

## Spotlight on the 2009 Racing Subcommittee Chairman

*Stew Kawakami* By Erika Eberhart

After four years at the helm of the Canoe Racing Subcommittee, Jenifer Bossert has turned over the reins to Stew Kawakami for the 2009 season. As we say a big Mahalo to Jen for her endless hours of effort to the paddling program since 2005, we also say Aloha to Stew.

"I'm very humbled by the opportunity that I have with the Outrigger Canoe Racing program. My biggest goal is to have every one of our paddlers, paddling to the very best of their ability, all while having a good time out on the water. Everything else should fall into place."

Best of luck, Stew, and thanks in advance for stepping up to the plate!

To get acquainted with Stew as he transitions into this challenging position, he agreed to share some fun-filled factoids with our membership:

**Full Name:** Stew Kawakami

**Birth Date:** May 7, 1969

**Birth Place:** Honolulu

**Family:** Mom, Dad, and one older sister reside in Kaneohe; another older sister in Volcano, Big Island. Married to Mary Ann.

**High School:** The Kamehameha Schools

**College/Degree:** Bachelors Degree in Hawaiian Studies from University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Current job:** Pilot for Hawaiian Airlines

**Years an OCC member:** 13 years

**Committees served on:** Fitness Center and Entertainment

**Favorite sports:** Football and Canoe Paddling.

**Years paddling:** "Well, I started paddling when I was 12 for Waikiki Surf Club. I learned paddling and steering from Uncle Nappy Napoleon at Anuenue when I was 13 and have been paddling off and on ever since."

**Favorite seat/position to paddle:** "I really like two, but steered for the past eight years or so. However, I sat four and five in this year's Outrigger Men's first crew in the Molokai channel."

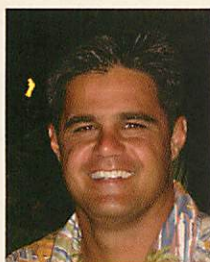
**How many Molokai's:** 10.

**Have you coached?:** Yes—Girls 13, Boys 18, Women Novice B and A and Men Novice B.

**Favorite regatta:** States in Hanalei.

**What is your biggest challenge as the new Canoe Racing Subcommittee Chairperson?:** "Right now I would have to say that the biggest challenge is going to be filling the shoes of Jenifer Bossert and the outstanding job that she has done over the past few years."

**What is your outlook on the distance season this year?** "I'm really excited. I think we have a really good group of men and women paddlers who did well this past year. I hope to keep the momentum going in the off season with OC-1 training and races, then the '09 regatta season, then distance."



Stew Kawakami