

## 2008 INTERNATIONAL HAARI BOAT FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY – August 15

- 10 a.m. Shuttle Service begins. STAND AT THE STREET SIDE AND WATCH FOR THE YELLOW SCHOOL BUS. Shuttle circles hotel area on Banyan Drive to Bay Front Canoe area, Downtown Hilo (Mooheau Park) Bus Terminal , Wailoa State Park, hotel area.
- 10:30 a.m. Nago City Piichiku Paachiku team gather with Hilo Canoe Paddlers at Bay front Canoe area
- 12 noon Friendship Golf Tournament
- 1 p.m. Practice sessions for Haari Boat teams  
Reserve a practice time with Collins Tomei
- 3 p.m. Hawaii's World Heritage Festival at Mooheau Park  
Meio University Dance Group, Piichiku Paachiku team,  
Local Okinawan groups and other cultural groups will perform.  
Cultural exhibits and foods of different cultures will be available.
- 9:45 p.m. Last Shuttle back to hotel area

### SATURDAY – August 16

- 6 a.m. Shuttle Service begins. STAND AT THE STREET SIDE AND WATCH FOR THE YELLOW SCHOOL BUS. Shuttle circles hotel area on Banyan Drive to the Civic Auditorium area, stop at Piilani Street side (across Manono Mini-Mart), Wailoa State Park and reverse the route back to hotel area.
- 6:30 a.m. Parade participants gather at Pavilion #3 at the end of the parking lot. Teams gathered on time will be judged for the Costume Contest.
- 7:00 a.m. PARADE begins.
- 7:15 a.m. OPENING CEREMONY at Stage area between the large pavilion and large tents.  
RACES BEGIN!!!!  
SALES BEGIN: Concession(see when different items will go on sale), soft drinks, water, hot dogs, Andagi, Country Store and Okinawan Products.  
Okinawan Cultural Display will be ready for viewing.
- AWARDS: Prizes will be awarded as each DIVISION winner is determined so times will vary.
- SPECIAL HEAT: After the Race Divisions are completed, a special "Mayoral Race" of the three teams of Hawaii County Mayoral candidates, Friends of Billy Kenoi, Friends of Lorraine Inouye and Friends of Stacy Higa will compete.
- 2:30 p.m. ALOHA TO THE NAGO CITY DELEGATION!  
PUPU SOCIAL BEGINS – Let's celebrate with a fun social time.
- 9:45 p.m. Last Shuttle back to hotel area.

## History of Haari Boat Races in Hilo

By James Arakaki

The beginning of haari boat races in Hawaii started with a dream when members of the United Okinawan Association (UOA – now HUOA – Hawaii United Okinawa Association) went to Okinawa on a study tour and paddled in the Itoman Haari Boat race in 1986. On April 9, 1986 the Hawaii County Council approved a sister city resolution between Nago City and Hawaii County. On June 13, 1986 a delegation from Hilo joined the UOA tour to Nago to attend the sister city ceremony in Nago City. Ironically, Mayor Toguchi who started the sister city movement was replaced by Mayor Tetsuya Higa. John Tasato, who paddled in Okinawa never forgot his experience in Itoman and when he became chairman of the 90<sup>th</sup> Okinawan immigration celebration, he said, “Hilo should be the host city of a haari festival.” John suggested that James Arakaki go to Nago City and ask Mayor Higa to donate three sabani boats for this festival. In early 1989 Mel Kaneshiro and Arakaki joined Tasato to visit Mayor Higa to ask for the boats. Much to their surprise Mayor Higa asked how many boats they wanted. Arakaki replied that three were desired and Mayor Higa quickly agreed, much to the astonishment of Arakaki. Mayor Higa commissioned master boat builder, Renichi Oshiro, to build the boats with new lumber imported from mainland Japan. In mid 1989, they went to Okinawa again to arrange the shipment of the sabani boats on the Kaiho Maru, captained by Captain Shimoji. The Kaiho Maru sailed into Honolulu harbor on Sunday January 7, 1990, after a rough winter crossing of the Pacific. Captain Shimoji went to the hospital to check on his ulcers which flared up over his concern for the sabani boats. Captain Shimoji said he felt that he couldn't return to Okinawa if anything happened to the boats because he was sent

