

ACTIVITY: Body boarding
CASE: **GSF 1992.02.19**
DATE: Wednesday
February 19, 1992
LOCATION: The accident
took place in the Pacific
Ocean at Leftovers, near
Waimea Bay, O'ahu,
Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Brian Adona
DESCRIPTION: He was a
20-year-old male, a railway
employee.

BACKGROUND

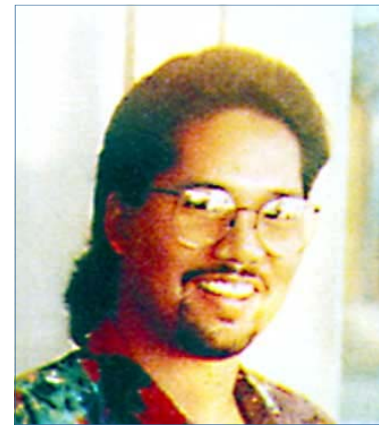
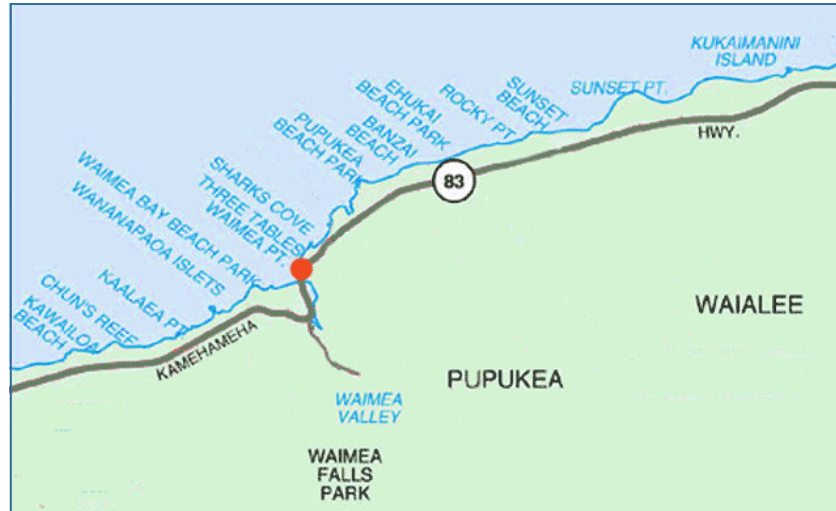
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, February 17, 1992
TIME: Late afternoon

NARRATIVE: No details; he disappeared while body boarding.

INJURY: Presumed fatal. His board washed ashore in Waimea Bay next morning with 16-inch crescent-shaped piece missing and serrated toothmarks of a shark.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: The Valley Independent, Wednesday, April 15, 1992; Press-Courier, Saturday November 7, 1992, page 10; James Borg, pages 80-81; Leighton Taylor (1993), pages 112-113. *Note:* Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources gives the date of this incident as February 1, 1992.



Brian Adona
Photo by Betty Adona



Photo by Bruce Asato

Brian Adona's board showing section removed from the left front side.
His car keys are still attached to the leash.

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OAHU, HAWAII

In a scenario straight out of the movie "Jaws," Hawaiian officials have not yet concluded whether a fatal shark attack occurred recently off of one of Oahu's more popular surfing beaches.

Body-board surfer Bryan Adona, 29, was last seen about 500 feet off a north shore surfing beach known locally as "Leftovers." He failed to return to shore and a search proved fruitless. But the next day his board was found on a nearby beach with what appears to be a huge bite taken out of it.

At the time of Adona's disappearance, other surfers reported seeing a large fish in the water. One described it as being almost 3 meters across and dark brown. No one saw a dorsal fin, so many of the observers thought they were seeing either a large walrus or a small whale.

