



Kauai Outrigger Association

P.O. Box 662014  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
info@koapaddler.org  
www.koapaddler.org

Member Clubs:

Hanalei Canoe Club  
Hokualele Canoe Club  
Kaiola Canoe Club  
Kawaikini Canoe Club  
Kilohana Canoe Club  
Koloa Canoe Club  
Kukui'ula Canoe Club  
Namolokama O Hanalei  
Niumalu Canoe Club  
Pu'uwai Canoe Club  
West Kauai Canoe Club

Aloha Hawaii paddlers,

On behalf of the Kauai Outrigger Association and the county of Kauai, we want to express in advance our excitement and appreciation for your participation in the state championships we are proud to be hosting in August 2019.

For anyone concerned about the logistics of this year's race, we want to make completely clear that facilities used in previous state regattas in Hanalei Bay will be open and accessible for this year's regatta.

We are working closely with the mayor and his staff as we plan for this event. Top county officials attend our meetings and are working closely with us to assure the regatta is a success. Kauai has only one opportunity every six years to host this regatta, and it is one of the largest events of any kind we ever have the opportunity to host. Its success is of extreme importance--not just to Kauai paddlers but county government, local businesses, and cultural practitioners.

All of you are aware Kauai experienced severe flooding in April 2018, with thousands on the North Shore struggling to return their lives to normal. Over the past year, we have had many discussions among all member canoe clubs over whether it would be feasible to host the regatta this year. At a meeting on April 19 to finalize these decisions, County representatives explained that Hanalei's infrastructure—including the newly improved Black Pot Beach park—will be open and ready to handle this event. After discussion, all eleven Kauai clubs agreed unanimously that the event should proceed in Hanalei as planned.

Since that meeting, a landslide forced the state to begin ongoing construction on the highway into Hanalei Bay. When construction was announced, the two clubs in Hanalei asked that the race be moved from Kauai. While we respect their concerns and deeply appreciate the support they so generously offer HCRA, KOA, and all paddlers on Kauai and beyond, the member clubs of KOA have committed to hosting the race as planned.

County and State Engineers have made the state race a top priority. All road construction will be paused for the entire weekend of the race, and county personnel will ensure a smooth flow of traffic and an orderly event.

This past Saturday we successfully held the Tai Hook Regatta hosted by Hanalei Canoe Club. The race had full participation from hundreds of youth and adult paddlers and everything went smoothly. We will be hosting two more regattas in Hanalei over the course of the summer leading up to state championships.



If any clubs have specific questions or concerns, feel free to directly contact any of the following people:

KOA President – Peter Chow 808-651-7298

KOA Race Director – Rocco April 808-634-2292

County Council Member – Luke Evslin 808-635-6623

See you on the water,

Dana Miyake

KOA Race Secretary