

THA 2/21/92

# North Shore shark attack?

## Body boarder missing; kin fear the worst

By Walter Wright  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Things were looking up for Bryan Adona.

He and fiancée Dayna Kuboi had just moved into the new townhouse in Ewa, and the whole family was waiting for them to pick a date for the wedding.

His sweetheart almost since they graduated from high school, Dayna had helped Bryan recover from a devastating accident four years ago in which a runaway car smashed his legs.

Years of painful surgery left him with one leg an inch shorter than the other, but he'd finally gotten the insurance settlement.

It wasn't enough to compensate for the accident, but it helped him buy the new truck he'd dreamed of, and — more important — put a down payment on a home for Dayna.

He was looking forward to his 30th birthday May 11 — maybe that would be the time to announce the wedding date, now that they were taking care of the house payments.

He had a good job as an aircraft mechanic at Aloha Airlines, a continuation of the love of aircraft he'd developed as a sailor while keeping Navy planes flying from Barbers Point.

And the accident had even increased his love for the water — a place where he left his limp behind on the shore and sliced across the waves on his body board.

So it was completely normal when Bryan was pau hana



Bryan Adona's body board was found at Waimea Beach with this bite in it. Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

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“  
*He never talked about the danger, but I did.  
 When he used to go out to Diamond Head side and I used to  
 tell him about the sharks out there, and he used to tell me that  
 my fears were unbased.*  
 ”

Betty Adona  
 Missing man's mother



**HAWAII**  
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By Fred Aamus, Special to the Star-Bulletin

Waimea lifeguard Kerry Atwood yesterday holds the bodyboard belonging to still-missing surfer Bryan Adona. Ocean experts believe a shark at least 8 feet long could have taken the bite out of Adona's bodyboard.

# Shark may have taken lost surfer

□ His bodyboard is found at Waimea with a large bite missing from it

From staff and wire reports

Rescue officials were to resume the search this morning for a missing surfer whose bodyboard was found more than a mile from where he went surfing Wednesday, missing a chunk that had apparently been bitten from it by a shark.

Searchers yesterday scoured the area on the Haleiwa side of Waimea Bay near Leftovers, the surfing spot where Bryan Adona apparently went surfing after work Wednesday and never returned to shore, said David Mortensen, acting captain of the Fire Department's Rescue Two unit.

Mortensen said no sharks were

spotted, but a lot of sea turtles — a favorite food of sharks — were seen in the area.

The board was found yesterday along Oahu's North Shore at the entrance to the Waimea River by a lifeguard at Waimea Bay Beach Park.

The family of Adona, 29, reported him missing at 10:35 p.m. Wednesday when he failed to return home from a late-afternoon surf session.

Searchers focused on the area surrounding Leftovers, a surfing spot 1 mile west of Waimea Bay, because it was Adona's favorite spot on the North Shore and because his truck was found near that beach. The truck's keys were found attached to the board's leash.

Although the board still must undergo police forensic tests, lifeguard supervisor Pat Kelly said it looked like the bite mark was left by a shark.

"It was a definite bite mark taken out of the upper left-hand corner of the board," Kelly said. "It's going

to be examined for further evidence by the experts. But at first sight, anybody would say 'That's a shark bite.'"

The 16-inch-wide bite would indicate a shark measuring at least 8 feet in length, a shark authority said.

Adona's mother, Betty, said she often worried about sharks when her son went bodyboarding, but he always said her fears were groundless. "Bryan is an avid sportsman. He loves the water. And when he's bored, that's where he goes. He heads for the beach.

"Bryan is a very brave individual. He bars nothing. He does everything. And I worry about him. I've always worried about him."

When it came to the possible threat of sharks, Mrs. Adona said, "He never talked about the danger, but I did. When he used to go out to Diamond Head side and I used to tell him about the sharks out there, and he used to tell me that my fears were unbased."