

## **Tom Pōhaku Stone**

Papa he'e nalu in the alai'a style made of 'ulu

Tom Pōhaku Stone, a legendary native Hawaiian surfer and waterman, has been on a life long journey in search of his cultural heritage. Starting in the ocean surfing as a young boy, Pōhaku grew up in a world of contradiction. Part of his life was surrounded by beauty and pride, surfing in the paradise where he was born, while another part was surrounded by a world of frustration, where his native culture was cast aside as backwards and ignorant. Through his career as a pro surfer Pōhaku often battled this contradiction, always searching for clarity and unity between his pride as a waterman and what he deeply felt should be his pride as a Hawaiian.

It has been through education that Pōhaku has been able to find clarity. Using his love of he'e nalu (surfing) and his culture as a focal point Pōhaku has spent the last ten years at the University of Hawai'i, gaining his masters degree in Pacific Island Studies, specializing in ancient Hawaiian sports. He is credited with revitalizing the sport of he'e hōlua (Hawaiian sledding), a centuries old extreme sport, and for the past several years he has been sharing his knowledge and his aloha as a teacher and craftsman, instructing students in the arts of sled building and surfboard carving.

Through this balance of riding, teaching, and craftsmanship, Pōhaku has found peace within himself and a sense of pride in his culture that can never be broken. It is this peace and pride that is put into every papa hōlua and papa he'e nalu he crafts, making these works of art truly "he mea Kanaka Maoli, native made."

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Papa he'e nalu ma ke kaila alai'a hana 'ia me ka 'ulu

'O Tom Pōhaku Stone, he kanaka Hawai'i i kaulana ma ke 'ano he kanaka he'enalu a he kanaka kai, a aia nō 'o ia i kekahi huaka'i nohona e 'imi ana i kona ho'oilina ku'una. Ua ho'omaka 'o ia e he'enalu i ke kai iā ia he keiki, a ua ulu 'o Pōhaku i kekahi ao ho'oku'iku'i. No kekahi wā o kona nohona, ua puni 'o ia i ka nani me ka ha'aheo, ma ka he'enalu 'ana i kahi i hānau 'ia ai 'o ia, a ma kekahi wā, ua puni 'o ia i nā uluhua, i kahi i ho'okae 'ia kona mo'omeheu he mea na'aupō ho'i ia. Ma kāna 'oihana he'enalu, ua kū 'o Pōhaku i kēia 'ano ho'oku'iku'i, alo a he alo, a 'imi mau 'o ia i ka mōakāka a me ka lōkahi ma waena o kona ha'aheo he kanaka kai me ka ha'awina o kona na'au no kona ha'aheo he Hawai'i.

Ma o ka ho'ona'auao 'ia 'ana i mōakāka ai kēia mau mea iā Pōhaku. No kona puni i ka he'enalu a no kona aloha i kona mo'omeheu, 'o kēia mau mea ka piko o kāna mau hana ma ke Kulanui o Hawai'i no nā makahiki he 'umi i hala, ua loa'a ke kēkelē laeo'o iā ia ma ka Ha'awina Mokupuni Pākīpika me ke kālele i nā pā'ani ku'una Hawai'i. Nona ka ho'omaika'i 'o ka ho'ōla 'ana i ka pā'ani he'e hōlua, he pā'ani nui o nā kenekūlia i hala, a no kekahi mau makahiki i hala, e hō'ike ana 'o ia i kona 'ike a me kona aloha ma ke 'ano he kumu a he hana no'eau, a'o 'o ia i nā haumāna i ke kāpili hōlua a me ke kālai papa he'enalu.

Ma o kēia kaulika 'ana i ka he'enalu 'ana, ke a'o 'ana a me ka hana no'eau, ua malu ko Pōhaku na'au a he ha'aheo kona i kona mo'omeheu e pio 'ole ana. 'O kēia 'ano maluhia a me kēia 'ano ha'aheo nā mea e ho'okomo 'ia ana i loko o nā papa hōlua a me nā papa he'enalu a pau āna e kāpili a kālai ai, a kū 'i'o nō kāna mau mea no'eau a pau i ka 'ōlelo, "he mea Kanaka Maoli."