



Photo at the left shows OCC beach from where first Molokai-Oahu race took place. Middle photo shows beach at Hawaiian Village where race has place to end race this year. That stuff in the foreground is coral, incidentally a very pleasant.

WAIKIKI ENDING FAVORED FOR RACE

There has been a lot of resistance among canoe paddlers to finishing the Molokai-Oahu annual race at Maunaloa Bay instead of at Waikiki. Toots Minvielle, father of the race which opens Aloha Week on Oahu, is very much against the change. One of the main reasons is that both the race and Aloha week started as tourist attractions to perk up a usually dull period in travel to Hawaii. Toots feels that to the tourist, Waikiki is Hawaii therefore that is the most logical place to end the race.

Also, tourists have easy accessibility to Waikiki, whereas they wouldn't have to Maunaloa Bay. And residents look forward to going to Diamond Head lookout to watch the paddlers in the last phases of the race. This is a colorful and exciting moment for both participants and spectators.

Further, Toots pointed out, to end the race at Maunaloa Bay would shorten it by 8-9 miles. The original race covered approximately 36 miles.

The first Molokai-Oahu outrigger canoe competition took place in 1952 and with each succeeding year the event has increased in popularity by spectators and enthusiasm by crews from various islands and the Mainland. Toots feels that shortening the race will diminish its importance of accomplishment and also attendance at the finish.

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Club Coach Rabbit Kekai's sentiments on the subject are much like those of Toots'. He adds, too, that having the long race is not only more appealing to the crews, but also to the spectators. He feels that getting started as late as 8:00 in the morning will hinder crews in getting "off to a flying start" as they won't have the crisp and bracing dawn temperature for their initial lift.

Rabbit also pointed out that finishing at Waikiki is more convenient boat-wise. Once there, it's a simple matter to paddle the boats home. But from Maunaloa Bay the canoes would have to be hauled back to Waikiki by



ger canoe race ended in 1952, and for many years thereafter. In recent years. Next is "scene" at Maunaloa Bay, suggested pleasant to sit on or walk on. Note also lack of trees and water, so even wading to cool off a hot foot would not be

railer, incurring additional expense and "humbug".

Established records could not be challenged in the shorter race which would serve as a deterrent to competitive spirit. Also, shortening the race eliminates Hawaii crews to the junior position as regards the Molokai-Oahu and Catalina races.

Other paddling enthusiasts who have expressed their disappointment over the decision of the Aloha Week canoe committee to end the race at Maunaloa Bay are Charlie Amalu, Bob Fischer, George Downing, Louis Mahanamoku and Dad Center.

Petitions have been circulated by the Club protesting ending the race at Maunaloa Bay, and the Forecast and members of the Outrigger Canoe Club go on record as being very much against changing the pattern of the original Molokai-Oahu course.

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