

# Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race To Challenge Paddler's Skill

In a gruelling test, worthy of the stalwart followers of Kamehameha the Great, member of various outrigger canoe teams will vie with each other in a 36 mile race to conquer the rugged, wind-blown, tide-swept Molokai Channel.

The race, first such a mass crossing in over 100 years, will start on Molokai near Ilio Point and end on the Beach at Waikiki. It will be held on Saturday as part of Aloha Week water activities.

The marine contest of endurance and stamina will be viewed by dozens of accompanying sailing craft and power boats, from the north shores of Molokai and from the Kona coast of Oahu.

Thousands will watch the hardy contestants who will be vying for a \$500 first prize, to be awarded by Francis Ii Brown, a perennial protector of Hawaiian culture.

Three other prizes, provided by Aloha Week Hawaii, Inc., will be awarded the other winners of this historic event.

## CLUB ENTRIES

At least two major Mainland newsreel and television companies are planning to cover the event.

The United States Navy and Coast Guard will escort the resolute oarsmen.

Already the Waikiki Surf Club, Hui Kalia Club and Healani Club have signed up for the race. More clubs are expected to enter the race when the canoes have made their final lineup.

Two canoes were made available when Johnny Gomes offered the Doris Duke canoe and Dad Center offered his personal outrigger for the race.

Although many people have questioned the possibility of the success of this race because of the ruggedness of the Molokai Channel, the consensus of opinion of experts is that it has been done time and time again in the old days.

As one expert put it, "the young men of today in Hawaii have won world competitive Olympic laurels. The channel is their meat." Dad Center, well known coach and sports authority, recalled that he has gone half way over to Molo-

kai and back by himself in a canoe "and it can be done today as well, I am sure."

## THOSE IN CHARGE

In charge of all Aloha Week water activities has been John Lind and his co-chairman, Pat Sylva. A. E. (Toots) Minvielle is chairman of the Molokai-Oahu canoe race, and Stanley Kim, president of Waikiki Surf Club, has acted as liaison officer between Aloha Week and the Hawaiian Canoe Racing and Surfing Association.

It is hoped that this event will become annual, with a perpetual trophy that will stimulate generation after generation of hardy Hawaiians to compete. Such an annual competition could well catch the imagination of the world.

It is Aloha Week at its finest, perpetuating the praise-worthy seagoing Polynesians who conquered and populated the expansive Pacific, island by island.

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