

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The image shows a series of white sand beaches bordering clear, turquoise water. The water transitions from a light blue near the shore to a deeper blue further out. The land is lush with green vegetation. The overall scene is bright and scenic, typical of a tropical island.

ATMO 102 Pacific Climates and Cultures

Lecture: Hawaiian Surfing

Quick Hawaiian Surfing Facts

- Hawaiians were first discovered surfing by European explorers in 1778.
- Duke Kahanamoku, an Olympic swimmer is the father of modern surfing.
 - Photo of Duke in Waikiki in the 1930s
- Surfing has been and continues to be a major influence in popular American culture and international culture.



Surfing Imagery



Hawaiian petroglyph of surfer.



Surfing and Canoe riding in Waikiki

One of the earliest known pictures of a surfer with his board from around 1890.



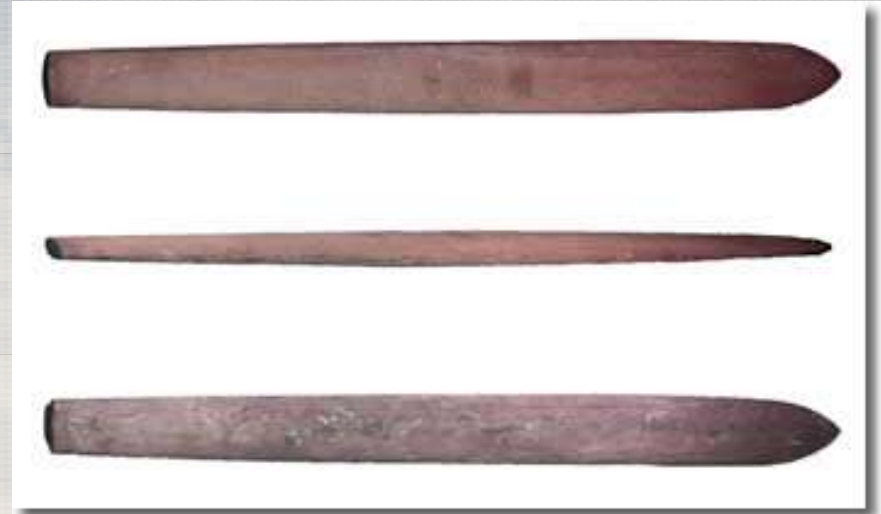
History of Surfing

- Hawaiians may not have invented surfing
 - Captain James Cook observed Tahitians canoe and body surfing in 1777, the year before he arrived in Hawai'i
- Surfing could have had its start anywhere in the Pacific
- The Hawaiians earned the greatest renown as surfers.
- Recorded Hawaiian chants as far back as the 15th century honor surfing and mention contests, competing chiefs, surfing wagers and remarkable waves.



Who Surfed What?

- Chiefs, men women, and youth surfed in Polynesian society in Hawaii
- Chiefs rode a long, narrow, wood board called **olo** (18 feet long)
- Common people rode short, wide, thin wood boards called **alaia** (6-8 feet long)
- Common people also rode small belly boards called **paipo**.

