduled for Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>.

“Once again, we look forward to a competitive season,” said June Leialoha, President of Hui Wa`a. “Each year, the growth of the individual clubs is astounding. We have members who have been paddling all of their lives, and beginners who are trying out the activity as a way to get into shape and stay healthy, and make lasting friendships that will stay with them throughout their lives.”

Many younger members, involved in high school programs and the Na Opio youth paddling association, will continue paddling in Hui Wa`a’s season, increasing the number of participants for the 2002 season. With 15 active member clubs and close to 1,700 paddlers, 2002 promises to be an exciting and competitive year. All clubs are actively recruiting new members.

A major change this year in it’s regatta schedule is that 2 regattas will be held at Ma`ili Beach Park, instead of at Waimanalo or Kailua Beach. This is to accommodate the two Leeward Clubs that sponsor regattas each year, Hui O Ikaika and Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i.

This year also introduces new board members to Hui Wa`a, bringing with them expertise that will prove beneficial for the association and its members. Board members include: **June Leialoha, President** (Waikiki Beach Boys); **Heather Murakami, Vice-President** (Lokahi); **Barbara Vasold, Secretary** (Kamehameha); **Leinani Peltier, Treasurer** (Waikiki Beach Boys); **Henry “Pali” Palakiko, Race Chair** (Windward Kai); **George Waikoloa, Assistant Race Chair** (Kaneohe); and **Directors, Shannon Kaaekuahiwi** (Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i), **Ed Endo** (Kai Poha), **Leroy Lopez** (Hawaiian Outrigger), **Moku Kamaka** (Waikiki Beach Boys), and **Kanoe Olds** (Water Official).

**Established in 1973, with its first regatta in 1974, Hui Wa`a’s** mission is to pass along the ancient traditions of canoe racing to each of its paddlers, while incorporating the innovations that have been made in the sport throughout the years. Good sportsmanship and competition is taught, in addition to promoting participation in a healthy, physical activity. Outrigger canoe racing has been proclaimed by the Governor of Hawaii as the **official Hawai`i State Team Sport**.

For up to date info on Hui Wa`a, check out <http://www.huiwaa.com/>

###

**Media Contact:**

Aloha Benedict

Na `Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a

[alohab@huiwaa.com](mailto:alohab@huiwaa.com)