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Ancient Isle Travel Revived

Eight canoe clubs are entered in the annual Molokai-Oahu canoe race Sunday, Oct. 18.

The race starts at dawn at the Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai and ends at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at the Hilton Hawaiian Village around noon.

Since the outrigger canoe is the earliest mode of transportation used by the Hawaiians, it is only fitting the race take place during Aloha Week which attempts to revue much of

Hawaii's heritage. There are two classes of canoes entered in the race -koa and non-koa. The koa represents the original canoes used in ancient Hawaii and they were built from koa logs.

The non-koa canoes are of fiber glass.

Canoe clubs in the koa class are: Healani, Lanikai, Leeward Kai, Order of Kamehameha, Waikiki Surf and

Outrigger. In the non-koa class, the teams are Healani, Hui Nalu, Lanikai, Leeward Kai, Order of Kamehameha, Wai-kiki Surf and Marina Del Rey of California.

In 1969, the koa class winner was the Waikiki Surf Club and the fiber glass class winner was Lanikai Canoe Club. Time for the Waikiki Surf Club was six hours, 38 minutes and 26 seconds while the Lanakai Canoe Club made the 37-mille voyage in six hours,

56 minutes and six seconds.

This is one of the most demanding canoe races in the world because of the rough and trecherous waters of the Molokai Channel.

And, there are several rules, among them:

-- Each canoe must have a crew of six paddlers with an addition of three relief paddlers.

--Minimum weight, excluding the ama and iako (outrigger) is set at 400 pounds. -- No sails or other

artificial means of propulsion or bailing are permitted.

--Only wooden paddles shall be used in all koa canoes.

-- Each entry must have a convoy boat.