

# Hui Nalu triumphs in record time

By Andy Yamaguchi  
*Advertiser Staff Writer*

The morning sun had not yet turned blistering and most of the 40.8-mile voyage lay ahead.

But when the women of Hui Nalu took a big, early lead in yesterday's Na Wahine O Ke Kai — the women's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race — many of them had a feeling the race was already over.

"I knew it before mid-channel," Denise Darval said. "We couldn't see the next canoe — we could barely see its auxiliary boat."

Hui Nalu was simply out of sight all day, winning the fourth Na Wahine O Ke Kai in a record 6 hours, 33 minutes, 7.9 seconds. The previous record of 6:35:14 was set by Outrigger in the inaugural race in 1979.

It was the second consecutive Na Wahine victory for Hui Nalu, a Hawaii Kai club.

Off Shore of Newport Beach, Calif., was second in 6:45:31.5. Outrigger was third, Kailua fourth and Napili of Maui fifth.

All 17 crews finished on a perfect day for a Kaiwi Channel crossing. Swells ran about four feet — half as high as last year, when Off Shore's borrowed koa canoe was tossed and



Advertiser photo by Greg Yamamoto

Hui Nalu's canoe got a greeting from a boatload of supporters (mast and banner at bottom of photo) as it passed Diamond Head en route to first place in the women's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

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