to deliver the boats by Governor Nishime. On Tuesday, January 9, 1990 the Kaiho Maru entered Hilo Harbor and on Wednesday January 10, Mayor Higa of Nago city, flew in special to present the three sabani boats to Mayor Bernard Akana of Hawaii Island. Governor Nishime of Okinawa sent a message and a flag of Okinawa. The boats were unloaded with much care to the relief of Captain Shimoji. On May 19, 1990 the sabani boats were first launched at Wailoa River and all Hui Okinawa members were invited to try it out. On August 18, 1990 the first Haari Boat race was held at Wailoa River. Mayor Higa sent his champion men and women teams along with talented youth sanshin and koto performers. The first haari festival was a blast with boats going around in circles because of the inexperience of the steersmen. The fun never ended as the party started before and after the races just like they do in Okinawa.

The sabani boat house was completed by the County in 1991 at the Liliuokalani Park and dedicated by Mayor Higa and Mayor Lorraine Inouye. Morris Nakaishi designed the plaque and became the loving care taker of the boats. The plaque appropriately describes the friendship and value of the boats in our sister city relationship: “On January 10, 1990 these sabani boats were given as a gift from the people of Nago City, Okinawa, whose Mayor was Tetsuya Higa, to the people of Hilo whose Mayor was Bernard Akana. May these sabani boats bridge our friendship between two seaside cities: Nago City and Hilo City. May the people of Hilo enjoy the safety from the sea and its bountiful harvest.”

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the Hui Okinawa 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet.

# The 2008 HAARI BOAT FESTIVAL TEAM PROFILES

## PIICHIKU PAACHIKU from Nago City, Okinawa

"Our team is good at enjoying so please be friends!" This is the team to be watching as they boast of being organized ten years ago from Nago City and have been earnestly paddling the haari boat (sabani) since. Captain Ritsuko Tasaki of the team says her paddlers are from 20s to 40s and they selected the tiny and cutest person to be the "gong person". Their main purpose of being a team is to enjoy fellowship and refreshment (alcohol) after paddling.



## GO! ya team

### from all over the State

"Steer clear!" The GO! ya team (not to be confused with the go! Aircraft) is warning other Haari boaters. Troy Sakihara, a Hiloan, is captain and the team is comprised of members of the 2007 HUOA (Hawaii United Okinawa Association) Leadership Tour to Okinawa in which Troy was a participant. Family and friends of the group fill the team. The leadership team coordinates and participates in various HUOA functions throughout the year to share and perpetuate the Okinawan culture. This novice and rookie team has not had much practice but they say, "first or last, we'll be happy when we cross the finish line."



## Yomitan Club from Oahu

"Watch Out! Here we come" is the message to other race teams. A "62-year-young" person is among the 10 paddlers and 1 gong person who was selected because she is most petite. But best of all, being in the marching band and team captain for the color guard, she has rhythm and great vocal cords. The mixed team is made up of five males and six females which is captained by Ronlynn Arakaki. The Yomitan Club was founded in Nov. 11, 1986, the

## TEAM PROFILES, continued

bond has strengthened after meeting their relatives and making a connection to their "roots". The team has participated in the Haari Boat Races in 1992, 200 and 2002 and want to keep this as a tradition and want to continue to create more memories.

### Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko team from Hilo

The Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko team has been giving taiko performances throughout the years, receiving many accolades, but Captain Aina Dudoit says the drummers now want to experience a different aspect of the Okinawan culture...the paddling of the Haari Boat in the Haari Boat Festival. The goal of the Taiko group is to take a trip to Okinawa and to appreciate the Okinawan culture more.