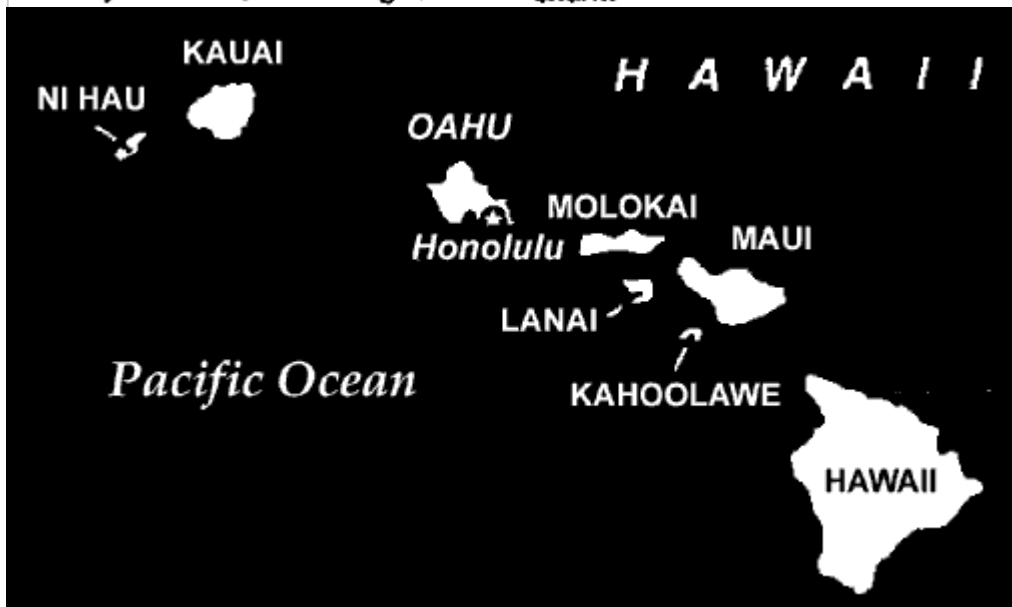
But shark experts say what they saw was consistent with a very large tiger shark, as was the "bite" mark on the board. They further said that a body boarder, swimming on his

board, might appear to a shark below like a large sea turtle, a staple in the shark's diet.

However, authorities point to the fact that there is no blood or tissue on the body board, and that the bite mark could just be a section of the board broken off when it hit the rocks. Shark experts seem to have no doubt what happened, and they accuse authorities of worrying too much about tourist reaction.

The incident has renewed calls for an organized culling of the shark population, which has grown quite large around several of the Hawaiian islands. Such culling, which means actually killing larger sharks, was stopped nearly 15 years ago in the face of opposition from marine naturalists, including Jacques Cousteau.

Actually, shark attacks in Hawaiian waters are quite rare. Since records started being kept in 1779, there have only been 84 recorded attacks, 34 of which were fatal. This would mark the first attack since 1985 when an Kauai surfer survived a near fatal meeting with a large tiger shark.



Shark hunt off Oahu after killing

HONOLULU (AP) — Fishermen pulled in two large tiger sharks and were trying to catch an even larger one Friday in hopes of getting the shark that killed an 18-year-old man while he was boogie-boarding on Thursday, a state information officer said.

The shark hunters caught an 11-footer and a 13-footer "and are attempting to catch a larger shark that has been circling in the area," said Pearlene Lee, an information specialist with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The sharks already caught will be dissected in an attempt to determine if either was responsible for the fatal attack.

The state hired the fishermen after Aaron Romento of Pearl City was attacked while surfing with friends in five feet of water about 10 yards offshore of Keeau Beach Park, located on the west side of Oahu, about 40 miles from Honolulu and the Waikiki resort area.

The shark bit into Romento's right leg just above his knee, ripping off some flesh and bone and causing massive bleeding that put the youth into shock and caused a "massive trauma" that led to his death.

Romento was pulled ashore by his friends and others on the beach, and a lifeguard administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but he was pronounced dead upon arrival at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

The shark hunters, who have the permission of the native Hawaiian community in trying to catch the shark, planted lines in the water Thursday evening and went to check on the lines this morning.

It was the second shark attack in two weeks, and the second confirmed shark killing in less than a year in Hawaii.

A shark attacked surfer Rick Gruzinsky last month as he surfed on the North Shore. The shark bit a huge chunk out of Gruzinsky's board, but the 26-year-old Hawaii Kai resident escaped unharmed.

The Shark Task Force captured six sharks the next day, including a 14-footer believed to have attacked Gruzinsky.

Martha Morrell was killed by a shark while swimming off Maui last November, the first confirmed fatal shark attack in Hawaii since the 1950s. Body-boarder Bryan Adona was never found after going boogie-boarding Feb. 19. His board later washed ashore, and had a shark bite in it. A Kauai woman, Jude Chamberlain, escaped with minor injuries after a shark attacked her March 28.

Press-Courier, Saturday November 7, 1992, page 10