

# Ala Wai Site Beautified

By Matt Kresser

With paddling season just around the bend, various club committees worked hard melding the chassis of the OCC hot rod “racing & raging” program. Of special interest is the continued evolution of the Club’s subsidiary training site fringing the mauka/Diamond Head end of the Ala Wai Canal.

Graded, sanded, weeded, and blessed by the Rev. Abraham Akaka, the banks are now occupied by the OCC fleet of newly refurbished six-man practice canoes.

The advent of the Outrigger’s “beautify the Ala Wai” efforts have resonated the entire length of the canal with a heightened



*Joanne Garcia next to Dad's Rock on the day of the blessing.*

sense of appreciation and regard for what is by far the world’s epicenter of canoe paddling.

The early years of Waikiki saw the mauka tract of state land bordering the canal from Kapahulu Avenue to about McCully Street, designated for the relocation of Beach Boy Canoe Club’s and their “Hale”. Hence, the the boathouses that now exist.

In memory of the significant burial site that existed prior to Waikiki’s expansion, and the many of those who have known the area as the spiritual place it is, our training disembarkation spot is sure to stand through the ages and continue to feel the footprints of 12A junior paddlers, men and women upper divisioners, and golden “kupuna” masters. ☉



*Matt Kresser and the Rev. Akaka during blessing.*