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Victoria Cutor Elaine Stroup  
MAUI NEWS

AUG. 17 1986

## Hawaiians look to Pacific in search of an 'eroded' culture

By PETER O'LOUGHLIN  
The Associated Press

TOWNSVILLE, Australia — An exhibition of ancient Polynesian seafaring skills on display at the Pacific Festival of Arts marks a return to the Pacific by Hawaiians. Myron Thompson, leader of the Hawaiian delegation to the festival, said Monday.

Thompson, a trustee of the Bishop Estate which promotes cultural and educational advancement of native Hawaiians, said the exhibit also would spur the pride of other Polynesians in their culture.

"There's no question about it, there's a very strong desire by Hawaiians to return to the Pacific," said Thompson who is representing Hawaii Gov. John Waihee. "The Pacific represents our beginnings.

It's extremely important to us — for our past and for our future."

The Hawaiian exhibition, shown for the first time, consists of models of canoes and explains the skills of ancient Polynesian navigators.

It refutes arguments by some scholars that Polynesia was settled by people from the America's who drifted westward with the current.

It contains photographs and maps of the historic voyages of the twin-hulled canoe Hokule'a which has sailed 24,000 miles across the Pacific using ancient wayfinding techniques to prove the ancient stories were fact and not fable as some scholars have proposed.

A model of the Hokule'a, 60 feet long on the waterline and completely open, used no modern navigational devices on a series

of epic voyages to Tahiti, New Zealand, the Tuamotus, the Society Islands and Tonga, which began in 1976.

"This exhibit of Polynesian wayfinding has the cultural point of helping to find our identity," Thompson said. "It's about a voyage of rediscovery, correcting a lot of misconceptions and reinforcing some of the oral traditions of Polynesian people."

Thompson said his son, Nainoa, navigator of the Hokule'a, had studied 10 years of daily satellite photographs to check weather patterns against oral instructions handed down by generations of Polynesians.

Experts had said it was impossible to sail west to east against the prevailing trade winds, he said.

"It took him two years with modern

techniques to do what our ancestors took centuries to learn," he said.

The voyage of the Hokule'a has had a strong emotional impact on Polynesian countries like Tonga, Samoa, New Zealand and Tahiti where the names of the canoes ancestors arrived in are preserved in legend like a Polynesian version of the Mayflower.

The art of canoe building and navigation by watching swells, seabirds and the stars had been lost.

Thompson said Hawaii's 100-member delegation at the 5th South Pacific Festival of Arts attended by 2,000 people from Pacific islands and aboriginal Australia was an important link with the Pacific.

Sixty children from the Kamehameha Schools will perform traditional and contemporary dances and songs.

The Kamehameha Schools are for Hawaiians, funded by the \$2.7 billion Bishop Estate.

The school children will gain by mixing with other Pacific peoples and seeing their cultures at the festival which covers, dance, music, poetry, crafts and filmmaking, Thompson said.

It is designed to preserve endangered island cultures of the Pacific.

"We see similarity between ourselves and the Australian aborigines and the New Zealand Maoris," Thompson said.

"We have an empathy. Our whole culture has been eroded. But we can't continue to cry in our beer. We have to go out and chase after education and look to the Pacific," he said. "Hawaii's economic expansion opportunities are centered on the Pacific."

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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN  
AUG 18 1988

# Arts exhibit in Australia spurs Polynesians' pride

Associated Press

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5th International  
**FESTIVAL OF  
PACIFIC ARTS**

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18/8/1988 No 18607  
RECEIVED from  
Mr. Barbara Ann Schmitt  
the sum of Two hundred ten Dollars  
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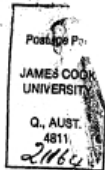
**5th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS  
EXHIBITION CATALOGUE SHEET**

<b>Country</b>		<b>Reg. No.</b>	
<b>Object</b>		<b>Value (state currency)</b>	
<b>Local name</b>			
<b>Island and village of origin</b>			
<b>Maker</b>			
<b>Materials Used</b>			
<b>Manufacture Method</b>			
<b>Use</b>			
<b>Description</b>			
<b>Dimensions (metric)</b>		<b>Wt. (Kgs)</b>	
<b>Published references</b>			
<b>EXHIBITION OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
<b>Date Rec'd</b>		<b>Seq No</b>	
		<b>Festival Reg'n No</b>	
<b>Receipt condition (inc date)</b>		<b>Rec Curator</b>	
<b>Conservation</b>			
<b>Location</b>			
<b>Despatch condition (inc date)</b>		<b>Curator</b>	

TOWNSVILLE, Q. 4811, AUSTRALIA

AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL



1585

AIR MAIL

Holoua Stender  
Exhibition Committee Chairman  
5th Festival of Pacific Arts  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
College of Education  
Castle Memorial Hall 132  
1776 University Avenue  
HONOLULU

