

For immediate release the secretary

June 27, 1992

Paddlers from the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association will head for Waikiki Beach on Saturday, the 4th of July, for the 50th annual Walter J. Macfarlane Regatta. Opening ceremonies begin at 8:15 a.m., with competition getting underway at 8:45 a.m.

The Macfarlane Regatta, sponsored by the Outrigger Canoe Club, is the longest running canoe race in Hawaii, having its start on July 4, 1943.

Competitors from the 14 active OHCRA clubs will compete in the 30 regular events, plus two special events—a relay and a makule (oldtimers) race at the end of the program.

Clubs will be given the option of racing in fiberglass canoes to prevent damage from the surf to their prized koa canoes. Open steersmen will be allowed to help canoes catch waves. This is the only wave race on the OHCRA schedule.

Paddlers from some of the early Macfarlane crews from the '40s have been invited to a VIP tent which will be set up on the beach in front of the Moana Hotel to remininsce about the races during World War II when prizes included pigs, chickens and pineapples.

The Macfarlane Regatta is sponsored each year by the Outrigger Canoe Club in memory of its late president, Walter J. Macfarlane, a native Hawaiian businessman, legislator and sportsman. The Macfarlane family is still active in the race today. Walter's niece, Alice Flanders Guild, will present trophies at the end of the day, and his grandniece, Di Guild, is Outrigger's head canoe racing coach this year. Her brother, Walter Guild, will be steering OCC crews and paddling.

Competition is expected to be keen between the clubs. Outrigger has won the regatta the past eight years, but during regular OHCRA regattas this year, Kailua has come up the winner three times to OCC's one victory. Strong competition is also expected from Hui Nalu, Healani and Waikiki Surf Club.

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