Keauhou Canoe Club offers Paddle-Out Ceremonies to the KCC Ohana

This is an update to the KCC "Celebration at Sea" and "Memorial" Ceremonies. It was approved in August 2025, and September 2026.

Keauhou Canoe Club offers the opportunity to participate in the long-held tradition of a paddle out to longer-term members in good standing and their ʻohana.

What is a Paddle-Out Ceremony?

A Paddle Out is an ocean-based ceremony containing a mix of spiritual, metaphysical, and ritual actions that acknowledge, remember, and celebrate a fallen paddler or ohana member. A Paddle Out honors connection and separation, departure and continuity.

Keauhou Canoe Club can host your family for a canoe-based Paddle-Out Ceremony. We can frame the Paddle-Out around your family's needs.

We are respectful of Hawaiian tradition and the EPA 3-mile limit when we release ashes.

The Ceremony

For a Paddle-Out ceremony, the club provides canoes, paddles, safety jackets, experienced steersmen, and lead paddlers. Families can bring flowers for a floral lei on the water. We have many baskets to hold your loose flowers. Please cut lei strings and remove flowers from strings before putting them into the water to keep the marine life safe.

Our club is an ʻohana waʻa. Families and guests are expected to help with launching, paddling, and returning the canoes to the beach. Other club members may sometimes participate in your paddle if the family is open to it. We welcome you.

In the past families have brought clergy, a chanter, hula groups, or musicians to assist with their Paddle-Out Ceremony. The halau has no electricity.

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Extended family and friends can watch the ceremony via the Outrigger Hotel on the Keauhou Bay webcam if they cannot attend in person. The webcam is located at: This Link.

A Paddle-Out Ceremony takes about 30-40 minutes. Many families bring food and set up an event afterwards. If you get permission from the club first, you may borrow tents, tables, and chairs. After the event, you are expected to put the tents, tables, and chairs back, tidy up, and throw garbage away.

Who can participate

Paddle-Out Ceremonies may be hosted by Keauhou Canoe Club members who have been members for five years or more. Members may also sponsor someone in their ‘ohana to host a ceremony.

Requesting a Paddle-Out ceremony
To request a Paddle-Out Ceremony, email us at ContactKeauhouCanoeClub @gmail.com. A facilitator will reach out to you. The club typically needs 2 weeks to plan a Paddle-out Ceremony

Canoes
We have two double-hull outrigger canoes and many single-hull canoes.
• Keauhou Canoe Club provides paddles.
• Guests will be assigned to a double-hull canoe with an experienced steersperson and volunteers. Each double-hull canoe can accommodate up to 7 or 8 members of your party.
• If single-hull canoes are also used, each single hull can accommodate 3 guests and 3 experienced paddlers.

What happens during a paddle out?
Each guest must fill out and sign the 2025 Insurance Waiver, which can be downloaded from the website. There are also paper copies of the waiver available at the halau.
Before you come:

- You might want to bring flowers for the ceremony

When you arrive at the club in the morning:

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before the session starts.
- Size and select a paddle.

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- Select a safety vest (mandatory for insurance requirements)
- Demonstrate and review the basic stroke.
- Go over basic safety rules.

Keauhou Canoe Club is located on sacred Hawaiian ground, and respects the culture of outrigger paddling. Guest paddlers will receive an introduction to:

- Understanding the Sacred Grounds.
- Respecting mana in the canoe, by staying positive and using appropriate language.
- Being respectful to the Steersman, fellow paddlers and the canoes.
- Listening to and following directions from the steersman in seat 6.

Your facilitator will greet you and will bring you to the canoes. You will help to launch the canoes, and you will get into your seat.

Cost

KCC does not accept payment for a Paddle-Out Ceremony, but some have established or contributed to local scholarships, or made other donations.

For more information, see the Donations page on the Keauhou website.

If you have questions, email: contactkeauhoucanoeclub@gmail.com

Safety Requirements and Disclosures
All participants must meet basic safety and insurability requirements. These include:

• Ability to swim or float for survival.
• Being in reasonably good health and able to help with:
– Launching a canoe from land into the water
– Bringing a canoe back to shore
– Actively paddling while on the water

Facilities and Grounds
• The canoe launch area includes rocks, sand, gravel walkways, and steps. While the grounds are well maintained, they are natural surfaces and may be uneven.
• Keauhou Canoe Club is a canoe halau, not a public facility, and does not have ADA-accessible ramps, walkways, or railings. Volunteers will assist with launching and landing, and all participants are expected to take part in the process.

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• If a family member requires special accommodation, please let the event coordinator know in advance so arrangements can be made.

Keauhou Canoe Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to educate our youth, our membership, and the community at large about Hawaiian culture, values, and traditions, and to promote competitive and recreational outrigger paddling in historic Keauhou Bay.

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