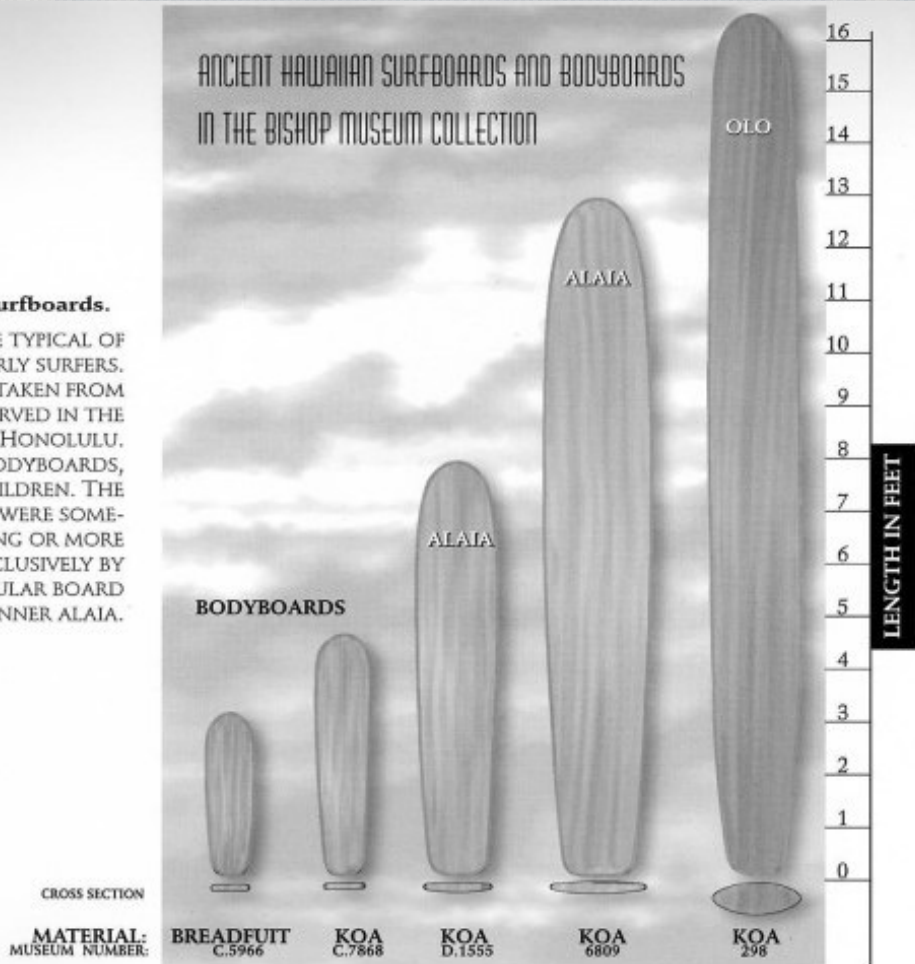


Comparison of Surfboard Shapes and Sizes

Figure 5.

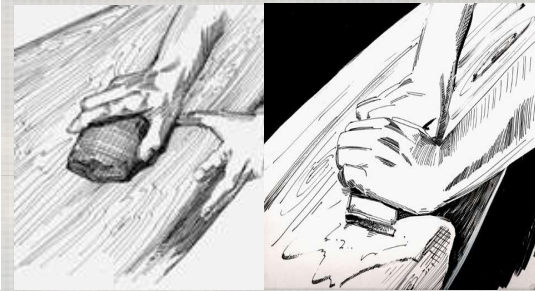
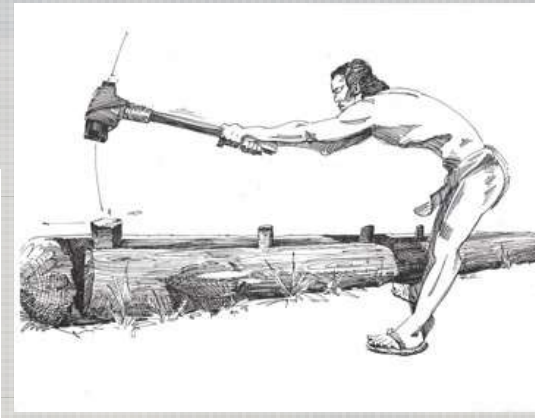
Ancient Hawaiian Surfboards.

THESE FIVE BOARDS ARE TYPICAL OF THOSE USED BY EARLY SURFERS. THESE DIAGRAMS ARE TAKEN FROM BOARDS NOW PRESERVED IN THE BISHOP MUSEUM IN HONOLULU. THE SMALLEST WERE BODYBOARDS, PROBABLY USED BY CHILDREN. THE LARGEST, THE OLO, WERE SOMETIMES SIXTEEN FEET LONG OR MORE AND WERE USED EXCLUSIVELY BY CHIEFS. THE MOST POPULAR BOARD WAS THE SHORTER, THINNER ALAIA.



Royal Surfboard Construction

- Kahuna (priest) places a red kumu fish at the trunk of the chosen tree
- Tree was cut down and split
- Prayers were offered
- Kumu was placed in a hole at the roots
- Tree cut with adzes (bone tools) to rough surfboard dimensions
- In a canoe shed final shaping was completed with coral and rough stone
- The board was then sanded with water, and sharkskin.
- Then, a coat of Kukui nut oil was applied with a Pandanas kernel, that was pounded to make a brush.



