

Lokahi, Outrigger out to defend titles

Star-Bulletin staff

Pride and juggling crews for top performance will play important roles in this weekend's championship regattas for Oahu's two outrigger canoe association at Ke-ehi Lagoon.

Lokahi Canoe Club is looking to defend its Hui Wa'a Association title tomorrow, beginning at 8:30 a.m., while Outrigger Canoe Club gears up to defend its state title for a fifth time in Sunday's Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, also at 8:30 a.m.

Both associations allow for

crews to be moved up in categories and paddle more than one race during the day, which has made for interesting finishes in previous championships. The winners of each race automatically qualify for the Aug. 6 state championships with the final three spots going to the top three crews based on overall performance during the season.

Lokahi's major competition should again come from Ka Mo'i, as the Waianae-based club plans to move up enough crews during the race to be classified as AAA

(18-30 crews) division. Lokahi, which has won all seven AAA regatta titles this season, lost its only overall regatta title a month ago to Ka Mo'i, a AA (11-18 crews) division competitor all season.

Outrigger's major opposition will be from Kailua, which won the first four regattas of the OHCRA season. But OCC is on a roll, having won the last two regattas; the Waikiki-based club points to winning its own Macfarlane Regatta on the Fourth of July as the key to establishing momentum during the final month of racing.