

# Honolulu Advertiser

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## Great white shark spotted off Hale'iwa



JUAN OLIPHANT PHOTOS

Jimmy Hall of Hawai'i Shark Encounters couldn't pass up a chance to swim with a great white shark, which at first he thought was a small

humpback whale. A shark expert estimated the great white, whose dorsal fin is shown breaking the surface, was at least 17 feet long.

Boat captain swims with 'very magnificent animal'

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BY CURTIS LUM  
Advertiser Staff Writer

When Jimmy Hall realized he was within mere feet of a great white shark, he did not swim away. Instead, he left the safety of a shark cage off Hale'iwa and swam with the beast.

He even reached out and touched it.

"It's been a dream of mine for many, many years to swim with

a white shark and I got to do it. And I got to do it with one of the biggest ones that I've ever seen, even in photographs," Hall said.

Hall is a captain with Hawai'i Shark Encounters, a tour company based in Hale'iwa. The company takes customers three miles off Hale'iwa, where they spend a couple of hours in a cage, hoping to see sharks.

On Wednesday, Hall accom-

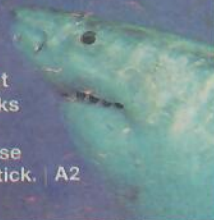
panied seven customers who had been in the water for about an hour when there was a commotion in the cage.

"People in the cage started yelling about the enormous shark that they saw," Hall said. "As soon as they started yelling, we saw this incredible shape coming up. I thought it was a small hump-

SEE SHARK, A2

### SHARK DATA

Learn some facts about great white sharks and what makes these creatures tick. | A2



## Alert staff upgrading to 24/7

About two to five minutes elapse between the time an on-call staffer receives news of an earthquake and the moment he issues an alert for a tsunami threatening Hawai'i.

"The federal government wants us to shave that down to 90 seconds," said Stuart Weinstein, assistant director at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

When the center isn't staffed, scientists take about two minutes to run or bike to the office from their homes, clustered within 500 feet of the center in

### ON THE WEB

wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/  
www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/

'Ewa Beach.

These few minutes, essential to communities in a tsunami's path, will no longer be wasted on commuting in April. A portion of \$24 million appropriated by Congress in May to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will allow 24-hour staffing, seven days a week,

at the nation's two tsunami warning centers — at the 'Ewa Beach site and the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center.

The federal government allocated the money in response to the earthquake and ensuing tsunami in the Indian Ocean on Dec. 26, 2004. At least 216,000 people were killed or disappeared in 11 Indian Ocean countries.

The money from Congress will be used to improve the tsunami warning network in the U.S.

SEE TSUNAMI, A12

## Inquiry launched in domestic spying leak

Focus to be on who revealed program to New York Times

BY JOSH MEYER  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department disclosed yesterday that it is investigating who leaked classified information about President Bush's top-secret domestic spying program, paving the way for a potentially contentious criminal probe that reaches high into the White House, Congress and the courts.

Several U.S. officials familiar with the investigation — which is in its infancy — said that it will be conducted by FBI agents specially trained in probing national security matters and counter-intelligence.

The officials said it will focus primarily on disclosures in The New York Times that Bush authorized the National Security Agency to conduct surveillance on people within the United States without obtaining warrants from a special federal court established to approve them.

The existence of the warrantless spying program has caused an uproar in Congress and among privacy experts, who said

SEE SPYING, A2



## Families welcome back their 85 citizen-soldiers

29th Brigade group returns home from 11 months in Iraq

BY KAREN BLAKEMAN  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Husbands, wives, children and parents waited in a hangar at Kalaeloa last night, counting the final minutes until Hawai'i's soldiers returned home from Iraq.

Eighty-five members of the 29th Brigade Combat Team had landed at Hickam Air Force Base late yesterday afternoon after nearly 11 months in Iraq.

Part of the largest deployment of Hawai'i-based citizen-soldiers since the Vietnam war, the men and women were

checking in their weapons and traveling by bus to Kalaeloa as their families waited.