### Crew Okuma Chu from all over: Okinawa, Oahu, Maui and Hilo

From the Crew Okuma Chu team to the other crews: "Don't paddle too hard!" The Crew Okuma team was organized to get family, friends and to allow a friend, Mori Oyama, a graduate of University of Hawaii-Hilo, returning from Naha, Okinawa to paddle in the Haari Boat races. The gonger will be Stella Okuma, the matriarch of the Okuma family who will be 85 in November and

enjoys Okinawan activities on Oahu. The steersperson is her youngest son Glenn who has been helping teach the volunteer steerspeople for this Hilo event. He paddled with the Itoman Haari Boat Club along with Mori and Ellen Okuma in 2005. Several paddlers have paddled for the University of Hawaii-Hilo Canoe team including Aki Miyazato originally from Okinawa and attended Hawaii Community College. Puna Canoe Club paddler, Kevin Kaluna and Lisa Adams, a UHH graduate student, have learned to paddle the haari boat in Okinawa.

### Island Therapeutic Massage from Hilo

Junko McDonald, captain of the Island Therapeutic Massage team, says that they are mostly Massage therapists from Puna and Hilo. Three of the crew are teenagers and one friend is an astronomy expert working at a Mauna Kea Observatory, a very mixed group.

They're confident enough to say "You can put our name on the trophy right now! J"

### Friends of Dennis Onishi from Hilo

The team of "Friends of Dennis "Fresh" Onishi" is entering the Haari Boat Races for community involvement. Dennis is a Democratic candidate for the County Council District 4.

## Hui Okinawa Team Chibaryo from Hilo

Hui Okinawa is one of the largest non-profit cultural clubs on the Big Island and among Okinawan clubs throughout the state. At the direction of President Patti Taira-Tokuuke the team was formed; after all, Hui Okinawa is the sponsors of the Haari Boat Festival and caretakers of the sabani (haari boats).

Ages of paddlers range from 20 something to 60 something. A few paddlers are experienced paddlers and some have paddled in the races held in 2002. They are hoping by positive thinking, great rhythm and a few experienced paddlers, they will win. Their message to the other race teams: "Mensore (welcome) to all our visiting teams, especially Nago City's team. Watch out HUOA teams, we could just win this."

## Rubber Ducks from Hilo

Captain Ricky Toyama organized the Rubber Ducks team purely for enjoyment and the camaraderie it encourages. They have always enjoyed paddling in races as novice paddlers. Some members have paddled as members of Team Arakaki's championship team a LONG time ago; most have paddled in at least one previous Haari Boat race. They want to have fun and a time for renewing old friendships and making new ones.

## Young Okinawans of Hawaii from Oahu

The Young Okinawans of Hawaii is a cultural club on Oahu who pertuates the Uchinanchu culture and spirit. In that spirit this year's team members have never seen, first hand, let alone participated in the haari boat races although other YOH have participated in previous races. They think it's a great opportunity to work together as a team

and have fun doing it! They hope the muscles they've developed playing Eisa taiko will help us finish the race... without anyone falling out of the boat!

## **COSTUME CONTEST FOR ALL TEAMS IN THE HAARI BOAT RACES**

All teams are asked to be at Wailoa State Park by 6:30 a.m. close to PAVILION 3 (at the end of the parking lot) in COSTUME.

