

# Ancient Sport Of Surfing Is Still Popular

Surfboard riding and outrigger canoeing have come down through Hawaiian history practically unchanged. Residents and visitors enjoying these famed water sports at Hawaiian beaches throughout the year ride the surf about the same way old-time island chiefs and chiefesses did before the coming of the white man.

**SURFRIDING** contests played a prominent role in old Hawaii, when royal youths matched their skill and prowess on the magnificent breakers along island sea-coasts.

It takes a long time to master surfboard and outrigger canoe riding.

Tandem riding on a surfboard is one way to enjoy the sport without actually working at it. The Outrigger Canoe club, center of surfing activities for Honolulu, offers the services of the Waikiki Surfers.

**THESE FAMED** "beach boys," who know just about all there is to know about water sports, will ride out with the mahini (newcomer), catch the waves for him and even help him to stand on the board as it cuts through the water 15 to 35 miles an hour.

Expert crews from the Outrigger man the great canoes that have not changed in design for many centuries.

**ANOTHER UNIQUE** craft that offers a thrilling ride on the waves is the catamaran, "fastest craft in island waters." This beautiful double-hulled Manu Kai (Sea Bird) is patterned after the ancient Hawaiian outrigger canoe. Forty feet long, the craft is brought up to Waikiki beach to pick up passengers for a thrilling ride to Diamond Head and then return to the beach with the waves.

Another popular wave-riding sport is strenuous body-surfing, advised only for strong swimmers.

**MANY LEGENDS** of old Hawaii are woven around surfboard riding. One of the best-known is that about Kelea, the most beautiful woman on Maui island in her day and one of Hawaii's great surfriders.

Kelea was abducted from Maui and taken by outrigger canoe to Oahu to Chief Lo-Lale, who had sent the canoe part to distant islands to find him a beautiful chiefess. Lo-Lale's domain was far inland on Oahu and there he and Kelea lived for many years. Kelea bore three children and was content with her lot except for her nostalgia for the surf she loved so well.

**FINALLY, SHE** announced to her chief that she had to return to the sea and Lo-Lale reluctantly let her go. He had to, as a matter of fact. It was her privilege as a chiefess in her own right.

Kelea went to Ewa (near Pearl Harbor) and found the court of Kalamakua, high chief of that region, out swimming. Borrowing a surfboard, Kelea went out to the breakers and there put to shame the surfriders already there. Kalamakua heard the uproar and when he inquired, he found out that a beautiful woman had beaten all his chiefs at surfriding. He went to see for himself. He saw and fell in love. Kelea became his wife and there at Ewa near the surf she loved so well, she lived to the end of her days.