

Rafters never found after fateful trip

QUESTION: What ever happened to the three people lost at sea while rafting to Chinaman's Hat in January 1995?

ANSWER: Kaaawa's Ken Harmon and Colorado's Jim Cloud and Corine Hughes were not found after a five-day search by the Coast Guard.

Coast Guard officials said all possibilities for locating the missing people were exhausted after 26 flights and 142 hours of searching that covered 27,400 square miles of water.

The missing rafters used a green-and-yellow plastic raft to get from Chinaman's Beach to Chinaman's Hat island, a 500-yard trip.

They reportedly had no food or water with them, or any other type of survival equipment.

"The best medical advice we can get indicates a person can survive only about 72 hours without water, especially in combination with exposure to the unprotected seas," said Cmdr. Robert Kuhn, who heads the Coast Guard search-and-rescue branch in Honolulu.

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