

RELL SUNN – SURFING, Paddling

Affectionately known as the "Queen of Makaha," the late Rell Sunn was a champion surfer whose legacy is her string of pioneering triumphs for women competing in ocean sports.

Rell began entering surf meets at age 14 and for those events without separate men and women's divisions, she successfully took on the men.

Being first was a trademark for Rell. She became Hawaii's first female lifeguard in 1977, was an original member of the first women's professional surfing tour, and helped found the Women's Professional Surfing Association. In 1982, Rell ranked #1 in the international professional surfer standings.

Today, the Rell Sunn Educational Fund promotes sportsmanship and the environment, combats juvenile delinquency, and raises money to battle breast cancer.



EDWARD RYON MAKUAHANAI "EDDIE" AIKAU – SURFING, OCEAN SAFETY

The legendary Eddie Aikau had a keen knowledge of the ocean and was a true Hawaiian waterman.

Eddie was a master of diving and surfing traditions of the Islands. With great care for the life of others, he became the first lifeguard on Oahu's North Shore and saved countless swimmers from the rough waters and big surf.

Eddie was a big-wave pioneer and won the prestigious Duke Surfing Contest at Sunset Beach in 1977.

He was also committed to the renaissance of Hawaiian culture and heritage of Polynesian voyaging and was chosen to serve on the crew of the Hokulea, the traditional Polynesian sailing canoe.

On March 17, 1978, the Hokulea set sail from Honolulu to Tahiti, but capsized that first evening in rough seas 12 miles south of Molokai. Eddie heroically grabbed his surfboard and paddled off to seek help. The crew was rescued later that day, but Aikau was lost at sea.

However, his achievements and heroism continue to be honored and can be seen on bumper stickers throughout Hawaii: Eddie Would Go.