

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2016.01.25](#)

**DATE:** Monday January 25, 2016

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Hanalei Bay, Kauai, Hawaii, USA.

*22°12'44"N, 159°29'49"W*

**NAME:** Kaya Waldman

**DESCRIPTION:** A 15-year-old female. She has been surfing since she was 11.

**SURFBOARD:** An 8'8" board

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 11h53 Hanamaulu recorded partly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 78.1°F, dew point 66.9°F, humidity 68%, sea level pressure was 30.06 inches (falling) and wind direction was variable at 4.6 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 96% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, January 23, 2016.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** It was a "big wave" day

**TIME:** 11h30

**NARRATIVE:** Kaya Waldman had been surfing out past the main surf break and was paddling in when she saw something gray in the water. Initially, Waldman thought it was buoy but when it kept moving toward her, she realized it was a shark. "It was coming at me so fast I got scared," she said. "I started screaming, but there was no one around to hear me," she said. The leash between her ankle and board became hooked in the shark's mouth, and she was pulled underwater. The shark dragged her for several seconds until she was able to remove the leash from the shark's mouth. Then, she surfaced, climbed back on her board and paddled hard until she caught a small wave and headed toward shore. At the beach, she reported the incident to firefighters and a lifeguard. They were unable to locate a shark and given the far location from the swimming area — and with no other reports of a shark sighting that day — they did not close the beach.

**INJURY:** No injury

**SPECIES:** According to the surfer, the shark was longer than her board. She thinks it may have been a tiger shark.

**SOURCE:** The Garden Island, Tuesday February 2, 2016

[http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/surfer-survives-shark-encounter/article\\_fbc1e881-6cf7-53c3-9383-e74d09e58efc.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/surfer-survives-shark-encounter/article_fbc1e881-6cf7-53c3-9383-e74d09e58efc.html)

**NOTE:** This was not an "attack"; it was an accidental collision.

