

# Man bitten by shark while diving off Maui

10/24/13 S-A

By Lella Fujimori  
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A 45-year-old Maui diver didn't immediately realize a shark had bitten him Wednesday afternoon as he was diving in Kaehu Bay. It was the second Hawaii shark attack this week.

He felt it "only when I turned around and saw the fin," Shane Mills, who had recently moved to the area, told Wendy Osher of the website Maui Now.

"It wasn't like a dog bite or anything," Mills said. "It was more like maybe your cat or something grabbing you."

It was the 11th shark encounter in Maui waters in the past 16 months, and the second in the same general area in just under a year.

Statewide, it marked the 21st shark encounter for 2012 and 2013.

Maui County lifeguards and state Department of Land and Natural Resources officers shut down beaches from Sand Piles to Y. Hata store after the attack shortly before 4 p.m.

They will stay closed at least until noon today, when they will assess whether to reopen the beaches.

Firefighters responded to the 3:55 p.m. call to Kukona Place off Waiehu Beach Road, and found Mills already on shore.

Medics treated Mills for some shallow, 3-inch-long cuts to his lower back, then he drove himself to the hospital for follow-up treatment, said Maui Fire Services Chief Lee Mainaga.

Mills described the shark as gray with a white dorsal fin, about 4 to 6 feet long. He said he was in the middle of Kaehu Bay, between Paukukalo and Waiehu, off the mouth of Paukukalo Stream, when he dove down and felt something hit his left upper torso and buttocks, DLNR spokeswoman Deborah Ward said in an email.

Mills, an experienced diver and surfer who works for Scuba Shack, said he was swimming 100 yards offshore in 10 feet of water, looking for octopus and lobster when he felt something grab him, he told Maui Now.

He kicked and elbowed it and swam for shore.

A witness on shore saw the man swim out, saw a splash and saw the man

swim back, looking back to see whether the shark followed, but it disappeared, Ward said.

Ocean Safety crews patrolled the water and kept people out of the ocean a mile in each direction of the attack site until sunset Wednesday, and DLNR posted warning signs.

Mills said the water was "a little brown," due to runoff after rain in Upcountry Maui.

Wednesday's shark attack was one of 11 encounters off Maui since June 26, 2012, according to data at hawaii-sharks.com.

A diver spearfishing at Waiehu was attacked Nov. 4, 2012, and suffered severe lacerations and broken

Please see SHARK, B3

# SHARK: Valley Isle encounters included 1 fatal attack

Continued from B1

bones to his right leg.

Of the unprecedented number of shark encounters on Maui, nine injured people and two damaged boards.

The most notable was the fatal attack Aug. 14 of a 20-year-old German woman. Visitor Jana Lutteropp died one week after a shark bit off her right arm while she was snorkeling at an area in Makena known as White Rock.

On Sunday, a 25-year-old Kauai surfer and former boxer escaped a shark at Kilauea by punching it eight times and jamming a knuckle in its eye. The shark clamped down on his board and knocked him off.



COURTESY PHOTO

Shane Mills was bitten by a shark on Wednesday afternoon in Kaehu Bay on Maui. "It wasn't like a dog bite or anything," Mills said. "It was more like maybe your cat or something grabbing you."

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## Big Island beach closed after shark attack

NINOLE

Posted: Dec 11, 2013 11:54 AM  
Updated: Dec 11, 2013 5:38 PM

PAHALA, HAWAII (HawaiiNewsNow) - Big Island police are investigating a shark bite that occurred Wednesday at Punalu'u in the area of Punalu'u Beach and Ninole Bay.

At approximately 8 a.m., a 29-year-old Captain Cook man reported being bitten by a shark while body boarding in the area of Ninole Bay, which is just south of Punalu'u Beach Park.

Officers contacted the victim at Ka'u Hospital, where he was being treated for his non-life-threatening injuries. The victim reported being approximately 20 yards off shore in 8 feet of water when the shark attack occurred. He was body boarding with two friends, who identified the shark as being a Tiger shark 10 -12 feet long.

The victim is expected to be released from the hospital after treatment.

Lifeguards have posted shark warning signs at Punaluu beach park, which will remain closed the rest Wednesday. A fire department helicopter flew over the area at 10 a.m. Wednesday and will do so again Thursday morning. If there is no further sighting of sharks the park will reopen at noon Thursday.