Surfing Culture

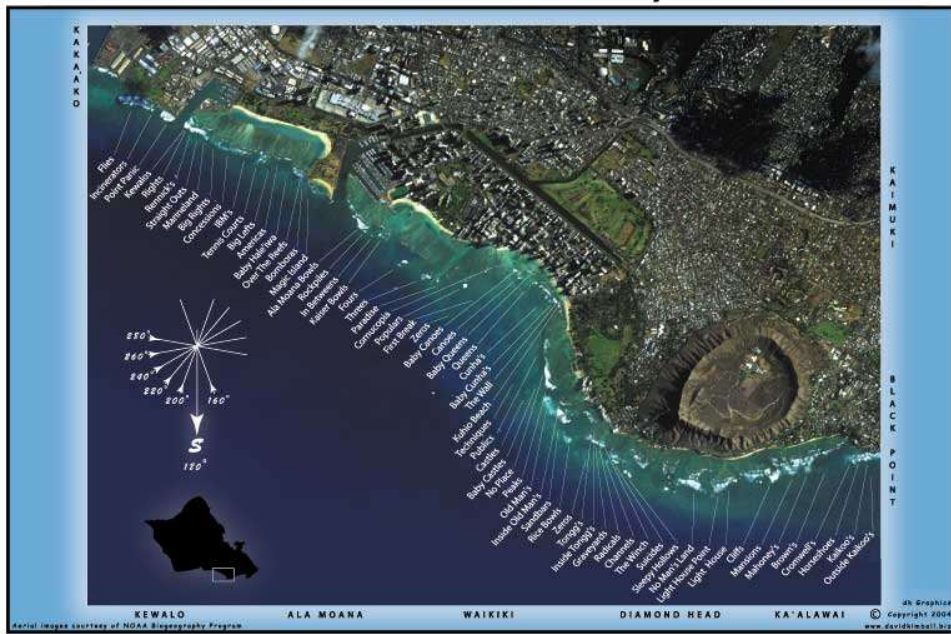
- Hawaiians' excitement peaked in **'Ikuwa** (November) when winter storms brought big surf to the Islands.
- If seas were calm, they enlisted a kahuna to pray and chant for surf.
- In addition to being fun for the athletes, surfing was a big sport for betting amongst the spectators.
 - Hawaiians wagered their most important properties on contests, betting everything from pigs and poultry to canoes and their lives.



Surfing Culture

- Surfing was especially popular among chiefs (ali'i).
- They could reserve the best resources and locations for themselves by declaring a favorite beach *kapu* - off limits - or by ordering the best koa or wiliwili trees cut for making their boards.
- They also had greater leisure time to practice their skills
- Commoners, by contrast, surfed when they could, riding the waves on anything handy, even banana trunks.

Surf Sites South Shore, O'ahu





Always an “addiction”

- Then, as now, surfers found it hard to resist dropping everything when the waves beckoned.
- Hawaiian historian Kepelino describes surfers of old:
 - *"Expert surfers going upland to farm, if part way up perhaps they look back and see the rollers combing the beach, will leave their work ... then hurrying away home, they will pick up the board and go. All thought of work is at an end, only that of sport is left. The wife may go hungry, the children, the whole family, but the head of the house does not care. He is all for sport, that is his food."*



Hawaiian Surf Diction

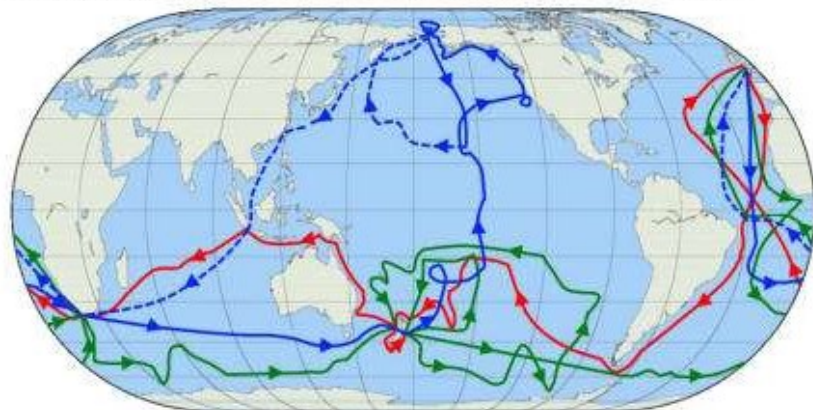
- *Kai emi, nalu miki* – receding wave
- *Kai pi'i, nalu pú* – high wave
- *kai po'i nalu ha'i* – breaking wave
- *nalu* – surf, ocean wave
- *nalu h'i lala* – wave that breaks diagonally
- *pae* – to mount or catch a wave
- *pae i ka nalu* – to ride a wave into shore





Captain Cook's Voyages

Follow Captain Cook's three voyages on the map below. His first voyage is shown in red, the second voyage in green, and the third voyage in blue. The route of Cook's crew following his death in Hawaii is shown as a dashed blue line.



