

'Steamboat Bill' Dies at 60; Was Famous Swimmer

William D. Keaweamahi—known affectionately as "Steamboat Bill" to thousands of frequenters of Waikiki beach—died at 6:20 this morning at Lunalilo Home, Koko Head.

He had been in ill health for five years.

The body is at the Nuuanu mortuary and will be on view from 4 to 9 Thursday afternoon and evening.

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The body will be cremated Friday morning and the ashes will be scattered over the sea, off Waikiki beach, on the waves where he used to ride erect and stalwart on his surfboard. Time of this ceremony will be announced later.

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He is survived by a son and daughter, Franklin and Alice; by two brothers, Daniel and George (Hanohano) Keaweamahi; and two sisters, Mrs. Alice Kaluna and Mrs. Caroline Kamai; and by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

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He was born 60 years ago on Kalia Road, in a section where many of Waikiki's famous Hawaiian swimmers grew up, among them the Kahanamoku family.

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He was a lifeguard at Waikiki for 30 years and saved many lives. This service was first with the Outrigger club and later with the territory, when the harbor board took over the beach patrol.

In his earlier years he was a great competitive swimmer and took part in many meets. His favorite distance was 50 yards but he also won many longer races.

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He was a member of the picturesque Hui Nalu beach club and members of that club gave him the nickname "Steamboat Bill," from his power and prowess in paddling outrigger canoes.