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# Legends Of The Sea

by Justin Rutka

Dear George:

I need your help in testing a hypothesis:

Ho: Pohaku Pa'akiki was sacred to local sweet potato farmers who offered 'awa (a natural narcotic drink) daily to Kamohoali'i, their shark god. Legend holds that a fisherman, trying to annoy the farmers, caught sharks and threw their severed tails into the water by this pohaku. Naturally, this annoyed Kamohoali'i, who caught the fisherman in the water one day and began to devour him, beginning with his feet. The shark god stopped at the fisherman's buttocks because of the smell of excrement, and the spirit of Kamohoali'i revealed to one of the farmers his pledge to never again eat human flesh or allow other sharks to harm anyone between Makapu'u and Waimanalo. For many years thereafter no shark-related injuries were reported in this area.

I've enclosed a map of how Kamohoali'i might view "between Makapu'u and Waimanalo." Zone A encompasses the waters between Makapu'u Point and Wailea Point connected by a straight line. I've added on Zone B to give the offshore area some curvature.

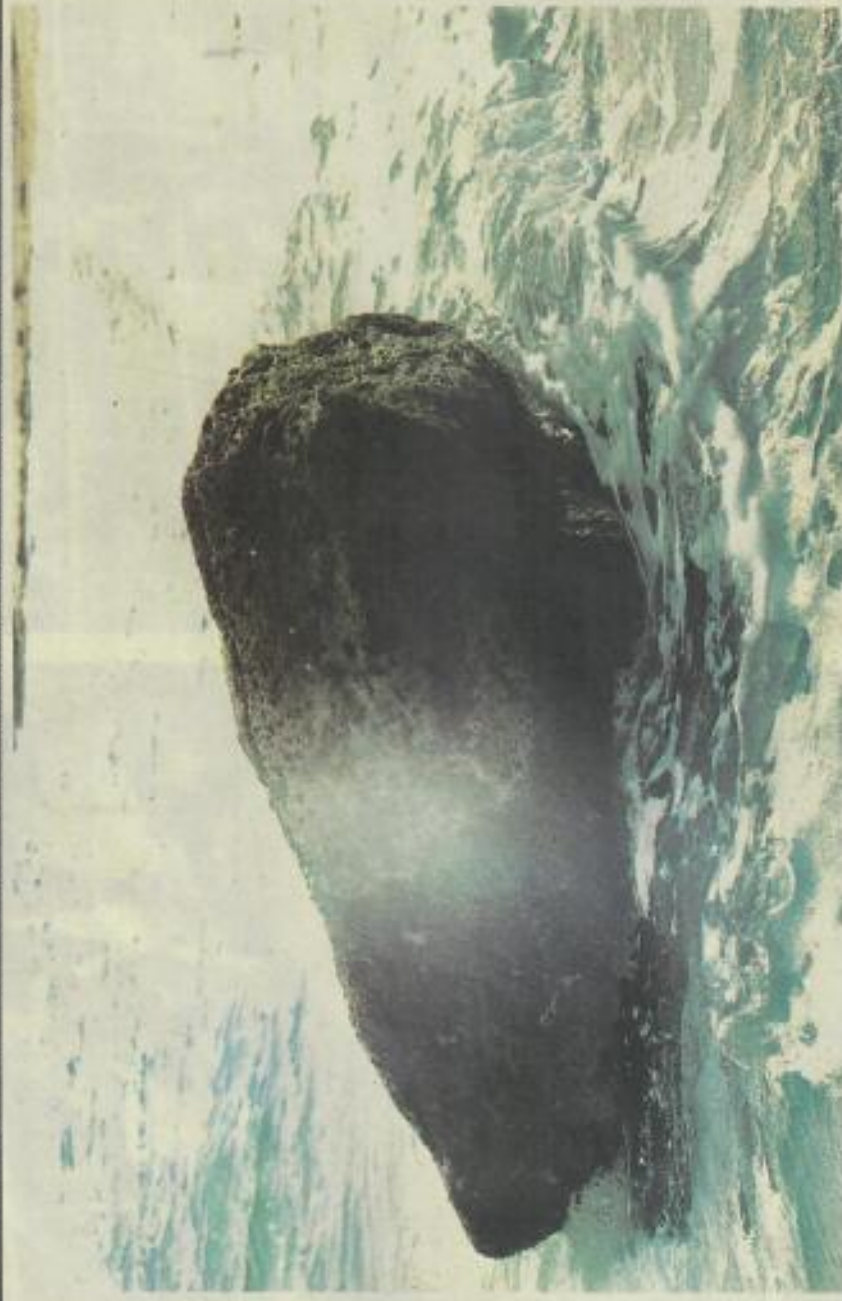
Please check your shark attack file and see if there are any attacks in either Zone A or B.

I say that the odds are on the side of Kamohoali'i on both scores. Some sharks do grind on humans in some areas, but I have done a thorough search of the scientific literature and I have not found even a single reference. Please let me know what you discover.

Sincerely,  
Justin Rutka  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Enclosure: Map of zone A and Zone B

P.S. Since this legend predates Capt. Cook, I'm assuming that haoles are fair game.



An apparition appeared in Justin's recent photo of the pohaku mentioned in the legend. Could it be the spirit of Kamohoali'i?



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