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**HIGH SURF NOT A FACTOR IN KOA KAI'S LAULIMA RACE
29TH ANNUAL KAI POHA HALEIWA RACE TURNOUT POOR
AS OHCRA HOLDS RACE ON SAME DAY**

HONOLULU (May 12, 2003) — While many surfers took advantage of the south swell, the outrigger canoe paddlers racing in the *Laulima* Long Distance Race, hosted by Koa Kai Canoe Club on May 3rd, handled light winds and a steady push from Diamond Head to Honolulu Harbor for a fast and fun-filled day of racing.

Koa Kai Canoe Club, renown for its post regatta celebrations and themed fundraiser nights, was a gracious and capable host to 73 crews. The first race of the day, the women and mixed crews, saw the first eight crews complete the race course, from Magic Island toward Diamond Head buoy, but well away from the breaking surf to Kewalo Basin and back, in under one hour. The mixed open crew from the Waikiki Beach Boys crossed the finish line first, a mere 13 seconds ahead of the mixed open crew from Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i of Poka'i Bay. Lokahi Canoe Club's Open Women rode down the channel approximately a minute later to lead the all women's crews. Host Koa Kai's Mixed Masters 35+ was fourth overall.

The first of men's crews, racing a slightly longer course to Honolulu Harbor, ran the course in just over one hour. The Open Men of Hui Lanakila had a commanding two-minute lead over second place Lokahi Open Men. The Master Men of the Waikiki Yacht Club rounded out the top three.

On May 10th Hui Wa'a headed out to Haleiwa Beach Park for its oldest continually sponsored long distance race, *Kane O Ke Kai* Ironmen/Ironwomen Race, hosted by Kai Poha Canoe Club. Many crews across the state look forward to this race each year, due to its location, and the camaraderie shared amongst the paddlers. Past winners of the perpetual cup include Puuwai of Kauai, Hawaiian of Maui, Anuenue and Waikiki Surf Club of OHCRA as well as Hui Wa'a favorite, Lokahi. Participation at this year's race was down from previous years partly due to OHCRA hosting a race on the same date.

Attendance notwithstanding, racing was spirited with reports of large *honu* checking out the visitors to their waters. In the women's and mixed race Team Leeward Kai, racing two mixed open crews, walked away with 1st and 3rd overall. Lokahi's Open Women claimed 2nd overall, and led all women's crews for their third win this season. Manu O Ke Kai's Mixed Masters 35+, racing in their home water, claimed an overall 4th place finish. Host Kai Poha rounded out the top five with a strong finish from its Mixed Open crew.

In the men's race, the familiar yellow canoe of Leeward Kai with its Open Men rounded the buoy first to finish easily two and half minutes ahead of Koa Kai's Open Men, who turned on a strong finishing kick. After trailing in 4th place for the majority of the race, they claimed 2nd place 11 seconds ahead of Lokahi's Open Men. The Master Men of Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i followed in 4th place to lead all master crews.



Ekahi point standings, a favorite statistic during regatta season, which tracks crews' overall performance and gives them bragging rights to best overall, have been unofficially tracked for the 2003 distance season for the three open categories. The Open Men's division is the most competitive with a single point separating the first three crews. With one race to go, claiming the lead is the crew from Leeward Kai with 18 points, followed by Hui Lanakila with 17, and Lokahi with 16. The Mixed Open division is also tight with Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i amassing 15 points, to Leeward Kai's 13, and 12 points for Hui Lanakila. In the Open Women's division, Lokahi has a commanding lead with 21 points. Trailing in a distant second place is the Waikiki Beach Boys with 11 points and Hui Lanakila with 10.

The rescheduled Windward Kai race will conclude the 2003 Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a pre-regatta long distance season on **SUNDAY**, May 18th. Divisions offered are Open Women, Mixed, Men; Master 35+ Women, Mixed, Men; Master 45+ Women, Men; Master 55+ Mixed, Men; Novice B Women, Men; and 18 years and under Mixed. The Kailua Bay Triangle will be the racecourse.

For complete results and information on upcoming races as well as entry forms, please go to www.huiwaa.com.