

Outrigger, Waikiki Clubs Lead Molokai Boat Race

At noon the leading Waikiki Surf Club canoe was off Portlock, outdistancing Outrigger Canoe Club's entry by about 100 yards. It was expected at the finish line at 1 p.m. While shore observers said paddlers were "plugging right along," no record time was expected to be set.

Outrigger canoe crews of the Waikiki Surf Club and the Outrigger Canoe Club led the Molokai to Oahu 36-mile canoe race Sunday morning as they battled across the ocean almost neck and neck.

Fifty-four paddlers and nine canoes left Molokai beach at 6 a.m. Seas were extremely smooth with a gentle sea breeze and race officials were in hopes that the record crossing of six hours and five minutes established in 1954 would be broken.

THE WAIKIKI SURF CLUB crew skippered by steersman Blue Makua led the race at start.

At 9 a.m. the Outrigger Canoe club's entry skippered by steersman George Downing took the lead by 200 to 300-yards.

At 11 a.m. Outrigger still had

a slight lead but observers on accompanying pilot boats said it was still anyone's race as the Waikiki Surf club paddlers still showed good strength.

The canoes were then three miles from Koko Head and 10 miles from Waikiki beach. The winning crew was expected to reach Duke Kahanamoku beach between 12:30 and 1 p.m.

THE ALL-TIME record for the annual Aloha Week classic was set in 1954 by the crew of the Hui Nalu canoe club. Time was six hours and five minutes.

Last year's race was won by the Waikiki Surf Club with the time of seven hours and nine minutes. Outrigger Canoe Club came in fourth last year.

The winning six-man crew will divide the prize cash award of \$500. Second prize is \$300.