



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **KOA KAI HOSTS A FUN "PAR-TAY"** *Waikiki Beach Boys race is canceled*

**HONOLULU (July 11, 2002)** <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Koa Kai Canoe Club may not be the only club with its own-mirrored disco ball (Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i is rumored to have one also), but Koa Kai knows how to take this relic of the 70s, and mix it with canoe paddling, for the ultimate recipe for FUN! Undeclared this season in the single A division, Koa Kai won its own trophy with 32 points, followed closely by Windward Kai with 28 points, and Kalihi-Kai with 22 points. In the double A division, Lokahi triumphed over Kane`ohe 65-59 in a cleanly fought battle with no disqualifications, or point deductions to either club. To round out the top three, Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i, clearly peaking as we reach the Hui Wa`a championship regatta, finished strong with 51 points.



Koa Kai infused fun into the regular rivalry of the day by hosting a "race for the case," promising spirits to those crews in the Women and Men Open 4, and Mix Open 6 races who finished in first place with all paddlers wearing aloha shirts. Given the added incentive, nearly all crews were properly attired for these races. The Koa Kai open 4 women, in *matching* aloha shirts, kept one case in the club, while the men of Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i and the mixed crew from Windward Kai walked away with the spoils of their respective races. Koa Kai's tropically decorated tent kept things lively into the night as members from all the clubs competed in a dance contest that had the crowd four deep around the perimeter.

Koa Kai's regatta is typically the last "for points" race until the Hui Wa`a championship regatta scheduled for **SATURDAY**, July 20. This year, the regatta also unintentionally became the penultimate race of the season. (Points earned at the Hui Wa`a championship also count toward qualifying for a lane at states.)

In an unfortunate turn of events, the ever popular and challenging Waikiki Beach Boys regatta, which had been scheduled for July 14, was canceled due to the denial of the necessary permit by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the unavailability of the required jet-ski water patrol. The Beach Boys race is a time for the crews to have some fun prior to the Hui Wa`a championship regatta. Because the course is only 7 lanes wide, and open steersmen are allowed, the points earned at the Beach Boys race are not calculated into the qualifying points to earn a lane at the HCRA state championship. The race gives the clubs the opportunity to have fun by surviving the most wipeouts, competing for the bragging rights of riding the longest wave, and pitting the technical skill of the association's best steersmen against each other.

Many crews within the association have mathematically assured themselves a lane at states, regardless of their final standing in their individual races next Saturday. Those crews "on the edge" of qualifying for the HCRA state championship may find themselves as pawns in the chess-like strategy game employed by the coaches to find the best mix of paddlers to earn the most points at the Championship regatta.

With the one-week break in competition, Hui Wa`a expects its paddlers to be "hungry" to race at its Championship regatta. Borrowing a page from the Koa Kai fun-makers, this year's championships promise a carnival-like atmosphere. Multiple food booths will offer a variety of food items such as Jamba Juice®, malasadas, french fries, baked goods, plate lunch, beverages and more. Other vendors offering paddling and related items such as rash guards, stickers, t-shirts, and Mardi gras beads will also be available. A jumping castle for the keiki will be available from 10am - 2pm. All interested vendors can get more information and download a vendor form from Hui Wa`a's website at: [www.huiwaa.com](http://www.huiwaa.com)

Hui Wa`a's Championship Opening Ceremonies will begin at 7:30 am next Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, with a musical presentation by paddlers from Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i. The first race of the day is scheduled to hit the water at 8:00am.

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