



Duke Kahanamoku, 1890-1968

# Duke P. Kahanamoku dies in Waikiki at 77

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku is dead.

The 77-year-old Olympic swimming champion and the most famous contemporary Hawaiian died of heart failure yesterday.

His Kaiser Hospital physician said that death was caused by an aged and overtaxed heart and that autopsy findings indicate that had he been a less physically fit person, he would have been dead months ago.

He collapsed at Ala Wai Boat Harbor and was pronounced dead in Kaiser Hospital at 3:34 p.m.

Duke Kahanamoku will return to the sea he loved following his funeral services Saturday.

His ashes will be deposited on the sea off Waikiki in the traditional beachboy funeral manner — a final rite the Duke himself requested.

Episcopal Bishop Harry S. Kennedy and Dean John J. Morrett will coordinate the funeral arrangements, scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

An automobile procession to the beach near the Royal Hawaiian Hotel was planned with Shriners and Masons holding joint services on the sand.

Outrigger canoes will carry the ashes to sea and then will race to shore in the same competitive spirit that characterized the Olympic champion's life.

The last ceremony nearing this kind was in December, 1966, after singer-composer Kui Lee died. Lee's body was taken by catamaran to a spot off Waikiki and lowered into the ocean as 10,000 orchids wafted down from airplanes overhead.

The Duke's widow asked that friends omit flowers and instead suggested contributions be made to the Duke Kahanamoku Foundation.

Arthur Godfrey, one of Duke's oldest Mainland friends and a frequent beach buddy at Waikiki, will attend the funeral.

Godfrey will deliver the eulogy at the beach ceremonies and will paddle out to the breakwaters for the sprinkling of the ashes.

Williams Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

The Hawaiian Civic Club, composed of Hawaiians and their descendants, will hold a special ceremony in conjunction with its annual convention Friday and Saturday.

Governor John A. Burns has ordered Hawaiian flags

lowered to half-staff until further notice.

Duke Kahanamoku was one of Hawaii's best-known citizens.

He lived at 114 Royal Circle, Kahala.

He won fame and friends throughout the world for himself and Hawaii as an Olympic champion, movie

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actor, sheriff of Honolulu and as the City's ambassador of goodwill.

The two-time Olympic swimming winner, a pure Hawaiian, was born Aug. 24, 1890, a descendant of a native chief.

Duke was named after his father, who was a captain with the Honolulu Police Department.

According to legend, the father was named after the Duke of Edinburgh who visited Hawaii in 1869.

#### Survivors

Duke is survived by his widow, the former Nadine Alexander whom he married in 1949; three brothers, Wil-

liam, Louis and Sargent, all aquatic athletes, and two sisters, Mrs. Gilbert (Bernice) Lee of Hilo and Mrs. Fred (Kapiolani) Ornellas.

The Kahanamokus had no children.

Duke was an impressive figure around Waikiki with his long iron gray hair and standing six feet one inch and weighing 200 pounds — the same as when he set his swimming records more than 50 years ago.

Duke swam and rode the surfboard on Waikiki's waves until recent years when he was asked to taper off because of a heart condition. Since then, he had taken to sailing.

Duke once said "I started swimming before I can remember. I could hold my own when I was four years old."

Even before he was 21, the "Bronze Duke of Waikiki," as he was dubbed by sports writers, put Hawaii on the athletic map and made his name a symbol of Hawaii.

He won the Olympic swimming crowns in 1912 and 1920 and was a top contender in the sprints in the 1924 games.

His records included the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-

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## Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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#### DUKE, WORLD-CHAMPION, WELCOMED HOME

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**A WELCOME HOME**—The Honolulu Star-Bulletin of Oct. 1, 1912, welcomed home "the best swimmer of them all" after Duke Kahanamoku returned from Europe, where he won Olympic honors.

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