Map by Jan Plešek, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Unported license.

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Cooke and the Hawaiian Islands

• Captain James Cook

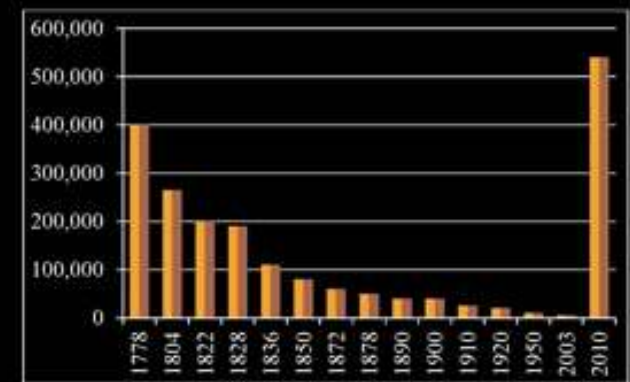
- 1728-1779
- British Navigator and Explorer
- in 1778 he became the first known European to reach the Hawaiian Islands
- He was impressed with Hawaiians riding waves on boards and canoes
- Hawaiians were curious and unfamiliar with European concepts of ownership, and thus were shot and killed by Cook and his men for thievery.
- Hawaiians stabbed Cook in self-defense on Feb 14, 1779

Changes to Hawaiian Culture

- Cooke and Early Europeans Changed the Culture
 - Brought metal, guns, cannons, uniforms, venereal diseases, other diseases, alcohol, and new religion
- Hawaiian culture disintegrated
- Between Cook's arrival (1778) and 1890, an estimated population decrease occurred from **400,000 to 40,000** from exposure to European viruses and bacteria

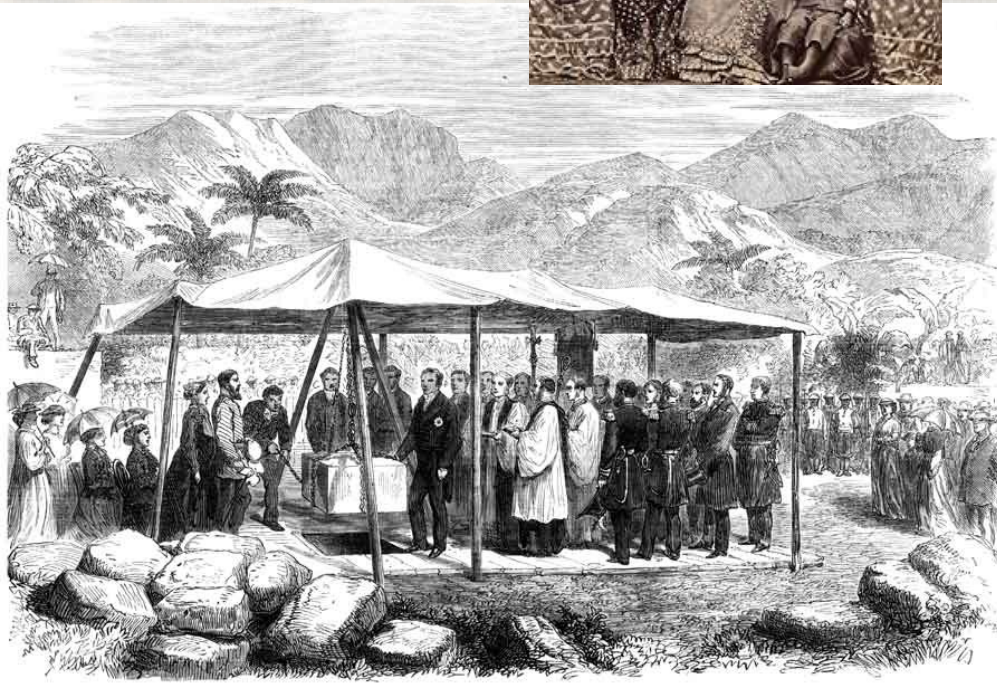


Native Hawaiian Population Decline



In 2010, the United States Census combined individuals identified as Native Hawaiian ancestry with the generalized category of Pacific Islanders...

