

Athletic Committee Report

By George Wessberg, Club Captain

The 2006 Athletic Committee consisted of ten sports and fitness subcommittees. All subcommittee chairs functioned within their proposed operating budgets. It is noteworthy that the Canoe Racing subcommittee was \$16,000 under budget and they raised approximately \$7,000 to purchase equipment for their growing program. The Volleyball subcommittee raised funds to support travel to the Junior Nationals.

The metrics by which the Board of Directors measures the success of the Athletic Committee emphasize member participation and competitiveness, especially in volleyball and canoe racing.

Again this past year, more than 10 percent of our members participated in Club sponsored athletic programs or sports events. The volleyball program is active and competitive in national competitions. Three of our junior members were selected for the national team. The favorable changes within the Canoe Racing program continued to attract more of our paddlers to return home. There were approximately 330 members registered for the regatta and distance seasons.

Our elite athletes performed admirably in distance canoe racing, volleyball, surfing, paddleboard and one-man competitions at the state, national and international levels. We also noted an increase in participation within our upper division men and women as well as our Masters canoe racing programs, largely due to the quality of our head coaches, Ian Forester and John Puakea. Both of these gentlemen are returning for the 2007 season.

The Boat Locker Task Force Chair Walter Guild and OC1/Kayak Chair Anthony Hunt planned and implemented a long-overdue reorganization of the canoe, surfski and surfboard lockers and rental agreements. This extraordinary effort virtually eliminated the 90 person waiting list for canoe and surfski lockers.

I thank our Assistant Club Captain, Kisi Haine for her enthusiastic support, Coordinating Director Brad Waggener for his advocacy and guidance; Bill Comstock, Gordon Smith, Don Isaacs and the extraordinary OCC staff for their cooperation and support.

I'd also like to thank the dedicated members of our committee, Jen Bossert and Byron Ho, Canoe Racing, Mark Jackola, Surfing, Dolan Eversole, Beach & Water Safety, Dennis Blake, Swimming, Chris Crabb, Volleyball, Katy Bourne, Running, Frank Kingery and Phil Sevier, Golf, Anthony Hunt, OC-1/Surfski, Eric Rhodes, Paddleboard, and Phil Whitney, Fitness, for their invaluable contributions of time and talent.

We thank Byron Ho, Anthony Hunt, Phil Whitney and Eric Rhodes for their service and welcome new members Billy Philpotts, OC-1/Surfski, Arnold Lum and Carolyn Corrigan, Fitness Center, Ken Bailey and Kanesa Duncan, Paddleboard, Wink Arnott, Vice-Chair Canoe Racing, and Jim Wienke, Co-Chair Swimming to our committee for 2007.

Kisi and I sincerely thank the members of Outrigger Canoe Club for your patience and support last summer when our enthusiastic paddling program overwhelmed the Club facilities and staff. We assure you that the majority of our paddlers will be back at the Ala Wai Canal for the 2007 season.

Finally, we thank Domie Gose for the wisdom and craftsmanship he demonstrated by the refurbishing of the *Kaoloa*. It will be the fastest and most beautiful *koa* canoe at the State Championships in August.