

# 1st Hawaiian Ocean Triathlon

By Leighton Taylor

This exciting event was first held February 19, 1984 (even though the entry blanks indicated that it would be held in 1983—sometimes it takes awhile to adjust to the fact that it's leap year). The event is patterned after the surf contests in South Africa and Australia but is open to both men and women in our version. In most countries the race is known as the Iron Man race, an unfortunate title because of its sexual and metaphorical ambiguity. Women entrants disqualify the use of "man," and "iron" is certainly not known for its performance in saltwater.

The Hawaii Ocean Triathlon (It's H.O.T.!) consisted of three events performed consecutively by each contestant (or, each member of a relay team

performed only one). The three legs consisted of a one-mile swim, two-mile paddleboard, and four-mile kayak leg, plus a short run between each event.

Contestants competed only against others in their age group. There were no age categories in the relay division; each team consisted of three members. Start and finish were on the nearby Sans Souci Beach, site of the start of the annual Roughwater Swim, an area familiar to Club entrants.

All participants received T-shirts and enjoyed beer and sandwiches on the Club beach after the race. Names and times will be listed in the April issue of *The Outrigger*.

Race chairman Ian Emberson is to be congratulated on organizing another



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excellent high-quality ocean event. His athletic and promotional abilities have also benefited the Maui Channel Swim, the Waikiki Roughwater Swim and the North Shore Challenge Swim. Somehow Ian not only finds time to organize the events but also to participate in them, in the true spirit of maximum Outrigger activity. Thanks for a great event, Ian, and congratulations to all contestants.