Changes to Hawaiian Culture



- **Protestant Paradigm** took over
 - modest attire
 - new language
 - discourage casual sex, gambling and playing in the ocean
- Drew Kampion writes “Surfing’s association with nakedness, sexuality, wagering, shameless exuberance, informality, ignorant joy, and freedom were counterproductive to the designs of the church fathers, who, curiously, would end up owning most of the land in the islands”

Surfing Renaissance

- By 1900, the Islands had become a U.S. territory
- Growing number of *haoles* (white people or foreigners) came to Islands to visit or live
- Three men got together to surf in Hawaii and resurrected surfing in 1907
 - Alexander Hume Ford (businessman, writer)
 - Jack London (famous author of adventure literature)
 - George David Freeth (surfer)



Surfing Renaissance



In front of Outrigger Canoe Club • Waikiki Beach • 1917

- In 1907 in “A Royal Sport’ Surfing at Waikiki” in *A Woman’s Home Companion*, London published a description of Freeth on a wave, “I saw him tearing in on the back of it, standing upright on his board, carelessly poised, a young god bronzed with sunburn.”

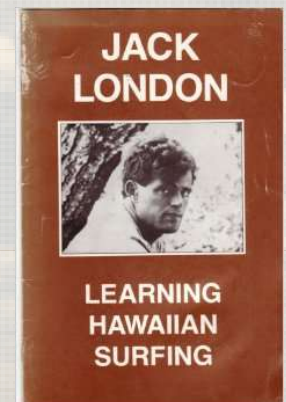
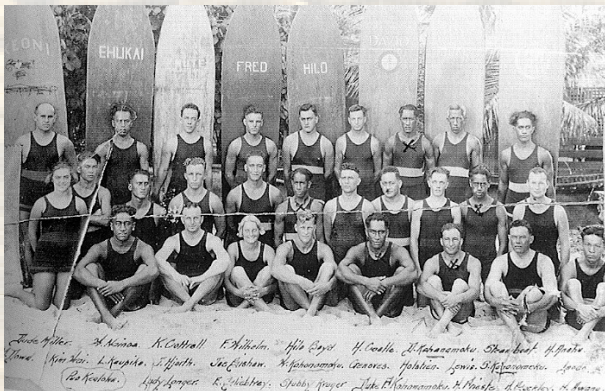
- Ford created the **Outrigger Canoe and Surfboard Club** (haole organization)

- Three years later predominantly Native Hawaiians created **Hui Nalu**

- The two clubs competed often

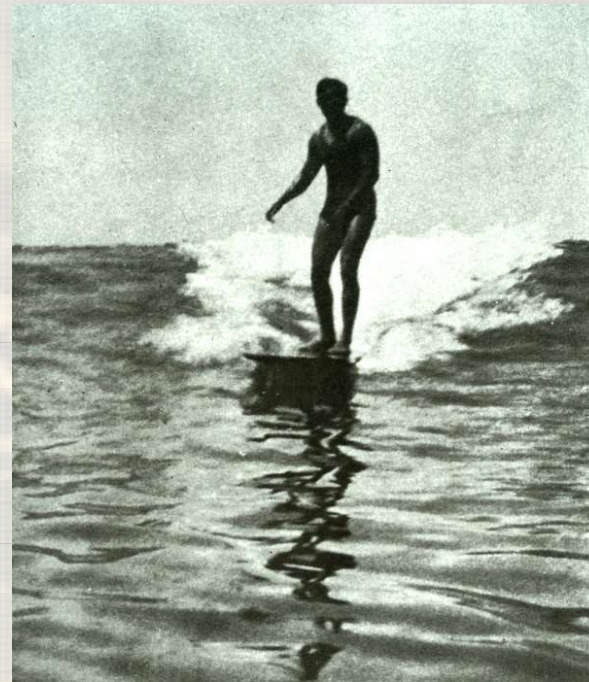
- By 1911 Outrigger Club had 1200 members

