

New Racing Canoe is the *Helumoa*

By *Kawika Grant*

Cline Mann, as we old-timers remember, was a stickler for everything representative of the Outrigger Canoe Club. That extended to the names given our canoes. He insisted they be dignified, and preferably honor some aspect of the Club and its history.

In keeping with "The Mann's" guidance, our new six-man fiberglass racing canoe has been named the *Helumoa*. It was blessed on May 26 by the Reverend Curt Kekuna.

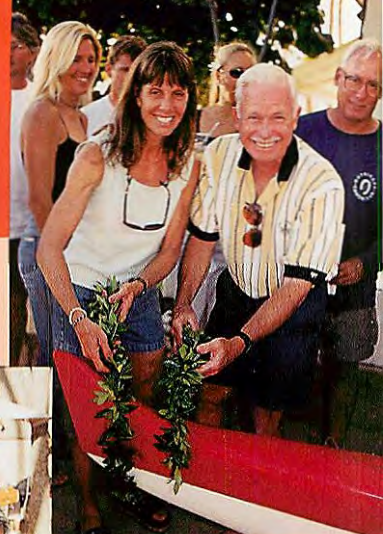
Helumoa was the the huge royal coconut grove that fronted the ocean at Waikiki where the Royal Hawaiian Hotel stands today. Its eastern boundary was 'Apuakehau Stream. It was on the banks of this stream, beneath the trees of Helumoa that the first Outrigger Canoe Club was built.

The unusual name—literally CHICKEN SCRATCH—comes from Hawaiian mythic history. The legendary chief of O'ahu, Kakuhihewa, was said to have planted the first tree at the spot where he saw the wizard rooster of Palolo Valley, Ka'auhelema, suddenly appear and begin scratching the earth.

When first described in the nineteenth century, Helumoa could be seen for miles around, consisting of thousands of trees stretching 'ewa from 'Apuakehau to what is now Lewers Street.

Adjacent Helumoa Road still perpetuates the name.

King Kamehameha V, who owned Helumoa, had a residence there—a beach cottage nestled among the endless, neatly-spaced rows of soaring coco palms. Of all these many trees only a few still survive to this day—in the mauka garden of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. I think land surveyor and historian Cline would be very pleased with naming this canoe *Helumoa*.



Racing Canoe Committee chair Paula Crabb and President Hal Henderson drape a maile lei on the *Helumoa*



Barry Yap and Paki Vaughn sang, *Kaimanahila* in the late afternoon ceremony.

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OCC's 2001 coaches gather around the *Helumoa* after the blessing. Front, Katy Bourne, Jana Anakaki and Kisi Haine. Standing, Paula Crabb, George Wessberg, Liz Perry, Andrew Glatzel, Club Captain Bill Danford, Anne Marie Mizuno, President Hal Henderson, Jaren Hancock, Kehau Kali and Mike Town.

The Rev. Curt Kekuna blessed the *Helumoa* with many paddlers in attendance.