

Dear Uncle Bobby and Ohana,

My name is Mary Jane, and I live in Pacific Grove, California. I paddle with a club named Ke Kai O'Uhane; we practice on the Monterey Bay in the great Pacific ocean. The canyon beneath the bay is one of the deepest in the world, 10,000 feet plus, deeper than the Grand Canyon. It is also a sanctuary to the great kelp forests, and we represent the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary when we race our long distance events. Last year, we crossed the entire bay, paddling from Santa Cruz to Monterey...a distance of 23 miles. It was not a race as we were the only boat crossing. The swells were huge and rolling with no white caps and no wind chop. Perfect!

Our coach, mentor, phenomenal paddler, and dear friend is Uncle Les Charles. He has led the way for Ke Kai O'Uhane and inspired the NCOCA – Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association for over 20 years. Uncle Les pays tireless attention to each and everyone, young and old, who expresses a sincere desire to learn the aloha of a club, and a traditional technique of paddling.

We are very excited about your gorgeous Koa boats, your family history, the tradition that you uphold, and your goals to come to the mainland. Wow, that's a big undertaking, and I tell everyone I can to check out your website and try to charge interest. We are not too far from Sacramento, and hope to see you there 2008.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you to visit us here. The central coast of California is a phenomenal coastline, and the stretch from Monterey to Big Sur is not to be missed! It would be a delight to host you.

This check to become a member of your foundation is a gesture of respect and intrigue.

On behalf of Ke Kai O'Uhane,

Mary Jane