

## DISCOVER OAHU: NORTH SHORE

# Some find mystical experiences in communing with the ocean

**By Pat Leilani Young**

*Young wave warriors, let me  
make you this promise.*

*It may be soon, it may be later.  
You will be surfing.*

*No matter how crowded it is,  
there will be a moment*

*When you will be alone with  
your own soul.*

*A warmth will fill your being.  
Quietly he will paddle up.*

*You will be consumed.*

*A sense of joy will sweep over  
you.*

*Words will not be spoken.*

*Todd will be with you.*

*You will know his peace.*

*The body dies — the spirit does  
not.*

*This I promise.*

significant look. He gets the feeling that it's someone he's known who has lost his life at sea.

"I worship several times a week at the church of the open sky," says Cunningham. His personal mecca spans the area from Banzai Beach to Rocky Point. "I call it the greatest impact zone in the world . . . the earth, sea and sky all come together . . . and you're swimming among all of that energy. Just to be there is magical."

Bodysurfer Jul-lin Lum says she feels blessed when dolphins join her during her solitary swims. "They're the dogs of the deep," she says. "I dive with them and play. Once, a baby dolphin came in from the right and caught the wave I was on at the Wall. Then he ducked out

and was gone."

When their bodysurfing buddy, Jimmy, died of pneumonia, she and the other Wall Rats had a memorial plaque made that reads "90 Feet and Glassy."

They chained it to a rock beneath his takeoff point beyond The Wall, between Graveyards and First Break. She cleans the plaque when she snorkels to keep *limu* from covering it.

"I feel him around all the time," she says. "When we're in the water, when we're drinking beer." She turns thoughtful for a moment. "Right now he's riding his Harley."

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