

Return of Two OCC Canoes to

By Kawika Grant

On Saturday, June 6 at 4 p.m. be on the Club beach to celebrate the return of two old friends to OCC, the newly restored koa racing canoe *Kakina*, and a new fiberglass racing canoe to bear the proud name *Manu 'Ula*.

Kakina has undergone an extensive restoration to bring it into compliance with the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's latest specs for koa racing canoes. This involved the removal of all man-made materials to return the canoe to an all-wood condition. This also gave our two in-house master craftsmen Domie Gose and Billy Yasay the opportunity to bring out the full beauty of *Kakina's* koa wood heart. She's a stunner, folks! All Outrigger members can take pride in this beautifully restored canoe carrying our colors into racing competition.

The original *Manu 'Ula* was built in 1977 as a response to the fast canoe the Tahitians had used in winning the Molokai Hoe the preceding year. Created by Tommy Conner in his backyard at Black Point, it was truly a work in progress, all kinds of materials going into its construction, foam, fiberglass, wood, you name it... and liberal quantities of that most ubiquitous material of a hand-craftsman's stock in trade - Bondo!!

Originally built to 43 feet in length, the canoe had to be reduced to 38 feet - the first of many modifications to comply with HCRA's ever-changing rules defining what constitutes a Hawaiian racing canoe. In its shortened state for that October 16, 1977 rematch with the Tahitians, *Manu 'Ula* was triumphant with a time of 5 hours 55 minutes. Oh, how times have changed!! The winning crew consisted of Tommy Conner, Mark Buck, John Finney, Timmy Guard, Colin Perry, Ed Pickering, Marshall Rosa, Jay West and Brant Ackerman steering.

Manu 'Ula went on to carry Outrigger to another Molokai Hoe championship in 1979. With a new *Manu 'Ula* once again gracing Outrigger's beach, could a three-peat be in the offing?

P.S.: The original *Manu 'Ula*, remodeled by Joe Quigg back to 44 feet (very close to the standard length of fiberglass racers today) is still alive and well to this day, and living on Kauai. You just can't keep an old warrior down!