HAWAII 96822

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WAA' KAULUA  
DOUBLE HULLED CANOE - HAWAIIAN

① ~~WOMAN~~

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② HOKULE'A  
~~POWERS~~  
LONG DISTANCE WITHOUT CANNES

---

③ WAA' KAUKAHI  
SINGLE HULLED. FIRST HULL CANOE

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NEW ZEALAND FEATHER CANOE

SAMOAN FLY WHISK

NEW ZEALAND MAORI STAFFUP  
SUCCESS

TOUGAN HEAD KEST

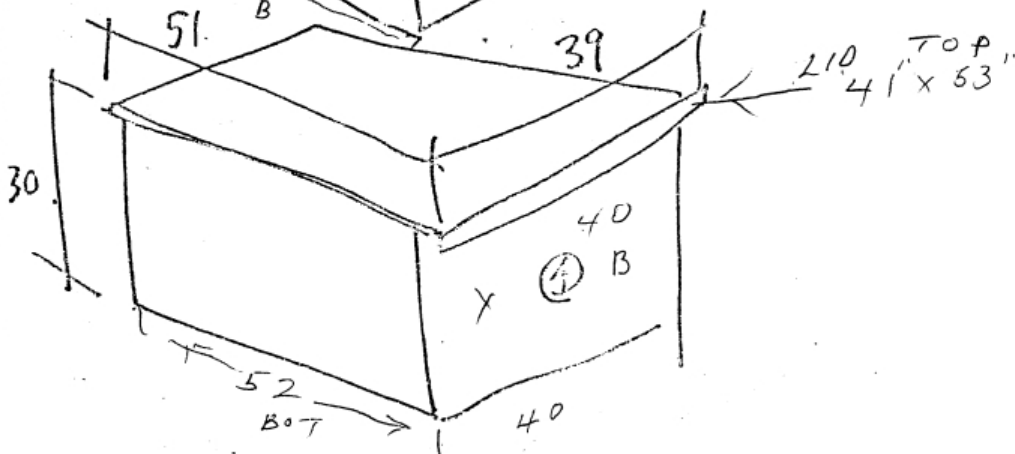
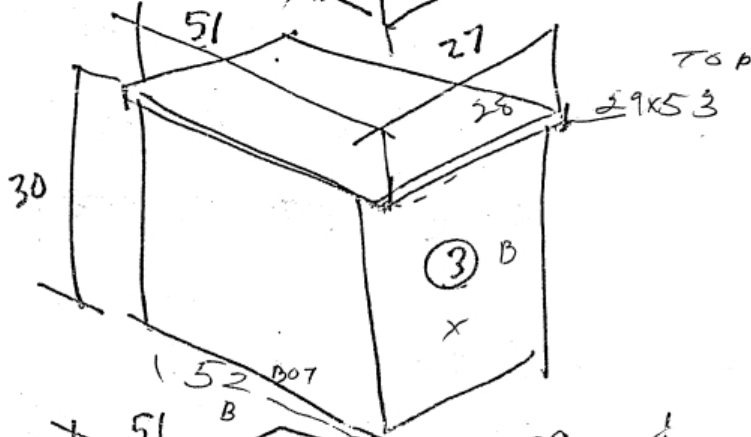
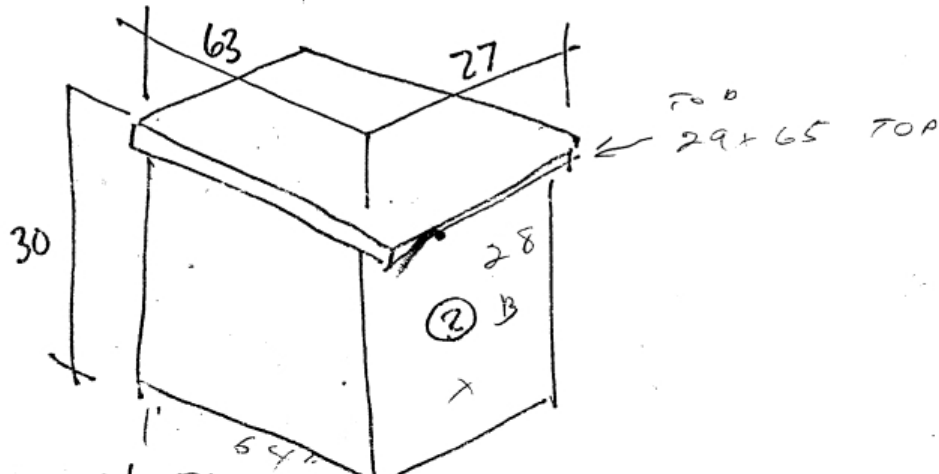
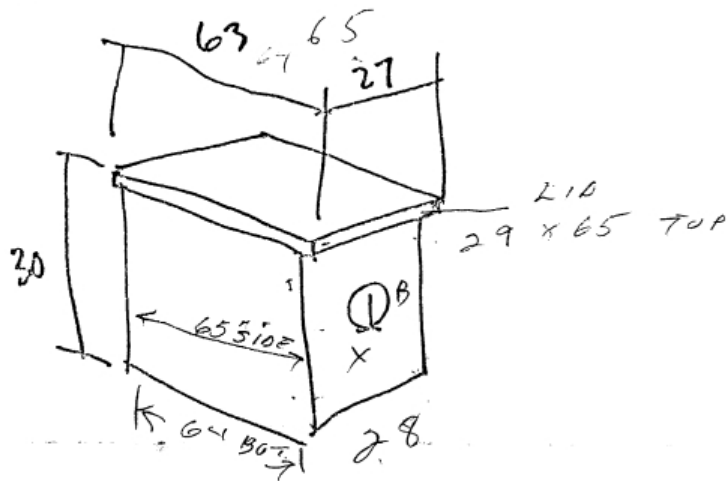
COOK ISLAND MANA STICK

