

OHCRA, Hui Wa'a Races Set

The waters on both sides of Oahu will be bustling with paddling activity when the two canoe associations hold their respective Oahu championships Sunday.

Hui Nalu, celebrating its 75th anniversary, will be out to defend its Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association title when the koa canoes hit the water at 8:30 a.m. at Keehi Lagoon while Na Keiki O Ka Mo'i is heavily favored to supplant Lo'a as Hui Wa'a and Surfing Association champion after the 8 a.m. start at Kaneohe Bay on the Marine Corps Air Station.

Giving Hui Nalu a run for the Oahu title will be perennial powers Outrigger Canoe Club and Healani, along with the surprisingly strong Kailua Canoe Club.

Hui Nalu has won two regatta titles this season, as has OCC. Kailua, the Kamehameha Day regatta winner, was leading last Sunday's regatta at Waimanalo when it was called because of darkness.

The final two events—men's and women's seniors—will open Sunday's activities at 7 a.m. to determine the overall winner with Kailua at 51 points, Hui Nalu at 47 and OCC, 41.

The winners of Sunday's 29 events will gain automatic berths for the Hawaiian Racing Canoe Association's state championships, Aug. 13, also at Keehi Lagoon. Oahu clubs will also be given three other lanes in each race, based on the season's overall performance, for the competition against the Neighbor Island clubs.

At Kaneohe, Ka Mo'i puts its six-regatta winning streak on the line as it attempts to continue its Hui Wa'a dominance this season. Also in the running will be powerhouse Lo'a, Lokahi, Kaneohe and Waikiki Beach Boys.

"I'm expecting a close run for the championship," said Peter Apo, president of the Hui Wa'a and Surfing Association.