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**HUI WA'A KICKS OFF O'AHU'S 2003 OC-6 SEASON WITH
THE WAIKIKI BEACH BOYS INVITATIONAL LONG DISTANCE RACE**

(HONOLULU) April 7, 2003 – Ninety crews helped the Waikiki Beach Boys and Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa`a kick off the 2003 outrigger canoe racing distance season. Fifty-five Women and Mixed crews set out from Magic Island for Black Point shortly after 9:15am. An hour and fifteen minutes later (1:15:45), the mixed crew of Deborah Rosenblum, Gail Kaaialii, Katie Slocumb, John Chang, Byron Ho, and Jim Hewitt from Hui Lanakila crossed the finish line. They were followed by a fellow Hui Lanakila crew (1:19:16). Rounding out the top three was the mixed crew from Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i from Waianae (1:19:30).

The first women's crew and fifth overall with a time of 1:21:16 was Team Margie made up of veteran all-stars Jennifer Horner, Donna Kahakui, Margie Kawaiaea, Lisa Livingston, Patsy Vasquez, and Carleen Ornellas. They squeaked past Kaiola Canoe Club of Kauai by a mere .18 seconds. Rounding out the women's divisions were the Master Women 40+ from Puuwai Canoe Club on Kauai, the Senior Master Women 50+ from Ala Wai based Waikiki Yacht Club, and the Novice B Women from host Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club.

The men raced the same course to increasing winds and choppy seas after the women and mixed race. Despite floating their starting line approximately a 1/4-mile toward Black Point prior to the official flag, the start was fair since the men managed to creep along in a reasonably straight line. First place Kailua returned home in sixty-nine minutes (1:09:01). The team of Kea Paiaina, Chad Dunhour, Dustin Dawson, Kaai Bruhn, Kekoa Bruhn, and Heath Hemmings easily held off second place Hui Lanakila who was pursued by the hard sprinting crew of the men of Leeward Kai.

The Master Men 40+ of Hawaiian Kanaktion finished 8th overall to win their division in a time of (1:17:47). The Senior Master Men 50+ of New Hope and Novice B Men of Healani each secured first place in their respective divisions.

Race action moves to Kailua Beach on Saturday, April 12 for Windward Kai's Iron Men's, Women's, and Mixed Races.

Check out the latest Hui Wa`a information at www.huiwaa.com