### **CATEGORIES FOR CONTEST:**

- MOST UNUSUAL
- MOST ATTRACTIVE
- MOST UCHINANCHU

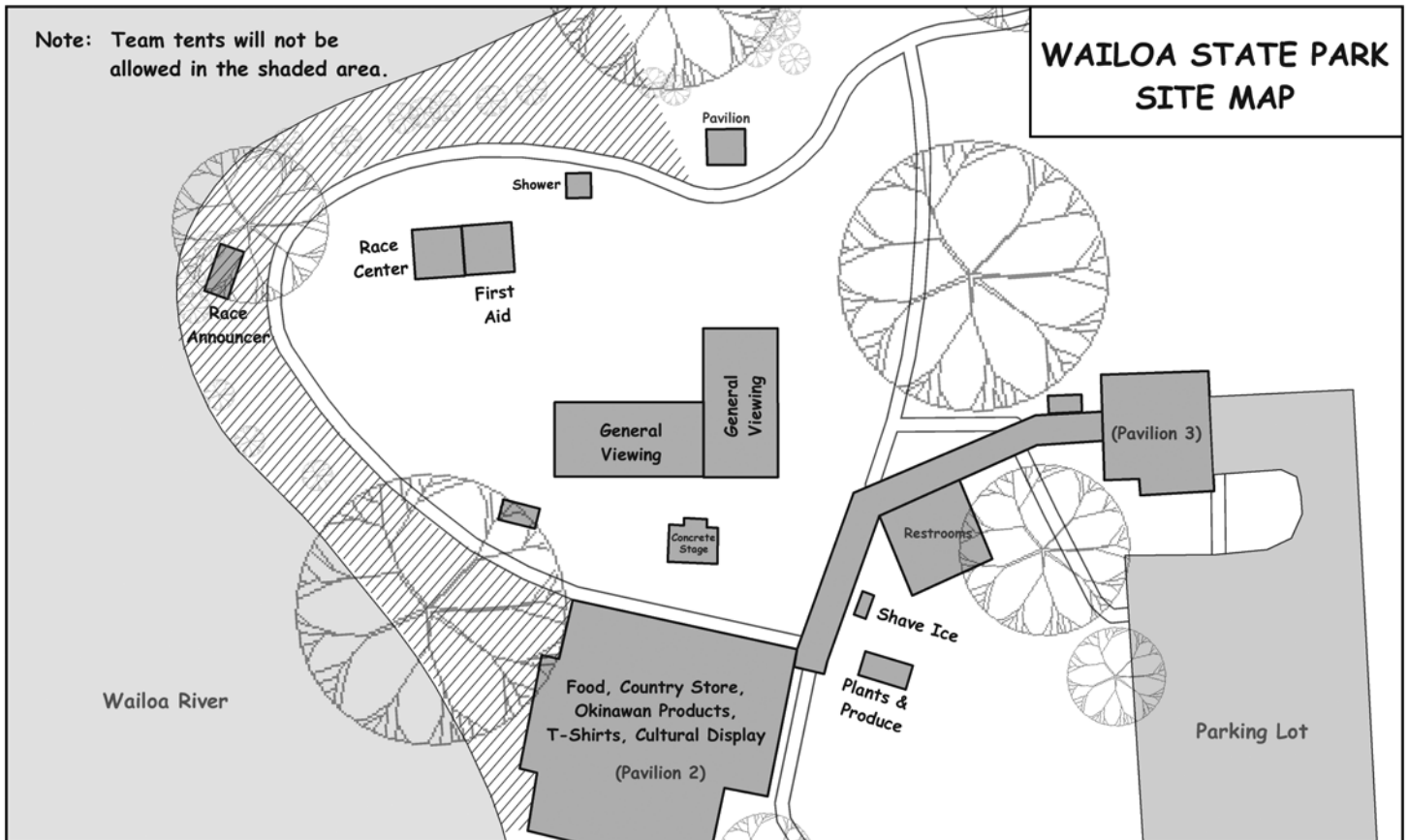