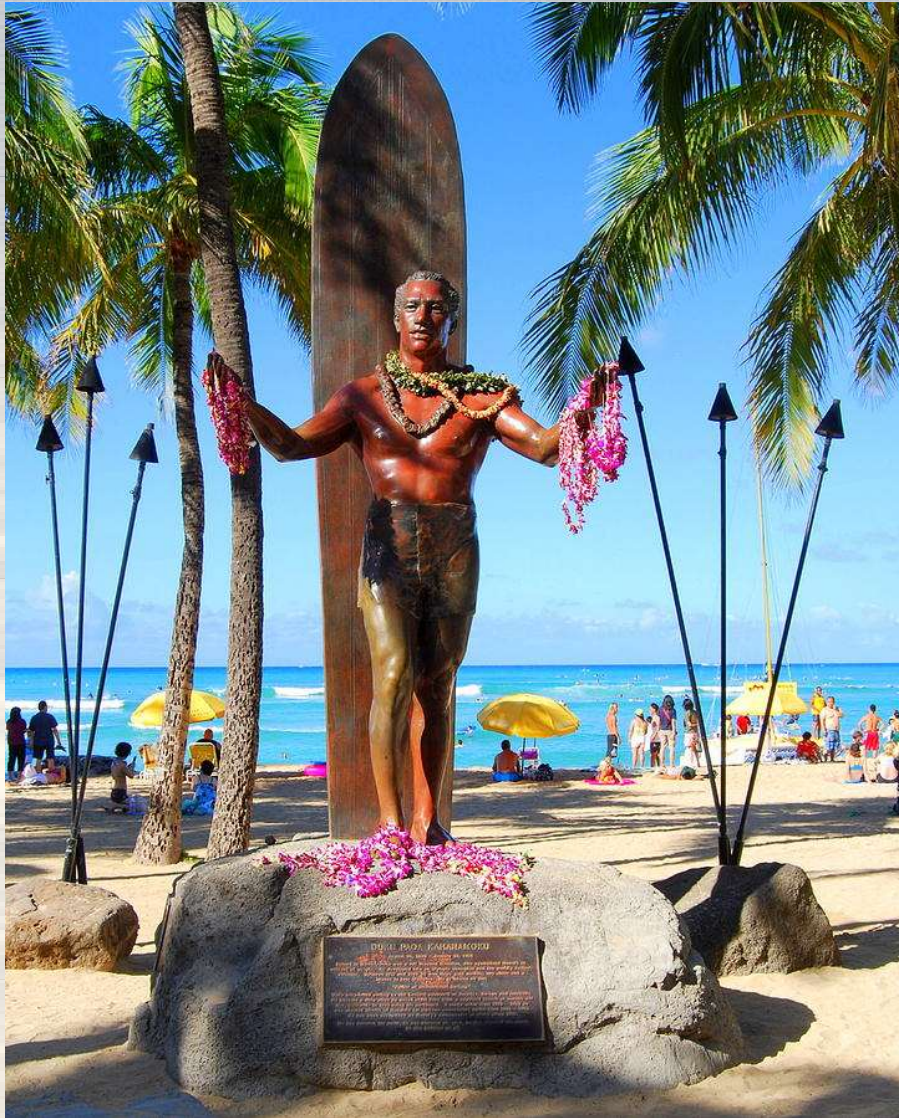
- Surfboard riding was the local craze.



Bringing Surfing to CA

- In 1907, Henry E. Huntington hired Irish-Hawaii Freeth to give surfing demonstrations at Redondo and Venice Beaches to promote Huntington's Los Angeles-Redondo Beach rail service.
- Thousands watched in awe
- The introduction of trains and cars made California's coast an accessible playground
- Freeth is credited with introducing surfing to CA.





Duke Kahanamoku

- Winner of 3 Olympic gold medals in swimming.
- Member of both the Swimming Hall of Fame & Surfing Hall of Fame.
- Rescued 8 men in 1925 from the ocean using his surfboard.
- Helped spread the popularity of surfing throughout the world.

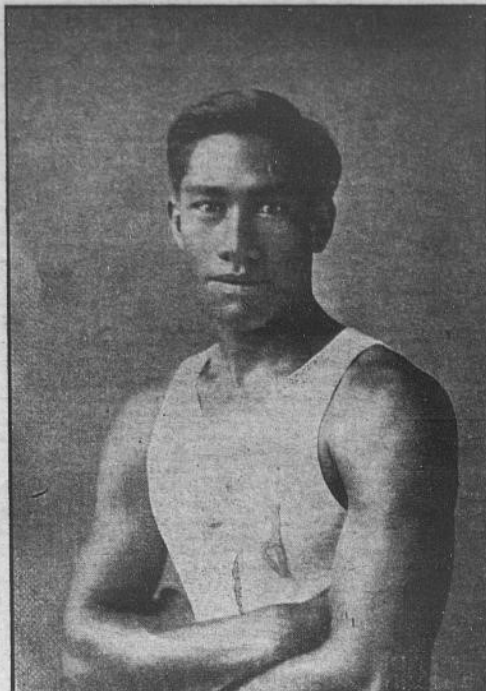
Duke Kahanamoku

DUKE WINS HUNDRED METER DASH, SMASHING ALL RECORDS

Carries Star of His Native City to the Front.

