

# Our Kids Paddled Great!

By Mike Lum

On May 14, some of the Outrigger Canoe Club youth paddlers took part in the 17th Annual George Perry Long Distance Memorial Race hosted by the Lanikai Canoe Club.

The 13 and under girl's crew consisting of Napua Lum, Tori Woo, Rafael Lee, Lizzy Allen, Emalia Eichelberger, and Sophia Varady took first place overall with more than 20 crews entered in the distance race.

The crew from the boys 13 and under won their division as well consisting of Trevor Blake, Jonathan Chee, Davis Eichelberger, Hunter Johnson, Noah Sandvold, and Ke'ea Lum. We were victorious in both events and had placed 3rd in the mixed divisions for the 13 and 14 and under crews. A total of 19 paddlers took part in racing the 2-plus-mile course and paddled again in the mixed events.

The weather was beautiful and ocean conditions were excellent for canoe racing. I wanted our youth paddlers to experience long distance canoe racing and to see how they would fare against pre-season competition.

The boys and girls met early on race day to off load the canoes and were taught to set up and rig. They are all to be commended for their hard work throughout the day. Race officials and coaches from the Lanikai Canoe Club were impressed with our paddlers and expressed their gratitude for our participation in their race.

A big mahalo to coaches Bobby Yoza and Casey Kahikina for their kokua and to our parents for their support. Great job Outrigger!

Junior paddlers learn to rig a canoe