Ka'u Kako'o, a local community outreach group at Punaluu will help to inform beachgoers that the beach is closed.

# Shark victim's rescuers stayed cool amid panic

*The young woman said she was dying, recalls one of the men who helped her*

**By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher and Audrey McAvoy**  
Associated Press

A woman who lost her arm in a Maui shark attack kept repeating that she was going to die, the California high school teacher who jumped into the water to save her said Friday.

"As soon as we stand on the beach, we heard this bloodcurdling scream," said Rick Moore, 57, of Laguna Niguel, Calif. "We look out, and there was blood everywhere in the white water around her."

He put on flippers and swam to her, said Moore, who teaches physical education and health at Creekside High School in Irvine, Calif. "About 10 feet from her, I

saw her floating on her back, with no arm," he said. "It was completely severed from her body."

The 20-year-old German visitor was snorkeling in 15- to 20-foot-deep water off Palauea Beach in Makena when the shark bit off her arm Wednesday afternoon.

With the bikini-clad woman's other arm around his neck, Moore backstroked about 100 yards through strong ocean currents.

"It dawned on me: I was in danger now," he said. "The shark is around me and she's bleeding. I start praying out loud, 'God, God protect us.' She said, 'I'm dying. I know I'm going to die.'" She was starting to lose consciousness, Moore said. "I started crying out to God, and I got this burst of strength," said Moore, who



**"I started crying out to God, and I got this burst of strength. I swam toward the shore."**

**Rick Moore**  
*He rescued the visitor whose arm was bitten off by a shark*

"If we're not there, she's not saved. Nobody did a thing. They just stood there in shock, watching the blood and everything."

A police officer arrived with a tourniquet as the woman was going in and out of consciousness, Grisaffi said. An ambulance rushed her to Maui Memorial Medical Center.

Joshua Craddock, a 23-year-old from London who was sunbathing at the time, called 911. He hailed Moore's bravery.

"He was pretty heroic and selfless to dive in the water when by this stage she was surrounded by a pool of blood which we could see from the shore," he said.

Moore and Grisaffi have visited the woman in the hospital and said she was in stable condition Friday. Authorities have declined to release her name.

"I just can't get the

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At this time, protective nets, as used in Australia and South Africa, are the quickest, guaranteed protection for select beaches.

At some point, native harvesting of both turtles and tiger sharks might be allowed. I am not talking about commercial taking. Let cultural practices be respected. I am not talking about an open season on these two species but a thoughtful approach toward restoring balance.

David Padgett  
Kula

8/29/13

### Flashing lights needed to protect Kalama students

I was very happy that someone finally listened to my plea regarding the safety of our kids and neighbors that utilize the Eddie Tam Park.

I was assured that the flashing lights would be installed for Kalama Intermediate before school started. But, as of Aug. 26, there still are no lights. Our kids have to cross two busy streets to get to school. And one of the crossings has no crossing guard. I don't know how much more I need to stress to county officials that this is very dangerous for everyone.

Do we finally get those lights when something tragic happens or do we wait for an election when promises are made good so incumbents look good to the community?

Janice Salvador  
Makawao

■ Submit letters via the Virtual Newsroom on the website ([www.mauinews.com](http://www.mauinews.com)), or by email ([letters@mauinews.com](mailto:letters@mauinews.com)).

### The Maui News Proliferation of turtles attracting more sharks

Hawaii's recent problem of more shark attacks should not come as a surprise. Today the green sea turtle seems to be more numerous than ever. Because people are restricted from taking them, they have only one predator of any consequence — the tiger shark.

We are protecting an ever-growing food source for the apex predator of our island nearshore waters. Why would we not expect more attacks as more and more people enjoy our beaches and fish and surf?

## SHARK: Visitors don't know safety rules, beachgoer says

*Continued from B1*

screaming out of my head," Grisaffi said. "The arm didn't bother me. At our age we've seen a lot."

The ordeal has changed Grisaffi's perspective on the ocean. "I won't take risks of going too far out anymore," he said.

Hawaii officials say shark attacks are unusual considering how many people are in the state's waters. There have been six shark attacks this year through the end of July, including three on Maui, according to a state database. There were 11 shark attacks in the state in 2012.

