



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NA 'OHANA O NA HUI WA'A KICKS OFF
OUTRIGGER CANOE REGATTA SEASON ON O'AHU**

Adam Ahai Memorial Regatta Marks the First Race of the 2002 Season

HONOLULU (May 24, 2002) ³/₄ Kamehameha Canoe Club of O`ahu from the Na `Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a canoe association will host the Adam Ahai Memorial Regatta this Sunday, May 26, marking the opening of the regatta season. Races will begin at 8:30am at Ke`ehi Lagoon Beach Park.

Although now gone for 18 years, Adam Ahai's knowledge, teachings, dedication and love for canoe paddling continue to live on today through the club, Kamehameha. His son, Sam Ahai, with the help of many of Kamehameha's long time members, has continued Adam's teachings and traditions, incorporating them into new association and racing rules over the years. Kamehameha Canoe Club was geared to teach the youth about padding, its customs/traditions and to feel proud of their Hawaiian heritage. These lessons are still carried out today.

On Sunday, three of Adam's six grandchildren (Kaleo, Adam (his namesake) and Tesia-Irene), and three of his seven great-grandchildren (Joshua, Zackary and Matthew) will paddle.

The traditional regatta summer season is a time for families – from keiki as young as 10, to kupuna – to enjoy the sport of outrigger canoe paddling together. Many crews are vying for the few precious lanes at the state championship, which will be held in Hilo on August 3rd.

Clubs and crews are also getting into shape for the post regatta long distance season, which culminates in the Moloka`i to O`ahu races for women and men.

Over the past few years, Hui Wa`a's regattas have been decided by the final race of the day, with powerhouses Kane`ohe and Lokahi's strengths: the keiki for Kane`ohe, and the adults for Lokahi, battling for first place. This first race sees the Waikiki Yacht Club, Manu O Ke Kai from Haleiwa, and Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i from the Leeward coast, contending for the top spots in the large club division. Koa Kai from Magic Island is expected to dominate the smaller club division.

Look for the keiki from relative newcomer Kumulokahi-Elks to challenge for points early in the day and the master ladies of Kalihi-Kai to strut their stuff in the afternoon.

Hui Wa`a invites everyone to come and enjoy the day.

Keep abreast of Hui Wa`a news at www.huiwaa.com

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Media Contact:

Aloha Benedict
Na `Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a
(808) 478-0087
alohab@hawaii.rr.com



2002 Regatta Schedule

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>SPONSORING CLUB</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| May 26 | Ke`ehi Lagoon | Kamehameha |
| June 2 | Ma`ili Beach | Waikiki Yacht Club |
| June 9 | Ke`ehi Lagoon | Lokahi |
| June 16 | Haleiwa Beach Park | Manu O Ke Kai |
| June 23 | Ke`ehi Lagoon | Windward Kai |
| June 30 | Ma`ili Beach Park | Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i |
| July 7 | Ke`ehi Lagoon | Koa Kai |
| July 14 | Waikiki Beach | Waikiki Beach Boys |
| July 20 | Ke`ehi Lagoon | Hui Wa`a Championships |