

Mahalo To Kimo Austin

At the end of another canoe racing season, the OCC extends a special MAHALO to Kimo Austin, who has been designing and making racing and steering paddles for Outrigger crews for more than five years. Most of the Junior Men's crew and the Senior Men, who recorded an outstanding race season, paddled to victory this summer using his semi-teardrop design, a paddle with a 19½-inch blade.

According to Austin, paddlers often go through several paddles a season, and he keeps busy replacing broken ones, making special adjustments in weight and size for each crewman, and keeping paddlers equipped for both rough and smooth water racing. The handsome spruce and cedar handles are monogrammed with each paddler's name.



Kimo Austin at work on a racing paddle. **Photo Scoop**

Along with Paul Maclaughlin and Marshall Rosa, Austin is constantly experimenting with new designs for greater speed under different racing conditions.

In addition to keeping OCC crews well-equipped, Kimo Austin has constructed the paddles that will guide the Polynesian Voyaging Society's HOKULE'A on her Bicentennial Year journey to Tahiti and back. Working with Herb Kane, he designed and made the two giant sweeps, each between 24 and 26 feet long, that con-

trol the double-hulled outrigger in rough water, the 9-foot long steering paddles, and the 7-foot paddles that will be used to propel the canoe if the wind dies down during the voyage.

And so, warm thanks from paddlers and canoe racing enthusiasts alike to Kimo Austin for the countless hours of work that have kept OCC crews equipped with the finest in paddles.