

Harbor Board Rules Against Motorized Canoes at Waikiki

There'll be no motorized outrigger canoes at Waikiki.

Territorial Harbor commissioners decided yesterday to adhere to their present policy of no motorized operation within 700 yards of the famous beach strip.

They made their decision following a spirited public hearing where old beach buddies like Duke P. Kahanamoku and Dad Center lined up on different sides of the fence.

IN 'DEAD-AREA'

Center, a colorful beach figure since 1900, led a group, including Ernest and Edric Cook and Gay Harris.

They had requested permission to operate power-driven outriggers in what they called a "dead area" between the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and the Reef Hotel.

Center and his group contended the area is not used at least 90 per cent of the time and that it should be open to them until such time as coral heads could be removed.

Opposition to the plan was handled in courtroom-like manner by attorney Richard C. Sutton who introduced a huge map of the area and called upon "witnesses."

NOT SAFE

Duke Kahanamoku, in a statement read into the record, objected on the basis of safety to swimmers and surfers.

He also said motorized canoes would ruin the "primitive" charm of Waikiki.

Speaking for the Matson Company and as chairman of the Waikiki Beach Safety Committee, Howard C. Donnelly said such an operation would be unsafe for swimmers and canoe passengers because no rescue service is available for that portion of the beach.

Objections on a safety basis were also voiced by Splash Lyons of the Reef Hotel beach service and the assistant manager of the Halekulani Hotel.

Attorney Sutton said most of the hotel operators in the area were against the proposal.