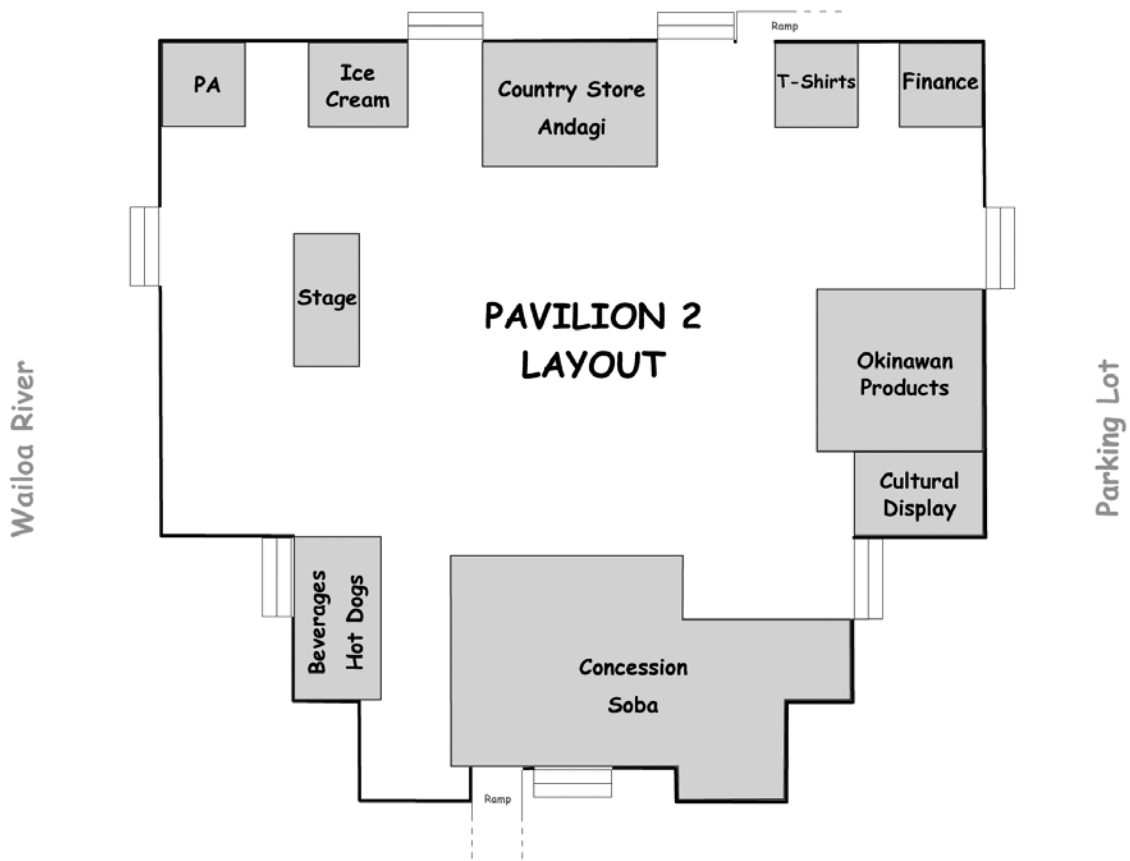
Prizes will be awarded to the first place winners of each category.

