

Queen Liliuokalani race is crew-crowded

By Liz Ambrose
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Padding

KAILUA — Get ready for a crowd this weekend — especially if you're in the water.

Paddlers from Hawaii, the Mainland and as far away as Canada will compete in the 18th annual Queen Liliuokalani Championship Long Distance Race here tomorrow and Sunday.

The race, chosen by the American Canoe Racing Association as the National Championship Race.

"This race draws more clubs than any other race, even the Molokai Hoe," Moku O Hawaii Secretary Maile Mauhili said yesterday. Last year 120 crews competed — 52 women and 68 men.

The two-day event begins tomorrow with the "Wa'a Kau-

kahi" or the single hull event.

There are two races each day. The women start the competition at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Leaving Kailua Pier they will paddle for a grueling 18 miles to Honaunau Bay. The men paddle the same distance, 30 minutes after the end of the women's race, bringing the boats back from Honaunau Bay to Kailua Pier.

There are four different divisions in each race. The men/women, the masters, senior masters and ironmen/ironwomen.

Except for the ironmen/ironwomen race the crews are made up of nine paddlers. Six paddlers are in a canoe at any one time and three relief paddlers in a

"chase boat."

The exchanges take place while the canoe is moving. Three paddlers are dropped off in the water in front of their canoe. When the canoe reaches the paddlers, three paddlers in the canoe roll out and the relief paddlers climb in.

In the ironmen/ironwomen race there are only six paddlers and no relief in sight.

Last year's results for the women were:

—Healani Canoe Club, first, in 2 hours, 13 minutes and 44.00 seconds.

—Outrigger CC, second, in 2 hours, 15 minutes and 15.59 seconds. OCC also still holds the record for the race, set in 1987, at 2:11:40.00.

—Kai E Hitu, third overall, first ironwomen and first Big Island, in 2:24:41.00.

Last year's results for the

men were:

—Outrigger CC, first, in 2:12:41.00. OCC holds the record, set in 1987, 2:08:37.

—Kailua CC (Oahu), second, in 2:18:44.00.

Kamehameha, third, in 2:19:12.00.

On Sunday, the Wa'a Kaulua or double-hull canoe race takes place. It involves 12 paddlers, no relief paddlers and covers a distance of 5½ miles. The women start the race at 9:30 a.m. at Kailua Pier and travel to Keauhou Bay. The men bring the boats back.

Last year's results for the Wa'a Kaulua were:

—Women's race: 1. Heaulani CC, 2. Marina Del Ray CC (California) and Hanalei CC, 3. Kai E Hitu CC.

—Men's race: 1. Kamehameha CC, 2. Hanalei CC, 3. Lokahi.