

The formation of a Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame is a joint effort of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation and Primo Beer to honor Hawaii's accomplished watermen and waterwomen and establish a permanent means of recognition.

Hawaii is steeped in the legacy of the waterman beginning with the ancient Polynesians who crossed the Pacific in canoes and then practiced the art of surfing for centuries using long, heavy wooden boards before western man ever encountered the Hawaiian Islands. Surfing was then carried forth generation by generation and among its biggest proponents were Hawaii's ali'i, hence its reputation for being 'the sport of kings.'

The Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame is dedicated to paying tribute to the remarkable athletes and their achievements of more modern times, and to provide a display of remembrance for the watermen and waterwomen of today and future to emulate.

A group of respected individuals involved in Hawaii's ocean sports community comprised the Waterman Hall of Fame selection committee and used the following criteria to determine the inaugural class:

Keiki o ka aina / Keiki o ke kai

Sustained outstanding contribution to the sport

International, national and local accomplishment and recognition

This inaugural class of honorees is more than just a special group of accomplished athletes. Individually and collectively, they have been at the forefront in establishing the Hawaiian Islands as the center of the water-sports universe.

The nine honorees are being enshrined in the Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on August 24, 2010, which also marks the 120th anniversary of Duke Kahanamoku's birthday.

Their accomplishments will be proudly displayed in a glass case that kama'aina and visitors can admire on the grounds of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa at The Grand Waikikian™ resort. Fittingly, the Hall of Fame display is located just steps from Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon.

The mission of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation is to financially support the development of individuals and organizations which perpetuate the spirit and legacy of Duke Kahanamoku. A special Mahalo to the following sponsors and supporters of tonight's event.

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