

OCC Launches 2004 Distance Season

By Genie Kincaid

It's that time of year again when space on the Outrigger beach is at a premium. Summer's at its apogee, and so are the number of outrigger canoes on the beach as the paddling season segues from sprint racing to distance racing. During the sprint, or regatta, season, races range in length from a quarter mile to 1-1/2 miles, while the distance races are no less than six miles.

The "big one" that all canoe clubs gear up for is the 40 mile Molokai to Oahu race. The Na Wahine O Ke Kai will be held September 26, while the Molokai Hoe for men will follow on October 10. Outrigger's upper division paddlers are primed for the challenges which certainly lay ahead.

Last year, the women finished 2nd and 8th overall, and with most of the women returning along with second year coach, John Puakea, the women are aiming high.

The men also had a solid 2003, consistently finishing in the top four through out last year's distance season, and are quietly determined this year to bring in the results under Coach Kala Judd.

To prepare for the Molokai race, Outrigger's men and women will participate in certain key races leading up to Molokai, including the two that are sponsored by the Club, the Dad Center Race for the women was held on August 29 and the Henry Ayau Memorial Race for men is scheduled for September 19. So make way on the beach for your fellow Club members as they do best what our Club name suggests.

September 4	Queen Liliuokalani Race (Kona)
September 12	E Lau Hoe (Pokai Bay)
September 19	Henry Ayau Memorial Race
September 26	Na Wahine O Ke Kai
October 10	Molokai Hoe