

Surf Ski Designer Visits OCC

Hayden Kenney, Australian designer of the Surf Ski kayak, visited the Club and watched his 17-year-old son, Grant, win the Kanaka 'I Kai Ka Molokai-Oahu race for the second consecutive year. The elder Kenney also was present a week earlier when his son won the alternate race held when heavy seas forced postponement of the Molokai-Oahu classic.

Kenney designed the 19-foot, 40-pound fiberglass Surf Ski in 1970 to Australian Surf Lifesaving Association standards. While snow skiing in Utah in 1979, Kenney heard about the Molokai-Oahu kayak race, and the same year, Grant entered and won in a record 5½

hours.

Young Kenney is former Australian national Iron Man champion . . . a competition similar to our Triathlon. It encompasses paddle surfboarding, swimming, paddle skiing and ends with a run on the beach. A big event "Down Under," Kenney says it actually originated in California.

The Surf Ski is now being manufactured locally by Mark Buck, who foresees a series of kayak events held locally throughout the year. "With kayaks' low cost, easy portability and paddling enjoyment, the sport has to take off here in the Islands," Buck said.