The last time anyone in

Hawaii died from a shark attack was in 2004.

To reduce the risk of being injured by a shark attack, state officials urge people to swim in groups and avoid going in the ocean at dawn and dusk, when sharks may come closer to shore to feed. But Craddock said he doubts many people are aware of these warnings.

"She was a young, fair-haired blond girl on vacation, and she clearly had no idea," he said.

# Maui shark attack victim known

By Gary T. Kubota  
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The victim of Monday's fatal shark attack off Maui was passionate about fishing, whether in freshwater streams and lakes or in the rugged and vast Pacific Ocean.

"He was just an avid fisherman. He loved fishing," said Washington friend Tina Van Pelt.

Van Pelt said Patrick A. Briney would smoke the fish he caught and share it with neighbors and friends. Briney, 57, of Stevenson,

Wash., lived near the Columbia River after retiring as an experimental preflight engineer for Boeing and loved fishing in fresh and salt water.

Authorities said Briney was dangling his legs off a kayak about a half-mile offshore in 100-foot-deep water, trying to catch baitfish, when a shark fatally bit his right leg and took off his foot.

Van Pelt said Briney and his wife, Kathryn, had built a house near the Columbia River a couple of summers ago.

"She called us last night (Monday night) about what happened," Van Pelt said.

Maui ocean safety officials reopened coastal waters off Little Beach on Tuesday.

Because many sharks frequent the area off Maui where Briney was bitten, it would be difficult to find the one responsible, fishermen say.

"There's sharks everywhere," said kayak fisherman John Meriales, who was

## Culling is not answer on sharks

I've been reading the recent comments asking for something to be done about the shark population. I find it very interesting that we humans don't consider ourselves as an "invasive" species in circumstances such as this. Yes, we do protect some species such as the spotted owl or native darter and restrict the drilling for oil every now and then, but when I hear of the call for

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# s passionate fisherman

fishing in nearby waters Monday.

Meriales said Tuesday that on the day of the attack in waters off Makena, a friend saw a shark leap out of the water chasing baitfish. He said his friend also saw two tiger sharks swimming in the area.

State officials are baffled by the spike in shark attacks off Maui — the one on Briney was the eighth this year and the 13th in the state. Another fatal attack off Maui occurred Aug. 14 on

German visitor Jana Luteroapp at Keawakapu, less than three miles north of the attack on Briney.

The state is conducting a study to determine the movement of transmitter-tagged sharks.

During the last 20 years, Hawaii has averaged about four shark incidents a year, according to the state.

John Naughton, a retired marine biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said there's no doubt there are more sharks in Maui County waters, since the last shark

cullings were 40 to 50 years ago.

But he said there also has been an increase in the number of visitors, as well as a rise in visitors involved in ocean activities.

Naughton said the jump in the number of sharks and oceangoers increases the likelihood of more encounters, but he doesn't know why Maui shark attacks have increased.

Naughton advised that kayak fishermen go into the ocean with another kayaker and have safety gear, including a life vest and VHF radio.

the culling of sharks to save tourism, I think that the opposite should perhaps be done.

No, not cull humans, but perhaps restrict certain activities during certain times of the year or when sharks are in larger than "normal" numbers.

For all we know, the large population of sharks may be caused by an anthropogenic factor. In other words, the greatest invasive species, Homo sapiens may be the primary culprit.

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Alan Teraoka

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# Shark attacks snorkeler

By Gary T. Kubota

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State conservation officials were investigating a shark attack on a woman off Keawakapu Beach on Friday — the seventh off Maui this year.

The attack, reported to authorities at about 1:20 p.m. Friday, occurred in South Maui waters while the woman was snorkeling, according to initial reports from witnesses.

The woman, from Paia, was snorkeling about

30 yards offshore when she was attacked by the shark, leaving her with a cut on her shin and a 6-inch-long wound on her calf, said Cary Kayama, a Maui County Ocean Safety official.

Kayama said according to first responders to the emergency call, the snorkeler's calf bone was visible.

"She definitely needed surgery," Kayama said.

The incident marks the third shark attack in the area within the last 10 years and the 12th in the state this year, according to hawaii-

sharks.com.

Warning signs were posted, and the waters off Keawakapu were closed until at least noon today.

