

Tahiti, Can

Molokai-to-

Over 200 paddlers and 34 entries, some from as far as Tahiti and Canada, will compete in the Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race, the granddaddy of long-distance racing.

The 50-mile race, one of the most exciting events in the Aloha Week festivities, will begin at sunrise from Hale O Lono Harbor and end at Wai-kiki's Fort DeRussy at around 1 to 1:30 p.m.

The bulk of the entries will come from Hawaii's two canoe associations, the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association and the Hui Wa'a & Surfing Association.

Their competition will come mainly from 10 entries from Tahiti, whose streamlined canoes were banned from the competition this year, and one from Canada, the first ever to enter and the winner of the Hyack Festival Canoe Race in Canada.

The main Hawaii Clubs should be Kailua, Hui Nalu and Outrigger, which aroused some controversy with its victory last year as many claimed Outrigger's boat didn't meet the Hawaiian design specifications.

In 1976, the Tahitians ended Hawaii's 24-year domination of the race, and in fine style, taking the first four places. Approximately three miles back was Hawaii's first finisher.

Each team will consist of nine paddlers, six of whom are allowed in the canoe at any given time. After the first half hour of the race, rotation of paddlers can begin. The race is usually won or lost while rotating as substitutes hope to replace their tired comrades without disrupting the rhythm of the stroke.

Each team's three relief paddlers will ride in an escort boat nearby. The boat will also carry the team coach and an inspector to see that all rules and regulations are followed.