



**Willing hands lift the new canoe over the beach
The Kaiolokea reaches its element, the waters of Waikiki
And now the shakedown cruise, captained by Duke Kahanamoku and her builder, Coach George Downing.**

Pics by Billy Howell

KAILOKEA IS LAUNCHED

On April 7, after about three months of building by Coach George Downing, the beautiful canoe Kaiolokea, "White Rolling Sea," was launched Hawaiian style with fitting ceremonies. Gathered for the simple but impressive launching were many OCC old-timers, who, like the Hawaiians of old, show reverence to the new canoe which means so much in their lives.

Eva Pomroy, dressed in holoku, said the following prayer:

God, Bless this Canoe . . .

You are the master of this canoe . . .

*Keep it safe in all kinds of
weather . . .*

*When she rides out in that big blue
ocean, . . .*

*Bring all whoever, is on her safely,
to shore . . .*

*And, let it sail happily over all
kinds of wave . . .*

*May Love, and Peace, be with her
always.*

Amen

All present bowed while the prayer was pronounced. Following prayer, Eva christened the canoe "Kaiolokea" and struck its prow with a coconut, pouring its milk on it. Then followed the launching and the trial run captained by Duke P. Kahanamoku and George Downing.

The canoe is about 28 feet in length and made of fiber glass, one of a fleet of some 25 such canoes. These canoes are formed on a mould with fiber glass cloth and plastic resin. These canoes are claimed to be much lighter in weight than the hollowed out koa wood canoes, will not crack or leak and are lower in cost of upkeep. Such canoes are not accepted for use in canoe racing due to their lightness as a like canoe in wood weighs from 650 to 700 pounds, while the fiber glass type weighs in at about 400 pounds.

Fittings such as seats, the iakos and amah and the gunnels and paddles are all of wood. The canoe has two waterproof air chambers which ensure its safety against sinking. Coach and master canoe builder George Downing has done a job of master craftsmanship in building this red and white beauty of Waikiki and is to be congratulated. His was truly a labor of love and love's labor was not lost.