

# Isle Catamaran In T-P Event

When entries close today for the third annual Multihull Transpacific race, starting July 4, only one of the probable nine entries will fly a burgee from Hawaii, but most will have been built by Hawaiians.

"Manu Iwa," a 50-foot catamaran owned by Lance Reventlow, will become the first island entry in the 2225 nautical mile race from San Pedro, Calif., to Diamond Head. The "Manu Iwa" will fly the Hawaii Yacht Club flag.

Herb Bessa and Suki Cho, experienced with catamarans on Waikiki, plus Cappy Sheeley, P-Cat racing champion, are Honolulu men who will crew on the "Manu Iwa." Bill Thompson, another area sailing veteran, will crew for the second time on Glass Slipper II, corrected time winner two years ago.

Although eight of the catamarans in the race are from California, most have been built by a mainland firm of former islanders — Rudy Choy, Warren Seaman and Alfred Kumalae. They build the 50-foot and larger ocean racing cats.

The number of Hawaiian entries in the Multihull TransPac is restricted by the smaller-sized cats utilized in the islands.

John Cline Mann, general chairman of Honolulu committees for the 1968 race, Dan Wallace, a sub-chairman, and racers Sheeley and Thompson point out the fore-runner of the modern catamaran appeared on Waikiki beach in 1947.

Woody Brown, called by Wallace "the father of catamarans here," and Alfred Kumalae built the first Cat, "Manu Kai." They produced "Waikiki Surf," which crossed to California in 1955,

and both crewed on the "Imiloa" in the first Multihull TransPac in 1964.

"Cats are in their infancy in national boating," said Wallace. The monohull is traditional, the Cat new. There are many things to be proved: It can go faster and is safe and sea worthy. We need a greater experience factor."

The crossing record of 9 days, 13 hours, 51 minutes, 2 seconds is the goal of the race co-sponsors, Ocean Racing Catamaran Association, Outrigger Canoe Club, Waikiki Yacht Club and Seal Beach, Calif. Yacht Club.



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\*If replacement is ever nec