

Clifford Kaponno (Writer & Creator), b. 1987

Daniel Ikaika Ito (Executive Producer), b. 1981

MOHO, 2021

Animated Short Film

As surfing made its debut at the Tokyo Olympics in the waters of Tsurigasaki Beach there is not a Hawai'i Surf Team (HST) competing. If Duke Paoa Kahanamoku returned today, how would this Native Hawaiian Olympic swimming champion and Godfather of modern surfing feel about the absence of a Hawai'i Surf Team at the 2020 Olympic Summer Games? MOHO asks this question through the lens of a young, kanaka maoli boy named 'Apo when the 'uhane (spirit) of Paoa returns to Waikiki.

In 1912, Paoa advocated surfing in the Olympics. Since the inception of modern surf contests in the 1960s – when Paoa was still alive – Hawai'i was always recognized as its own nation in professional and amateur competition around the world. This distinction allowed competitors from Hawai'i to compete under Hae Hawai'i (the Hawaiian flag) and honor the birthplace of he'e nalu and surfing's ancestors.

The global surfing community and Native Hawaiians share the same origin, ancestors, culture and mother tongue. Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing, and what our kūpuna (ancestors) called “he'e nalu” has evolved to be a professional and Olympic sport. We thank the International Surfing Association (ISA), surfing's governing body, for pushing to get he'e nalu in the Olympic Games. In the process of the ISA's Olympic endeavor however, Hawai'i was not allowed to compete at the ISA World Games and the Olympic Games. Sadly, the birthplace of surfing was no longer officially recognized by the ISA and IOC when he'enalu debuted during the 2020 Summer Games in Japan.

The goal of this film has always been and will always be to get a Hawai'i Surf Team competing in the 2024 Summer Olympics. The surfing portion will be in Tahiti, the ancestral land of the Native Hawaiians. The petition to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), like MOHO, are objectives that advance us to the goal of a Hawai'i Surf Team competing at the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Clifford Kaponu (Mea Kākau & Mea Haku), hānau ‘ia. 1987

Daniel Ikaika Ito (Luna Ho‘opuka), hānau ‘ia. 1981

MOHO, 2021

Onina Ki‘i Pōkole

I ka puka ‘ana mai o ka he‘enalu ma ka ‘Olumepika Tokyo ma ke kai o ke Kahakai Tsurigasaki, ‘a‘ohe Kime He‘enalu Hawai‘i i ka ho‘okūkū. Inā paha ho‘i mai ‘o Duke Paoa Kahanamoku i kēia wā, pehea nō ho‘i ka na‘au o kēia kanaka Hawai‘i, he po‘okela ‘Olumepika ma ke ‘au ‘ana a ‘o ia ke kupuna o ka he‘enalu ‘ana o kēia ao, i ka nele i Kime He‘enalu Hawai‘i ‘ole ma ka ‘Olumepika Kauwela o ka makahiki 2020? Hāpai ‘o MOHO i ia nīnau ma o ke kuana‘ike o kekahi ‘ōpio, he keiki Hawai‘i, ‘o ‘Apo kona inoa, i ka ho‘i ‘ana mai o ka ‘uhane o Paoa i Waikīkī.

I ka makahiki 1912, ua paipai nui ‘o Paoa no ka he‘enalu ma ka ‘Olumepika. Mai ka wā i ho‘omaka ai nā ho‘okūkū he‘enalu i nā makahiki 1960 - iā Paoa e ola ana - ua ‘ike mau ‘ia ‘o Hawai‘i he ‘ano lāhui ma nā ho‘okūkū ‘oihana a hōlona a puni ka honua. No kēia ‘oko‘a, ua ‘ae ‘ia nā ‘ālapa no Hawai‘i e ho‘okūkū ma lalo o ka Hae Hawai‘i a e ho‘ohanohano i kahi i ho‘okumu ‘ia ai ka he‘enalu a me ka mō‘aukala o ka he‘enalu.

Ua like ka piko, nā kūpuna, ka mo‘omeheu a me ka ‘ōlelo makuahine o ke kaiāulu he‘enalu honua a me nā kānaka Hawai‘i. ‘O Hawai‘i kahi i ho‘omaka ai ka he‘enalu, a ua lilo ia mea i kapa ‘ia he “he‘enalu” na ko māua mau kūpuna i pā‘ani ‘oihana a ‘Olumepika. Mahalo māua i ka ‘Ahahui He‘enalu Kau‘āina (ISA), ke kino ho‘omalua o ka he‘enalu, no ka pa‘u ‘ana e mālama ‘ia ka he‘enalu ma nā Pā‘ani ‘Olumepika. I loko na‘e o ko ISA ‘imi ‘ana i ka ‘Olumepika, ‘a‘ole i ‘ae ‘ia ‘o Hawai‘i e ho‘okūkū ma ka ISA Pā‘ani Honua a me nā Pā‘ani ‘Olumepika. ‘O ka minamina, ‘a‘ole ‘ike kūhelu ‘ia kahi i ho‘omaka ai ka he‘enalu e ka ISA a me ka IOC i ka puka ‘ana mai o ka he‘enalu ‘ana ma nā Pā‘ani Kauwele ma Iāpana i ka makahiki 2020.

‘O ka pahuhopu nui o kēia ki‘i ka ‘ae ‘ana aku i Kime He‘enalu Hawai‘i e ho‘okūkū ma ka ‘Olumepika Kauwela i ka makahiki 2024. E mālama ‘ia ana ka māhele he‘enalu ma Tahiti, ka ‘āina kupuna o ka po‘e Hawai‘i. ‘O ka palapala noi i ke Komike ‘Olumepika Kau‘āina (IOC), e like ho‘i me MOHO, ‘o ia nā mea e ho‘okokoke aku ai i ka pahuhopu nui, ‘o ka ho‘okūkū ‘ana aku o kekahi Kime He‘enalu Hawai‘i ma ka ‘Olumepika Kauwela i ka makahiki 2024.