

Exec charged in yacht club shooting

By **TERRY McMURRAY**
Advertiser Staff Writer

Robert W. Hall, 46, was charged yesterday with attempted murder in the shooting early Saturday of real estate broker Rodney Y. Inaba, 42, at the Waikiki Yacht Club.

Hall, president of Island Airlines Hawaii, an air cargo firm, was discharged in three other attempted murder cases pending further investigation. Those cases involved shots that injured two other men and just missed a third.

Bail was set at \$20,000 when the charge was lodged at 1 p.m. Hall was freed at 2:50 p.m. after bondsman Art Lee signed a bail bond for \$2,000. Hall, represented by attorney David Schutter, was scheduled for arraignment this morning in District Court.

Detectives said Hall, Inaba and other victims all were declining to cooperate with investigators.

Inaba last night was reported improved and in good condition at Straub Clinic and Hospital's intensive care unit after sur-

gery for bullet wounds in his left hip and right knee.

Also still at Straub, reported in satisfactory condition with a leg wound, was Joe L. McKeown, 29.

Stephen Gratwick, 56, of Wilder Avenue was treated Saturday for a lower back wound and released. Almost hit was Harold K.H. Chun, 27, of 8th Avenue.

Detectives said the shooting climaxed an evening-long table-to-table dispute between Hall and Inaba, who both reportedly told police Friday night that they had been at odds for several years.

Hall called police to the club at 11:13 p.m. Friday to say Inaba had cursed and threatened him during the evening. He told police Inaba "threatened to get him."

Inaba told police then that he and the suspect did not get along because of differences over yacht races several years ago. Police said he denied making any threats, but did say Hall was "a punk, because that's what he is." The squabble ended while police were there and officers returned to their beats about 11:50 p.m. They advised Hall outside the club to

leave "because he appeared more reasonable."

However, Hall re-entered the club and the dispute apparently rekindled. Police said Hall left the club for awhile, returned, pulled out a 9mm automatic pistol and began firing shots at 1:20 a.m. Inaba was hit, then others nearby.


Hall was arrested at the club at 1:35 a.m. and booked for investigation in what police classified as four separate attempted murder cases — one for each victim and also one for the near-miss of Chun.

Hall has been in the air cargo business for four years and once was president of the Hawaii Air Cargo Shippers Association. He has been a prolific letters-to-the-editor writer in Honolulu newspapers and is widely known in local aviation circles.

He lives in a Kamoku Street apartment in Moiliili. Inaba, known in yachting circles for his racing prowess, was in a controversy four years ago when he built a home inside a state wildlife sanctuary at Paiko Peninsula. Legal action, however, failed to stop the construction.



Robert W. Hall

 Member Photo

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tomanusewicz

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