

# Men's Moloka'i relaxed, content

By Jack Wyatt  
*Special to The Star-Bulletin*

While the Na Wahine O Ke Kai women continue their struggle to lure more visiting crews and to attract more free spending sponsors, the people behind the 36th annual Bankoh Moloka'i Hoe men's race, scheduled for Oct. 11 over the same Molokai—Oahu course, are relaxed and content.

"We had a record 53 entries last year and I look for more crews this race," long time Outrigger Canoe Club paddler Fred Hemmings said. With crews from California, Canada, Illinois, Tahiti, and possibly Australia and Europe, the men's race is truly international in scope.

"Locally we'll be represented by all Islands but Niihau. Hawaii can be very proud of the way our men have performed against the strong Mainland and foreign crews," Hemmings added.

In recent years, Outrigger has dominated the men's competition winning six of the past 10 races. The Illinois Brigade finished first two years ago, while Southern California crews topped the men's field in 1978, '81 and '82.

In addition to defending champ Outrigger, this year's favorites include Hui Nalu and Healani from Oahu, plus California's Offshore Canoe Club. "I expect a very competitive race. The way Olympic kayak and canoe paddlers surface for this event you can't count out any crew," Hemmings said.

## Moloka'i Hoe men's race

### When

Sunday, Oct. 11

### Course

It is 40.8 miles, from Molokai to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

### Course record

Five hours, 18 minutes, and 19.6 seconds, set in 1985 by Outrigger Canoe Club.

Outrigger set the current course record three years ago when it covered the 40.8 miles, from Molokai to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach, in five hours, 18 minutes and 19.6 seconds.

"Fast crossings depend on channel winds and sea," Hemmings noted. The former world champion surfer explained that paddlers look for waves steep enough to ride but not so big that the seas become dangerous.

The men's race enjoys the Bank of Hawaii as its major corporate sponsor. In addition, the race is supported by many small firms. "Corporate help for a race of this size is a must if quality is to be maintained. We're delighted that so many Island firms have given their support," Hemmings said.