If you have questions, please email Elaine at [ecohilo@hotmail.com](mailto:ecohilo@hotmail.com) or Betty at [hibettyboop2@yahoo.com](mailto:hibettyboop2@yahoo.com)



## **REMINDER . . .**

**REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR  
PUPU SOCIAL order to  
Elaine Yamaguchi at  
[Elaine\\_yamaguchi@hotmail.com](mailto:Elaine_yamaguchi@hotmail.com)  
or call her at 345-1922  
It's \$10 for Pupus and soft drinks.  
BYOB.  
Children under 10 are free.**



# 2008 HAARI BOAT RACE WAILOA STATE PARK HILO, HAWAII

## Free Shuttles

Date/Time	Route
Friday, Aug. 15 - 10 am to 10 pm	Hotel area, Mooheau Park, Canoe Practice Area, Wailoa State Park
Saturday, Aug. 16 - 6 am to 10 pm	Hotel area, Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium, Wailoa State Park

*Hilo Bay*

Naniiloa Volcanoes Resort

Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Mooheau Park

Canoe Practice Area

Wailoa State Park

Additional Parking

Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium

To Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

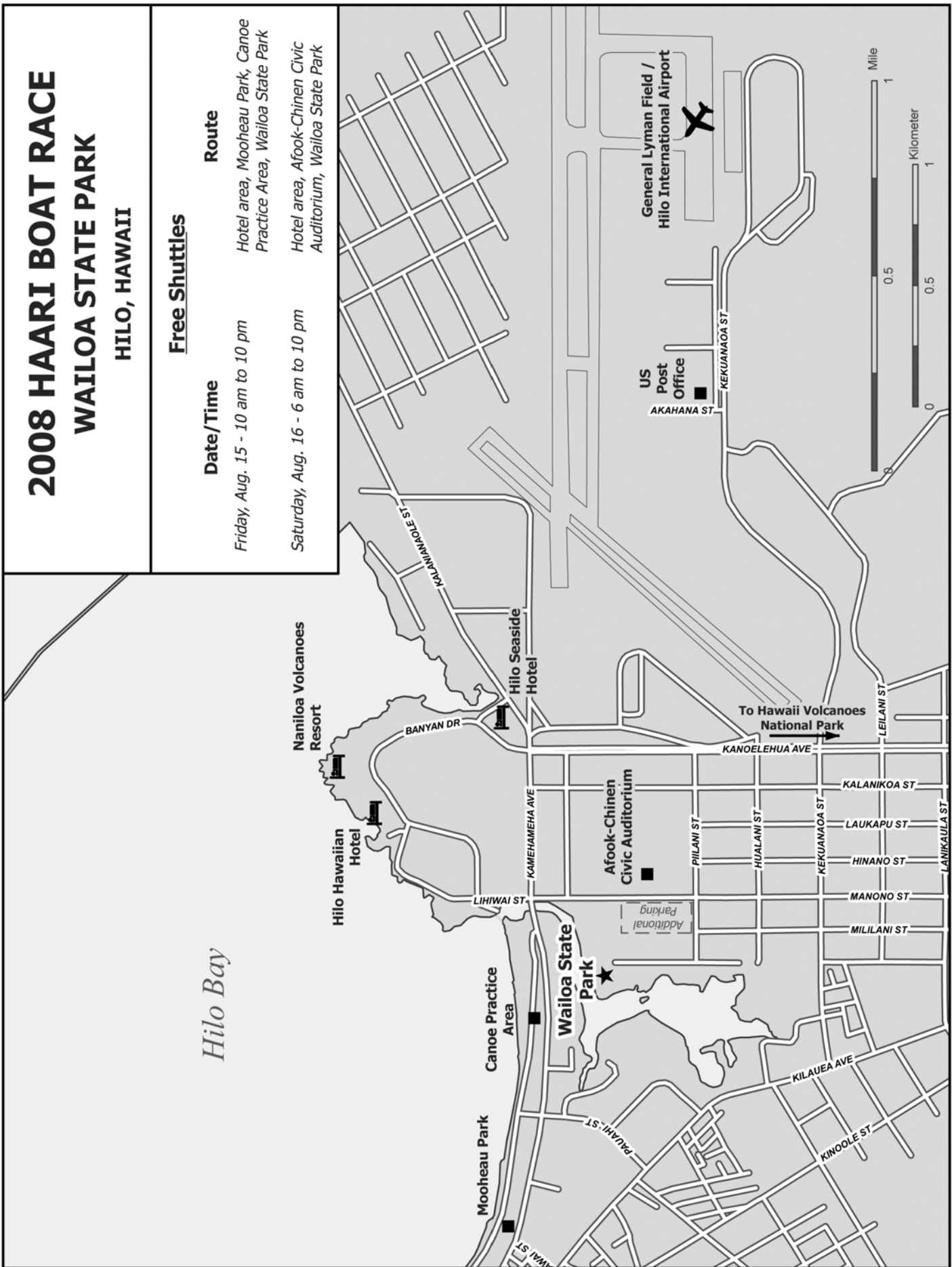
Hilo Seaside Hotel

US Post Office

General Lyman Field / Hilo International Airport

Mile

Kilometer



**WHAT'S TO EAT and DRINK**  
**Saturday, Race Day**  
**Main Pavilion**

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - Hot Coffee and One Andagi  
SALES BEGIN AFTER OPENING CEREMONY

Spam Musubi

Okinawan Soba

Bento lunches

Ice Cold Drinks • Water

Pepsi • Diet Pepsi

Milk 2%

Orange Juice • POG Nectar • Lemon Iced Tea

Hot Coffee

Hot Dogs • Gourmet Kim Chee Hot Dog • Chili Dogs

Ice Cream

Country Store Packaged goods

Manju, Cookies, Miscellaneous foods, Anda Insu

Andagi - package of 6

Hawaiian Crafts

Okinawan Products • Plants and Produce

Ice Shave – on the lawn area

READY AT 8:30 A.M.: Plate lunches

Shoyu Pork & Cabbage, Honey Stung Chicken

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**THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:**

Hawaii Tourism Authority, County of Hawaii R&D, Councilmen Stacy Higa, Donald Ikeda, J Yoshimoto, Big Island Candies, Creative Arts Hawaii, KTA Super Stores, Hawaii Printing Corp., Hilo Printers, Big Island Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Tribune Herald, Hui Okinawa members, and many friends.

IPPEI NIHEI DEBIRU!