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**KANEOHE WINS AA DIVISION
LOKAHI CAPTURES 3RD
HAWAIIAN (MAUI) 3-PEATS IN THE AAA DIVISION**

HONOLULU (August 3, 2003) ¾ Hui Wa`a Champion Kane`ohe took its winning ways to the annual Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (HCRA) State Championship Regatta to win the AA division for medium sized clubs. Lokahi, this year's Hui Wa`a runner-up, and only club to defeat Kane`ohe this year, raced its game plan to capture the 3rd place trophy in the same division. The Waikiki Beach Boys, on the strength of six crews, led the rest of the Hui Wa`a contingent to finish a very respectable 6th place (out of 37 clubs) in the single A division with 54 points.

Hui Wa`a showed itself proudly as it captured 14 medals this year primarily on the strength of its *keiki* and novice paddlers. Hui Wa`a's proudest moment came in the Girls 15 race as Kane`ohe and Kamehameha swept the gold and silver medals respectively. The undefeated Waikiki Beach Boys Novice B Women capped a perfect season, winning the ¼ mile sprint with a considerably large seven-second margin over the crew from Hawaiian. Kane`ohe also earned gold medals and the ever important 15 points in the Mixed Novice B and Boys 16 races.

The Girls and Boys 14 races proved successful for Hui Wa`a as crews captured the silver and bronze medals in each race. In the girls race, Kane`ohe edged out defending Girls 13 champion Hawaiian Outrigger. In the boys race, a disqualification by first place Hawaiian worked to Lokahi's and Kane`ohe's advantage. Lokahi beat rival Kane`ohe by a slim ½ second to capture the silver. Second place finishes and silver medals to the Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i Girls 12 and Kane`ohe Boys 12, and a bronze to the Kane`ohe Girls 13 rounded out the keiki medals for Hui Wa`a.

Lokahi's Freshman Women led all Hui Wa`a open paddlers to bring home a 2nd place silver medal. The *kupuna* of Manu O Ke Kai's Mixed Golden held tough to place 3rd their race.

In an impressive show of strength and efficiency, Wailea of Maui was the repeat winner in the single A division with 105 points. No crew from Wailea finished lower than fourth place with seven of the eight crews entered taking home medals.

Hui Wa`a graciously thanks the HCRA and its fellow island associations for the privilege of hosting the 2003 HCRA state championship regatta and wishes all clubs success in the upcoming post-regatta long distance season.

I mua Hui Wa`a

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

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