Jayne Quemado, 6, and her brother, 8-year-old Jimmy, carried a "Welcome Home" sign for their mother, Hawai'i National Guard Staff Sgt. Rachel Betancourt. Kisses and hugs were planned, the children said. "And we have lei," said Jayne.

She and Jimmy had been living with their grandparents, Michael and Que Quemado. Their father, Master Sgt. Jimmy Ruiz, was in California, about to be redeployed to the Middle East.

"We might have fireworks for

SEE HOME, A12

DREW SHIMABUKU | The Honolulu Advertiser  
Children, 8-year-old Cameron, left, and Jayne Quemado, right, were among the 85 citizen-soldiers who returned home last night at Kalaeloa.





JUAN OLIPHANT PHOTOS

Jimmy Hall of Hawai'i Shark Encounters said the great white shark he and his tour group encountered off Hale'iwa was very calm, and he

described the experience as incredible. He said he was able to get close enough to touch the great white many times.

# Shark

CONTINUED FROM A1

back whale, that's how big it was. It was so big that I didn't even think that it could be a shark."

Hall quickly realized he was staring at an 18- to 20-foot female great white shark, one of the most feared creatures of the sea. He said it was the first time since he's been involved in the shark diving business that a great white has appeared.

Hall didn't want to miss his opportunity, so he jumped in with his customers. But after a few minutes he decided get out of the aluminum cage to be closer to the shark.

Hall said he got close enough to touch the shark "many times."

"I was scared, not petrified, and a lot of it was a thrill, just in realizing how special this was," he said. "But you're not going to face something that big and not be scared."

John Naughton, a biologist and

20 feet  
10  
15  
5  
0

Diver Great White

## GREAT WHITE SHARK FACTS

- The average length of a great white is 10 to 15 feet.
- A female can deliver a dozen pups, which are about 5 feet long.
- These sharks aren't picky eaters, although they prefer seals, sea lions and occasional dolphins and small whales.
- Great whites can swim up to 43 mph. Scientists said a shark traveled the 2,400 miles from California to Hawai'i in 40 days.
- A great white will replace thousands of razor-like teeth over its lifetime.

Source: National Geographic.com

Hall said the great white shark looked really friendly and was "never really aggressive."



Area of detail



face something that big and not be scared.”

John Naughton, a biologist and shark expert with the National Marine Fisheries Service, has seen the video of the encounter with the shark and said it “was a very magnificent animal.” Naughton estimated the shark to be at least 17 feet long. He said the largest great white recorded was 21 feet.

Hall said the shark was very calm — and described the experience as incredible. In the 45 minutes that the shark was there, it rubbed against the boat and cage several times.

“It sounds silly to say, but she looked really friendly, rubbing against the boat, never really aggressive,” Hall said.

The shark’s presence excited the tour group, but Hall said they quickly settled down.

“They understood what they were seeing, that it was something really, really special,” Hall said.

One of the passengers was Richard Parry, a Wai’alae Nui resident, who took the tour with his 23-year-old son Robert. Richard Parry said he was on the boat when the shark appeared.

“We were just expecting to see some of the local sharks, maybe a hammerhead or a tiger if we got lucky, and then suddenly all these sharks disappeared, and



The great white shark rubbed against the boat and the cage several times during its 45 minutes there.

this girl who was in the cage yelled out, ‘Oh, my God, there’s the biggest shark I’ve ever seen,’” Parry said. “We thought she was exaggerating and the tour guide sort of said, ‘I think it’s a baby humpback.’ And then he looked and said, ‘Oh, God, it’s a great white.’”

The Parrys quickly jumped into the cage. Richard Parry said he never was afraid of being in the water.

“My initial reaction was one of amazement, that it was there, and a little bit of, ‘This thing is a man-eater.’ But I didn’t feel threatened,” he said.