Uncle Sam Runs Away With Almost All Firsts.

SMASHES ALL WORLD'S RECORDS



STOCKHOLM, Sweden, July 6.—Duke Kahanamoku, of Honolulu, member of the American team in the Olympic games, today set a new world's record for 100 meters, hanging up a mark of 62.2-5 seconds.

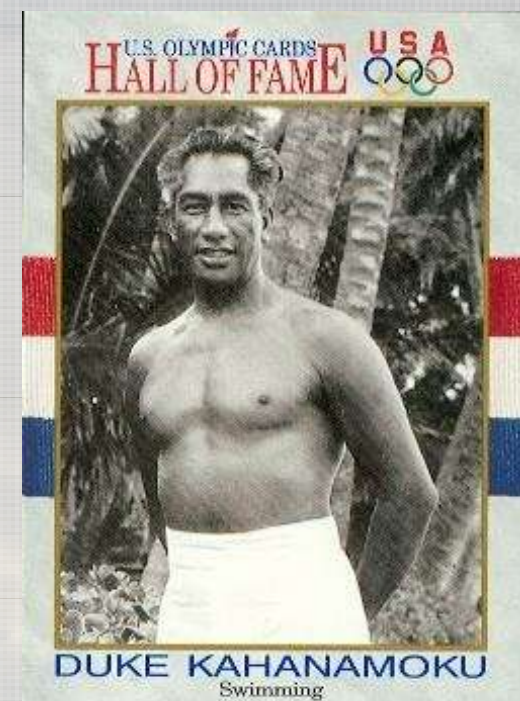
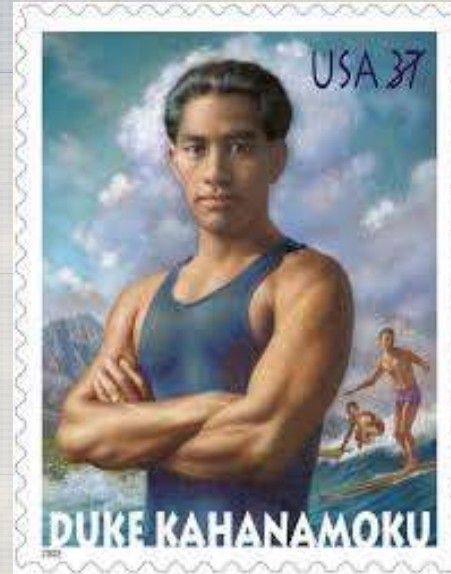
Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku's smashing of the world's record yesterday in the hundred meter swim at Stockholm, makes him a top notcher at once and for all time. Hawaii has never had any doubt as to Kahanamoku's chance of winning this race in the Olympic meet this year in far away Stockholm. Everybody here who has followed Duke's career since he first came into prominence only a short time ago felt certain that this son of the soil would carry the American colors to victory when he competed with the world's foremost swimmers.

It was only on August 12 of last year that Kahanamoku astonished Hawaii and the athletic world at large with his phenomenal finish in the fifty yard swim here in 24.1-5 seconds, which beat Daniel's world record by 1.2-5 sec.

- Freeth enlisted “beach boys” to teach tourists how to surf in Hawaii, including Duke Kahanamoku (born in 1890), not royalty
- Duke was a phenomenal waterman and athlete and remembered as a father of modern surfing
- Duke won 100-meter freestyle at Olympic games in Stockholm, Sweden in 1912
- No Olympiad in 1916 due to WWI
- Duke won 100-meter freestyle in Olympic games in Antwerp, Belgium in 1920 (age 30) in 60.4 seconds

Duke Kahanamoku

- Revealed surfing to crowds in Atlantic City and Nassau (NY) and Corona Del Mar and other beaches in CA
- Introduced surfing to Australians in 1914 at Freshwater (now Harbord) near Sydney
 - Demonstrated headstand and tandem surfing
 - Victorian values: knee-to-neck-costumes
- Duke played minor roles in 7 films and 2002 stamp commemorates him



Current Popular Culture References to Surfing

