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THE CREW of Durban 2010 and Beyond arrive in Honolulu yesterday

DISMASTED YACHT ARRIVES SAFELY IN HAWAII

MERCURY
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Relief as SA crew reach Honolulu

Honolulu

DURBAN 2010 and Beyond, one of two yachts dismasted during the 4 400-mile (7 080km) Race 7 from Qingdao, China, to Hawaii in the Clipper 07-08 Round the World Yacht Race, has arrived in Honolulu.

Shortly before 4pm local time on Tuesday (2am SA time on Wednesday), it entered the Ala Wai harbour next to the famous Waikiki Beach, having been accompanied for the past 12 hours by three other Clipper yachts, Glasgow: Scotland with style Clipper, Liverpool 08 and Qingdao.

Durbanite skipper Ricky Chalmers said: "I'm quite relieved to be here. It was a tough old motor in - without the mast the boat was rocking and rolling a bit, and with no option

of sailing we were quite nervous of getting close to the reefs and rocks that are about.

"Plus, we were always worried about the fuel, but the other boats rallied around, particularly Glasgow: Scotland with style Clipper, who shadowed us through the night. It's good to be here, and now we're ready to get cracking on the repairs and get the boat racing again."

The yacht is crewed by amateur sailors and led by Chalmers, 47, the only professional yachtsman on board. The Clipper 07-08 Round the World Yacht Race is a 35 000 mile (56 327km) circumnavigation, which began in Liverpool on September 16 2007 and will finish there on July 5.

More than 400 crew drawn from all walks of life and representing 27 nationalities will

compete during the race, approximately a quarter of them in the entire circuit of the globe.

Earlier yesterday Race 7 winners, Hull & Humber, and second-placed New York arrived in the Ala Wai.

Provisional

Until all the skippers hand in their declarations the positions are provisional, but if they stand Hull & Humber will move into the overall lead, just two points ahead of Durban 2010 and Beyond, who slip back into second place, level on points with Glasgow: Scotland with style Clipper.

The Clipper Race is made up of 14 individual races. Points are awarded for each race and the winner is the team that has accumulated the most points

when the fleet of 68-foot ocean racing yachts arrives back in Liverpool.

During the stopover the crews will be hosted by Waikiki Yacht Club, Hawaii Yacht Club and Magic Island Petroleum.

As well as performing the routine maintenance required to keep these ocean racing yachts in top performance condition and shopping for food for the next race, the crews will also have some time to enjoy the sights, sounds and flavours of the island of O'ahu.

The Clipper Race Team will also be calling on the skills of local companies to aid the repairs to the masts and rigging of westernaustralia2011.com and Durban 2010 and Beyond, the two yachts dismasted during the race from Qingdao.

No one was hurt in either incident.