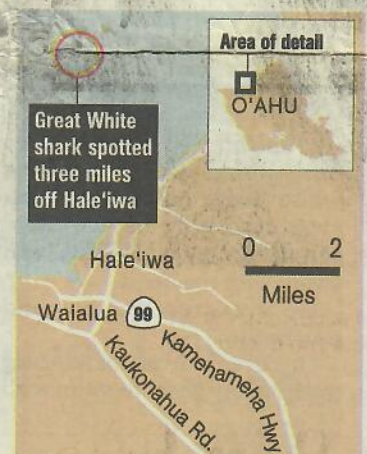
Unlike Hall, however, Richard

Parry never considered getting out of the cage to be closer to the shark.

“It goes through your mind, and then you think, ‘Nah, I’m not going to do that,’” he said.

Naughton said great whites are rare in Hawai’i because they prefer cold waters, and there isn’t a concentrated food source like there is off Northern California, where seals migrate. He said there have been many great white sightings here over the years, but the footage of the one seen Wednesday “is the best I’ve ever seen.”

In clear ocean, great whites don’t usually attack humans, Naughton said. “They just don’t



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recognize us as a food source,” he said.

Still, Naughton said, he wouldn’t recommend that anyone do what Hall did.

“It’s very dangerous for somebody to be in the water with them, because if they wanted to, a thing that size could have cut Jimmy in half in one bite,” Naughton said.

“But I don’t blame him. He was so excited, and he’s been in this business for so many years, and this is something new and exciting.”

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## Pardons

CONTINUED FROM A1

four who were convicted of drug offenses.

According to records provided by the governor’s office, those people include David James Darling, convicted in 1973 of promoting a harmful drug in the third degree, and in 1981 of promoting a harmful drug in the second degree.

Also pardoned was Frank Michael Fernandez, convicted in 1980 of promoting dangerous drugs in the second degree, public records show. A pardon was issued to Douglas Joseph Bamlett, convicted in 1981 of promoting a dangerous drug in the second degree, records show.

A pardon also was given to Rae Dorothy Marlow, convicted in 1993 of promoting a danger-

ous drug in the second degree and promoting a detrimental drug in the third degree, records show.

When reached by phone yesterday, Marlow and Fernandez would not comment. Attempts to reach Bamlett and Darling were unsuccessful.

Others pardoned include a person convicted in 1995 for criminal tampering, a 1992 conviction for reckless endangerment in the second degree and a 1991 conviction for abuse of a household member.

Governors reserve the right to pardon whoever they want, and may do so without any background investigation, said Tommy Johnson, administrator for the Hawai’i Paroling Authority. Most of those who apply for pardons in Hawai’i are trying to get jobs or further their career and require a clean criminal slate to do so.

Those pardoned this year in-

## PARDON APPLICATIONS

### 2003

72 applications, two granted

### 2004

161 applications, 26 granted

### 2005

143 applications, 17 granted

\*Note: Not all pardons granted were from applications received that year.

Source: Hawai’i Paroling Authority

cluded soldiers deploying to Iraq who needed clean records to carry a weapon, and several individuals who committed crimes more than 20 years ago.

Others include a woman who received a professional degree but needs to clear convictions for forgery and theft to get a job, records show. All but one of the

four people pardoned for drug offenses committed the crimes more than 20 years ago.

“All of these pardons seemed appropriate. None of these (17 pardons) jumped out at us as something that would be untoward at all,” Johnson said. “It’s a long, drawn-out and thorough process, as it should be.”

Lingle has never granted a pardon without a background investigation, Johnson said. Occasionally, Lingle asks Awana and Lt. Gov. James “Duke” Aiona to review a case.

Applicants for pardons submit a request to the Hawai’i Paroling Authority, which assigns investigators to conduct a background check and investigation. Offenders are interviewed and subject themselves to intense scrutiny, Johnson said. After the HPA completes its investigation, the request is sent to the attorney general’s office for review.

The attorney general can