

The 3rd Annual
Hennessey's International Paddleboard Championships
8 Miles From Turtle Bay Resort to Waimea Bay, North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii
Saturday, July 24th, 2004

An 8-mile middle distance race along the famous North Shore of Oahu, the \$10,000 Hennessey's International Paddleboard Championship attracts an international field of world class paddlers from the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Coming at the tail end of the local North Shore summer paddleboard series, the Hennessey's International is the longest sprint race of the season as well as an important precursor to the 32-mile Molokai to Oahu paddleboard race which follows one week later.

Competitors will set out from the North Shore's only 5-star hotel – the Turtle Bay Resort, and paddle westward along the coastline for a finish at Waimea Bay. The midway point is Sunset Beach, where paddlers come in close to shore for where they must round the 4-mile marker buoy. From there, it's non-stop to Waimea Bay where paddlers must make a final running sprint from the ocean to a finish line timer on the grassy edge of the park (approximately 50 meters).

The 8-mile paddle skirts the reefs of the North Shore that during the winter are home to waves of up to 50 feet. In the summer, strong Tradewinds can bring swells of 4-6 feet that make for a fast and exciting race. Paddling on boards that range between 12 and 16 feet in length, specifically designed for distance paddling, athletes apply ocean skills and paddling fitness to covering the distance and riding whatever Tradewind swells are on offer.

Monetary awards are offered to top individual finishers in both stockboard (12 feet) and open class (12 feet and over) divisions for the men, the one-class female stockboard division, as well as various age divisions, and an overall teams title that goes to the best performing team. Last year, the team's title was a hotly contested one between Australia, US Mainland, and Hawaii. Hawaii took the honors. This year we expect a heated competition in the team event between California and Hawaii.

An Awards Banquet with sit down dinner will follow the evening of the race at Waimea Falls Park.

The Hennessey's International Paddleboard Championship is sponsored by Hennessey's Taverns of California. A restaurant/bar chain with an Irish theme, Hennessey's have 10 tavern locations throughout California.

Hennessey's International Paddleboard Championships

- WHAT:** The 3rd annual \$10,000 8-mile Hennessey's International Paddleboard Championships, presented by Hennessey's Taverns. A total prize purse of \$10,000 will be awarded to the top three placing men in two classes and various age divisions, as well as the top three women. This is an open-ocean, nearshore race. Support boats, skiffs and lifeguard jetskis will offer water safety.
- WHEN:** Saturday, July 24, 2004. Start at 1:00pm. The racecourse will be officially closed three hours after the start.
- WHO:** The world's top paddlers from Australia, New Zealand, Mainland USA and Hawaii, including defending champions Jamie Mitchell & Hayley Bateup (Australia), New Zealand's f3 time ironman champion (Cory Hutchings), as well as Hawaii locals Chris Owens, Brian Rocheleau, Aaron Napoleon, Guy Pere, and Matt Barnet, Jimmy Austin, Kanesa Duncan, Buddy Shephard, and George Ramos.
- WHERE:** The start line will stretch out from in front of the Turtle Bay Resort. The finish line is located at the grassy edge of Waimea Bay Beach Park. Athletes must sprint from the shoreline to the finish line.

2003 WINNERS:

First overall Open Men	Jamie Mitchell, Australia	59 mins 59 secs
First overall Stockboard Men	Jimmy Austin, Hawaii	1:07:19
First place Women	Hayley Bateup, Australia	1:14:22

EQUIPMENT:

Paddleboards are streamlined surfboards designed to ride open ocean swells. They are paddled surfboard style in either prone or kneeling position. No paddles, oars, or webbed gloves are used. 12-foot stock paddleboards or open (unlimited) class boards over 12 feet (usually less than 18 feet and an average of 16 feet) are allowed.

RACE INFO:

For race information and race rules contact Dolan Eversole - Telephone: (808) 282-2273
Email: dolan@ikenanalu.com www.hennesseyspaddleboarding.com

MEDIA INFO:

Please contact Jodi Young - Ocean Promotion – Tel: (808) 258-8533
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Aloha!