Laura Stevens, spokeswoman for the state Board of Land and Natural Resources, said, "Our concern is for public safety. That's why we're closing and are informing beachgoers about the incident."

The attack at Keawakapu Beach was about three miles north of White Rock, where 20-year-old visitor Jana Lutterop died after being bitten

by a shark Aug. 14.

The other two shark incidents at Keawakapu included an attack on a swimmer who was bitten on the calf about 30 yards from shore in about 25 feet of water on Oct. 29, 2007, and a swimmer who lost the top part of a ring finger and all of the small finger on the left hand while about 200 to 400 yards from shore in 30 feet of water on Dec. 21, 2005.

The growing number of shark attacks on Maui has prompted the state to launch a study about the

## off Maui

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movement of tiger sharks in Maui County.

In the two-year study, which got underway in late August, scientists are tagging sharks with acoustical and satellite tracking devices.

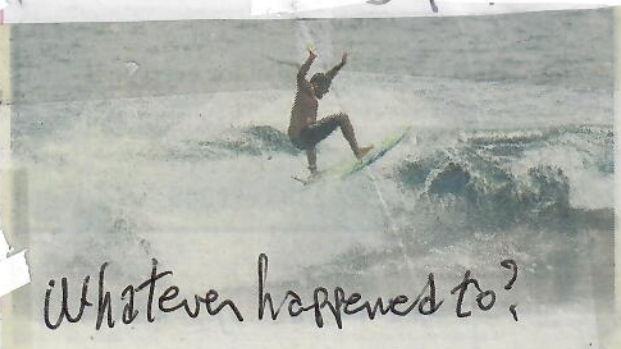
State officials say the prevailing theory as to why shark attacks are on the rise is tied to an increase in people in shoreline waters and that 40 to 50 years have passed since the last shark-culling.

According to hawaii-sharks.com, five other shark attacks on Maui in 2013 in-

clude an attack upon a surfer at Paia Bay on Feb. 21, another surfer at Honokowai on Feb. 21, a snorkeler at Ulua Beach on July 31, a swimmer at Waiehu on Oct. 23 and a kite-surfer at Kanaha on Oct. 31.

Maui is the only island in the state on which shark warning signs are posted permanently.

The decision to post permanent warning signs at Olowalu followed three shark attacks in the area, including one that killed Maui resident Marti Morrell in 1991.



Whatever happened to?

COURTESY OF KEITH NEHLS

**Jimmy Ulualoha Napeahi returned to surfing at Pohoiki on Saturday for the first time since being attacked by a shark there on Aug. 18.**

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## Teen victim of shark attack resumes his surfing career

**QUESTION:** Whatever happened to the 16-year-old Big Island boy who was bitten by a shark?

**ANSWER:** Jimmy Ulualoha "Ulu Boy" Napeahi got back into the water Saturday at a Puna surf spot known as Dead Trees, where, less than two months before, he was bitten by a 10-foot tiger shark.

The community held a family day at the Isaac Hale Beach Park at Pohoiki Bay.

"They were kind of blown away," said Keith Nehls, mentor to Napeahi. "For someone that got bit by a shark, not even two months (ago), and now he's faced his fears."

The Kalapana boy was bitten 13 times, suffered 30 wounds to his legs and received more than 180 stitches in the Aug. 18 attack.

The semipro surfer was released from the hospital Aug. 29, has undergone intense physical therapy, and estimates he's at 60 percent of where he was before the attack.

When he got back on his board Saturday, former world champion surfer

Sunny Garcia, the Rothman family and other members of his sponsor, Da Hui, escorted him into the water, as a kahu chanted, Napeahi's mother, Claire, said by telephone Wednesday.

"It took me right back to the place where the incident took place," the teen said by phone. "I just let it go. I definitely cried a lot. I took deep breaths and went down in the water and yelled so no one could hear me.

"I came up and caught my first wave," he said, adding he was surprised he surfed as well as he did.

"It all came back to me—the feel for surfing, the love for surfing, it all came back. In that moment, I feel like I was reborn. It's given me a second opportunity in life.

"I'm just so grateful for my life and look at things in a different perspective," Napeahi said.

Nehls said: "He was ripping, pulling in barrels, doing really well, considering."

Napeahi said he plans to enter the Volcom surf contest in Kona this weekend, and the HIC Sunset Pro Am contest in November.

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