Kamehameha's Spirit Sure To Hover Over Kona Races

Excitement Over Julian Yates Regatta Is Building Up Toward Climactic Day

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HONOLULU — (By Radio Teletype) — If Kamehameha the Great could return to these islands next Saturday for one day on earth he'd probably head straight for Kona to witness the annual Julian Yates Hawaiian canoe racing championships.

A good many Big Islanders and canoe spectators and enthusiasts from the neighbor islands, in this mechanical age far removed from Hawaiian traditions, will pick Kona for that one day.

Back in Kamehameha's time, outrigger canoes were as important to inter-island transportation as the airlines are today.

The great ruler probably would have enjoyed the competitive racing, the display of brawn, courage, timing endurance and practice that go into the Hawaiian Canoe Racing and Surfing association-sponsored spectacle Saturday.

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This year the 11-event regatta should be better than ever.

John M. Lind president of the association says this because word has reached Honolulu that the two Kona canoe clubs—Kai Opua and Honaunau—are ready to give the Oahu paddlers a run for the trophies.

They've been working out long and hard, reaching a peak for a climactic effort.

In fact, the excitement that is being generated because of the approaching canoe events, and the increased strength of the Kona entrants, is overshadowing the financial difficulties besetting race officials. But to forget money for a minute, what about the races?

Mr. Lind reports that Kona paddlers are turning in better trial times than the Oahu crews.

The supremacy of the Outrigger Canoe club, defending champions, is challenged not only by the improved Waikiki Surf club but also by the two Kona clubs.

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In trial heats at Waikiki in past weeks, the Waikiki Surf club wahines have been setting the pace. In the big race, for senior men, the defending team, WSC, faces an uphill struggle from the Outrigger and both Kai Opua and Honaunau.

Other Oahu teams competing are: Healani, Hi Kalia, Hua Nalu and Koolaupoko.

A total of 285 paddlers and officials will leave Oahu Thursday for Kona.

Girl paddlers will stay at the church while the men will be housed at the gymnasium. Once again a soup kitchen will be set up in American Factors' yard to help lower over-all costs.

Oahu canoes will be loaded aboard a Young Bros. barge for Kona Tuesday.

Friday evening the Hawaiian pageant at Hulihee Palace opens the official festivities. And after the race the gala luau at Kona Inn will wind up a congested, exhaustive weekend.

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The eight lane course has already been mapped out by canoe officials at Kona. The course stretches from the new pier to a point off the Kona Inn.

Thousands of spectators are expected to line the beach and utilize any and every vantage point they can find to witness Kona's big-

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