

Oahu paddler

Star-Bulletin staff

Paddlers from Lanikai, Outrigger and Hui Nalu canoe clubs will compete in this weekend's Hamilton Cup, a 28-mile canoe race around five of the Whitsunday Islands in Australia.

The race, considered by many as the most challenging in the world, uses six-man crews with three relief paddlers making open water crew changes during the course of the event. Also entered this year are teams from Australia, New Zealand and California, including defending Hamilton champion Offshore of California.

Competing for Lanikai are: Jim Foti, Paul Graham, Kala Judd, Rich Lambert, Jason McMurray, Bobby Nottage, Kevin and Vincent Olds and Michael Smith.

Outrigger, which finished third last year, will be represented by Bruce Black, Tom Conner, Kainoa Downing, Bruce Eliashof, Geoff Graff, Walter Guild, Chris Kincaid, Mark Sandvold and Courtney Seto.

Hui Nalu and Outrigger will combine for a masters crew. The team includes Henry Ayau, Mark Buck, Bill Danford, John Finney, Kala Kukea and Tom McKeague.

Alfred Ho and Judd will be competing in the surfski portion of the three-day event. Also making the trip is Toots Minville, considered the father of the men's Molokai-to-Oahu race and the founder of the International Hawaiian Canoe Association.