

The Father of Surfing

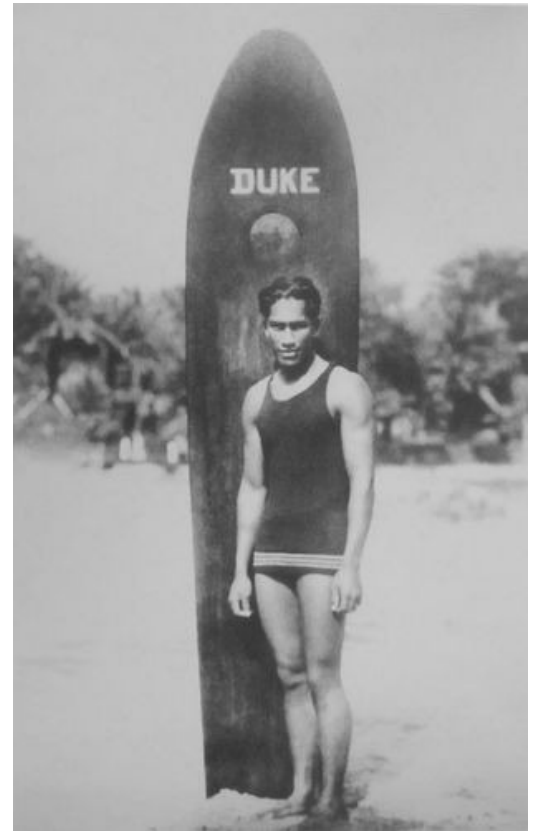
by ReadWorks

Duke Kahanamoku was a native Hawaiian swimmer and surfer. He won three Olympic gold medals for swimming. He also made surfing a popular sport!

Duke grew up in Hawaii. He spent a lot of his childhood playing in the ocean. He also worked hard to support his family. In his very first swimming competition, he broke a record. He was off to the races!

Back in the early 1900s, surfing was only a popular sport in Hawaii. But Duke began spending more time surfing in mainland United States. While he was there, many people watched him surf. Surfing became much more popular because of Duke. People call him "the father of modern surfing."

Many Hawaiians are proud of Duke Kahanamoku's talents. On the Hawaiian island called Oahu, there is even a statue of Duke near the ocean. Many people place leis, or flower wreaths, on the arms of the statue.



Duke Kahanamoku with his surfboard



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the statue of Duke covered with flower wreaths