WAKA TAU

MAORI WAK CANOE

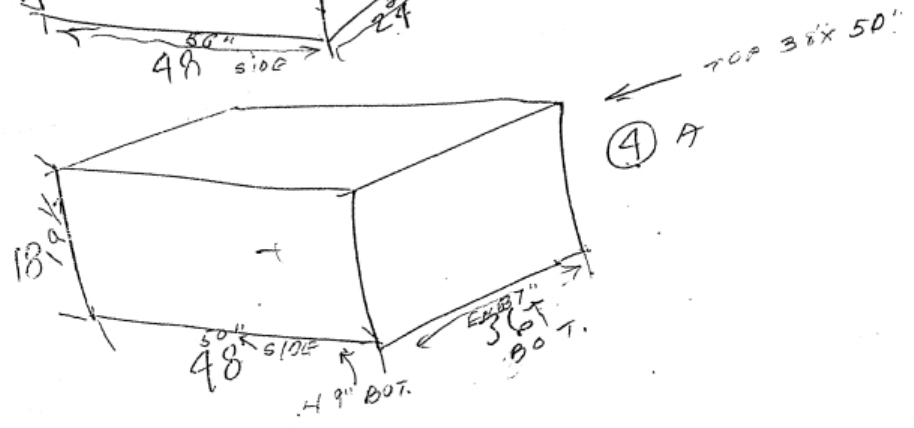
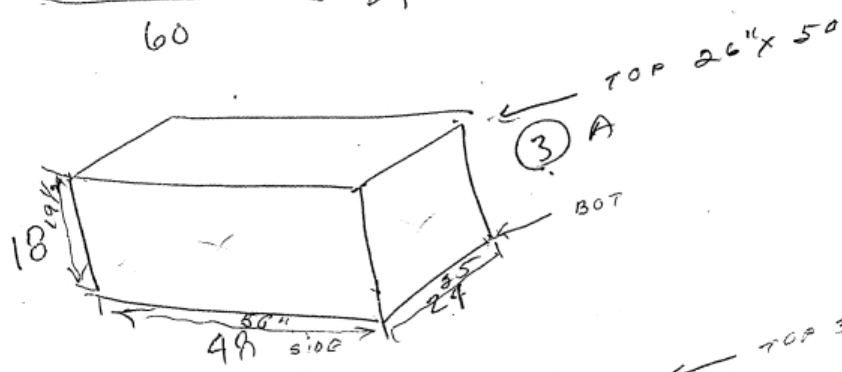
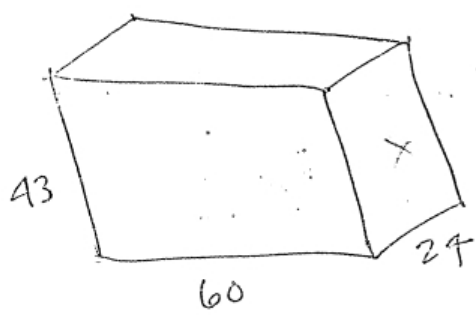
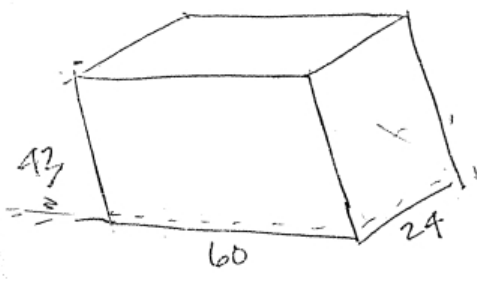
TANATIAN NEW PAPER

# DISPLAY CASES BASES



Hawaii Delegation  
5th Festival of  
Pacific Arts

DISPLAY CASES  
CASES



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