

# Duke's Spirit Lives on Through ODKF

*By Barbara Del Piano and Helen Sheehan*

When Duke Kahanamoku died in January of 1968, he did not leave behind a vast financial empire, or even a large estate. He did, however, leave a priceless legacy of incredible value to present and future generations of Hawaii's young athletes.

The exclusive property of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, his name, which is known and respected the world over, is used to "support and encourage athletes, teams or individuals who are contributing to the growth and development of sports in Hawaii; to support participation by island athletes in local, national and international competition; to assist in preserving, perpetuating and developing sports and events which are part of Hawaii's cultural heritage."

These goals are accomplished through grants and scholarships which are awarded to deserving teams or individuals on an annual basis. Assistance is also extended to specific events, such as the Cline Mann Paddleboard Race and the Walter J. Macfarlane Regatta.

During the later years of his life, several of Duke's friends established the Kahanamoku Foundation, whose mission was to perpetuate his name and assist young people in his areas of interest...water sports, police work and international relations.

An organization of similar interest, the Outrigger Foundation, was established in 1981. Both groups relied heavily on Outrigger members for financial support.

In 1986 the two non-profit organizations merged into the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation. The merger eliminated the competition for donations and provided greater financial strength to the single entity, enabling it to better fulfill the objectives of both.

The work of ODKF is carried out by a Board of Directors consisting of 15 dedicated members. The newly elected officers are: Mary Philpotts, president; Gretchen Duplanty and Marty Schiller, vice-presidents; Sharon Brown, secretary, and Tim Guard, treasurer.

With the assistance of a selection committee, applications for scholarships and grants are reviewed according to specific guidelines and recipients are chosen. In the ODKF annual report for 2000, former president Vic Watumull announced that net assets have risen to \$879,935, an increase of more than \$100,000 over the previous year.

This has enabled the Foundation to grant 22 scholarships thus far for the year 2000-2001 and eight grants to individuals. Thirteen athletic grants to teams and ten to specific events were also awarded.

Although most of the funding comes from generous individuals, fund raisers such as auctions and T-shirt sales have added to the coffers, giving many deserving young people opportunities in both scholarship and athletics they might never have had.

The Foundation is reaching out further into the community and is currently assisting the Boys and Girls Club of the Waianae Coast.

Applicants for scholarships must be residents of Hawaii and plan to attend an accredited college or university as a full time student. They must also have participated in competitive sports with a record of accomplishment and be in need of financial aid.

ODKF invites all Outrigger members to support its efforts by joining the Foundation. For information about how you can be a part of this worthwhile endeavor and help to keep alive the name and legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, call 526-4888 or visit the Foundation's web site at [www.planet-hawaii.com/duke](http://www.planet-hawaii.com/duke).