

# STAGE ALMOST SET FOR BIG KONA RACES

The stage is almost set for the second annual canoe paddling regatta Saturday at Kealahou bay, Kona.

With the departure on the Humuula tomorrow of the two Oahu girl crews, the Outrigger and Hui Nalus, the final contingent of paddlers to the big classic for Kona will be on its way.

The girl boatloads are making the trip as guests of George II Brown, a booster of the sport which thrilled Hawaiian royalty so long ago.

Yesterday morning the coast guard cutter Itasca transported the remaining Honolulu men crews to the regatta, picking up on its way some 20 huskies and Coach "Pump" Searle of Molokai at Kaunakakai.

Friday evening the excursion boat Waialeale, pretty well loaded with interested fans and tourists, shoves off to the scene of the paddling events.

Meanwhile, speculation as to the outcome of the races is being heard in many quarters at Waikiki beach. Many are inclined to support the Outriggers but the Hui Nalus and Queen's Surfriders have many backers. High respect is also voiced for the outside island paddlers.