



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HUI WA`A DOES ITSELF PROUD IN HILO**

*Kane`ohe ties for second in the AA division*

**HONOLULU (August 6, 2002)**— Thirteen Hui Wa`a clubs journeyed to Hilo for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HCRA State Championship Regatta. The association had one of its best performances in recent history. Kane`ohe Canoe Club had the best showing of any Hui Wa`a club, as it tied with Healani of OH CRA for second place in the AA division. Due largely to the strength of its keiki crews, Kane`ohe amassed 129 points. Five of its ten keiki crews medalled at the regatta, with gold going to the Girls 14, silver to the Boys 13 and Boys 15, and bronze earned by the Boys 12 and Girls 13. Kane`ohe's Mixed Novice B also pocketed silver medals for its performance.

The most efficient entry of the day was the Girls 13 crew from Hawaiian Outrigger – one crew, one race, one gold medal performance.

Hui Wa`a, whose individual clubs are generally smaller than those of the other associations, came together as one, cheering for each other from a unified front. Taking up 140 feet of beachfront, Kalihi-Kai, Kamehameha, Koa Kai, Lokahi, Manu O Ke Kai, Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i, Waikiki Beach Boys, Waikiki Yacht Club, and Windward Kai supported each other through the morning humidity and afternoon rain, sharing tent space and koa canoe.

Hui Wa`a champion Lokahi was a distant 7<sup>th</sup> in the AA division earning only 93 points. Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i and Koa Kai finished 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with 67 and 66 points respectively. Ka Mo`i would have undoubtedly fared better if it had not been disqualified in two races for burying its flag on the turn. Manu O Ke Kai from the North Shore turned in the best performance in the A division finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the division with 49 points.

Hui Wa`a clubs sailed through pre-race registration, the achilles heel for several neighbor island clubs who sustained ineligible paddler infractions during the course of the day. As Hui Wa`a clubs discovered during the regular regatta season, prowess on the water needed to be balanced by thoroughness on land.

Deserving honorable mention for their performances are all the crews who finished 4<sup>th</sup>, quite possibly the hardest place to finish psychologically. These points were greatly needed by their clubs despite falling short of an individual medal by mere seconds. To all the crews who could taste a medal, we salute you. Get 'em next year – Windward Kai (Girls 12), Koa Kai (Men Novice B, Men Senior Master 45), Waikiki Yacht Club (Women Novice A), Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i (Women Open 4), and Manu O Ke Kai (Golden Master Mix 55).

Hui Wa`a medal recap

- 2 – Gold – Girls 13 (Hawaiian Outrigger), Girls 14 (Kane`ohe)
- 3 – Silver – Boys 13 (Kane`ohe), Mixed Novice B (Kane`ohe), Boys 15 (Kane`ohe)
- 7 – Bronze – Boys 12 (Kane`ohe), Mixed Girls and Boys 12 (Lokahi), Girls 13 (Kane`ohe), Freshman Women (Lokahi), Senior Master Men 45 (Lokahi), Men Open 4 (Na Keiki O Ka Mo`i), Master Women 35 (Kalihi-Kai)

Hui Wa`a sponsored races have concluded for 2002. We continue to support our friend and neighbor, OHCRA, by participating in their post-regatta season long distance races, as well as our neighbor island friends MOHOCRA who hosts the Queen Lili`uokalani Race and GICRA who hosts the Na Pali Challenge. We wish all of our clubs the very best in their crossing of the Ka`iwi Channel in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and the Moloka`i Hoe. Hui Wa`a invites all clubs from all islands to participate in our pre-regatta long distance season which begins the first weekend in April 2003. **Until then, a hui hou.**