

The Hawai'i Va'a Association is pleased to invite all Hawai'i paddlers between the ages of 16 and 21 to the HVA Development Program. This program is designed to help Hawai'i's young paddlers achieve their highest potential in outrigger canoeing. The hope is that through this organization young paddlers will be exposed to a higher level of training and competition in Hawai'i and abroad.

Coaching and workout schedule will be provided by the HVA with the supervision of experienced coach and canoe builder Johnny Puakea. Training is rigorous and requires total commitment from all paddlers who choose to be involved. Workouts will consist of V1 and V6 practices as well as training outside of the canoe. Paddlers from all islands are invited to participate. The HVA will work with these athletes on an individual basis to provide V1 and cross training workouts. Please be aware in the summer months leading up to Hawaiiki Nui paddlers are expected to attend V6 practices on O'ahu.

Only paddlers between the ages of 16 and 21 are eligible for this opportunity. It is the HVA's hope that individuals will return to their respective canoe clubs after completing this program. These paddlers can then share their knowledge to help raise the level of Hawai'i paddling as a whole. This is not an "All Star Team" as we do not wish to disturb the club or high school team dynamic. HVA's Development Program is for young adult paddlers who wish to perform at the highest possible level on the biggest stage in outrigger canoe paddling. This team will not participate in the single day youth race held in conjunction with Hawaiiki Nui. The crew fielded will race in the three day Open Men's event. All paddlers will have an equal chance to make the crew bound for Tahiti regardless of experience.

The Hawai'i Va'a Association and its sponsors hope to offset most or all of the costs associated with traveling to and racing in Tahiti. Even with this support, fundraising maybe needed to make the trip to Hawaiiki Nui possible. All program paddlers are expected to participate in fundraising activities if needed.

An informational meeting for interested paddlers and parents is scheduled for 4:00pm Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Kawainui Park. See the attached map for directions. If you plan on attending, please email us at [hawaiivaa@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiivaa@gmail.com) with a number of people attending. Food and refreshments will be provided. Feel free to email us with any questions. Don't forget to bring your paddle to the meeting so you can jump in a V-1!

