

Jr. 'Rigger Aids Surfer



(Editor's Note: The following occurred during our June South swells)

By Amy Lawson

When I was out surfing Rice Bowls in the late afternoon, I noticed a man struggling on the inside in the impact zone. He had lost his board and was gasping for breath in the white water.

It didn't look too good, so I paddled over to him to see if I could help. I ended up giving him my board to rest on. Then I swam to his board so I could give it back to him.

I paddled his board back to him and was telling him to start pad-

dling inside and to the right toward Tonggs because of the strong current. Instead, he tried to get his leash reattached, and we began to drift out past Sandbars, out towards Old Man's and Castles.

Just then, I heard the buzz of a jet ski, and felt relief because I knew there was no way I was going to be able to pad-

dle the guy in as exhausted as he was, and with a current ripping.

I spotted the jet ski and waved my arms frantically, and finally caught his attention. Then, a large set was coming outside. The jet ski was barely able to pick the man up before they were off. The man was tired, but alive.

The jet ski guy, named Kutcho, thanked me, and then was off trying to rescue a few body boarders who were stuck in the current.

(Amy, who is 16, attends Iolani School, and paddles 18s and Open for OCC, also came in tired, but alive, and will surf again.)