

Hawaiian Renaissance

Hawaiian Renaissance contains four tales of the spirit, strength, and beauty, of the native Hawaiian culture that was part of my life, and I photographed back in the day. The Hawaiian renaissance that started in the 1970's brought new interest in native Hawaiian culture, sports, language, and history. It was good feeling the original spirit and history of the place of my birth come alive. Even though I have no Hawaiian blood, I am a son of Hawaii.

The 1970 Hawaiian Renaissance sprang out of the cultural revolution of the 1960's. When I was young, Hawaii's society was dominated by America, and Hawaiian culture was blended with all the other cultures that make up Hawaii's society. Hawaiian language and culture was not taught in schools or studied in college except from a western perspective.

Yet, Hawaiian culture touched all of us who are from here. The art of surfing was invented and practiced by native Hawaiians long ago. I think it is one of the greatest gifts the Hawaiians gave to the world. Anyone who is riding waves on the planet is practicing a form of Hawaiian culture in their own way. They say "only a surfer knows the feeling".

Today, being Hawaiian has many different, and often controversial meanings. These four tales are from another time when a few of the people of Hawaii were trying to figure out the meaning of being Hawaiian by surfing, paddling, learning Hawaiian, and protecting the Aina.

"The Hana Canoe Club" this story is about the birth and success of the Hana Canoe Club.

"Missing The Sara Joe" is a tragic tale of loss and how the loss affected the Hana people.

"A Story of Resistance" tells of how local resistance stopped the bombing of Kahoolawe.

"All In the Ohana" captures Hawaiian youth and family at a time of change.

These are tales about people and groups who didn't just talk about being Hawaiian. They fought to protect the Aina, brought back Hawaiian cultural practices and lived Aloha through good times and bad. Maybe our divided islands could learn something from them. Until the true Kamaaina and Kanak Maoli unite and form an independent Hawaiian Nation again we will have to live by the rules of the occupier.

The Hana Canoe Club

When I moved out to Hana, Maui in 1975 Hawaiian outrigger canoe racing was well established throughout Hawaii except in Hana, the most Hawaiian place of all. In fact, Hana was more Hawaiian through blood than practice back then. Playing baseball was much more important than surfing. But, as the Hawaiian renaissance hit, the Hawaiian culture came out.

In 1977, the smallest outrigger canoe club in Hawaii was born around two donated racing canoes and the spirit of the entire Hana coastline. It was awesome to see Hawaiian canoes return to the heart of Hawaii. The whole community united behind the outrigger canoe club as it became the pride of Hana. Everyone from Nahiku to Kipahulu was welcomed to join the club and paddle. This brought together a very diverse group of people who didn't always hang out with each other or even get along well. For a moment, Hana paddled their canoe together. We all did stuff to support the canoe club, even if we didn't paddle. I took photos.

Most people on the Hana side are comfortable in the ocean and took naturally to paddling. What the Hana Canoe Club lacked in size and resources they made up in heart and aloha. In the beginning most of the paddlers were novice, but they practice hard and were soon beating the older, bigger, canoe clubs on Maui. They always brought the Hana Style with them to canoe regattas on the other side of the island and earned their respect paddling.

One of the crowning moments was holding the first Hawaiian canoe regatta in Hana Bay. All the Hawaiian Canoe clubs from the rest of Maui came out to race in a place overflowing with Hawaiian mana. Not since the great battles between Maui and the Big Island in ancient times had there been so many Hawaiian outriggers in Hana Bay. Everyone from the other side saw what it meant to be Hawaiian in Hana.

"The Hana Canoe Club"



The Hana Canoe Club 1977

"The Hana Canoe Club"



A Old Tradition Begins

"The Hana Canoe Club"



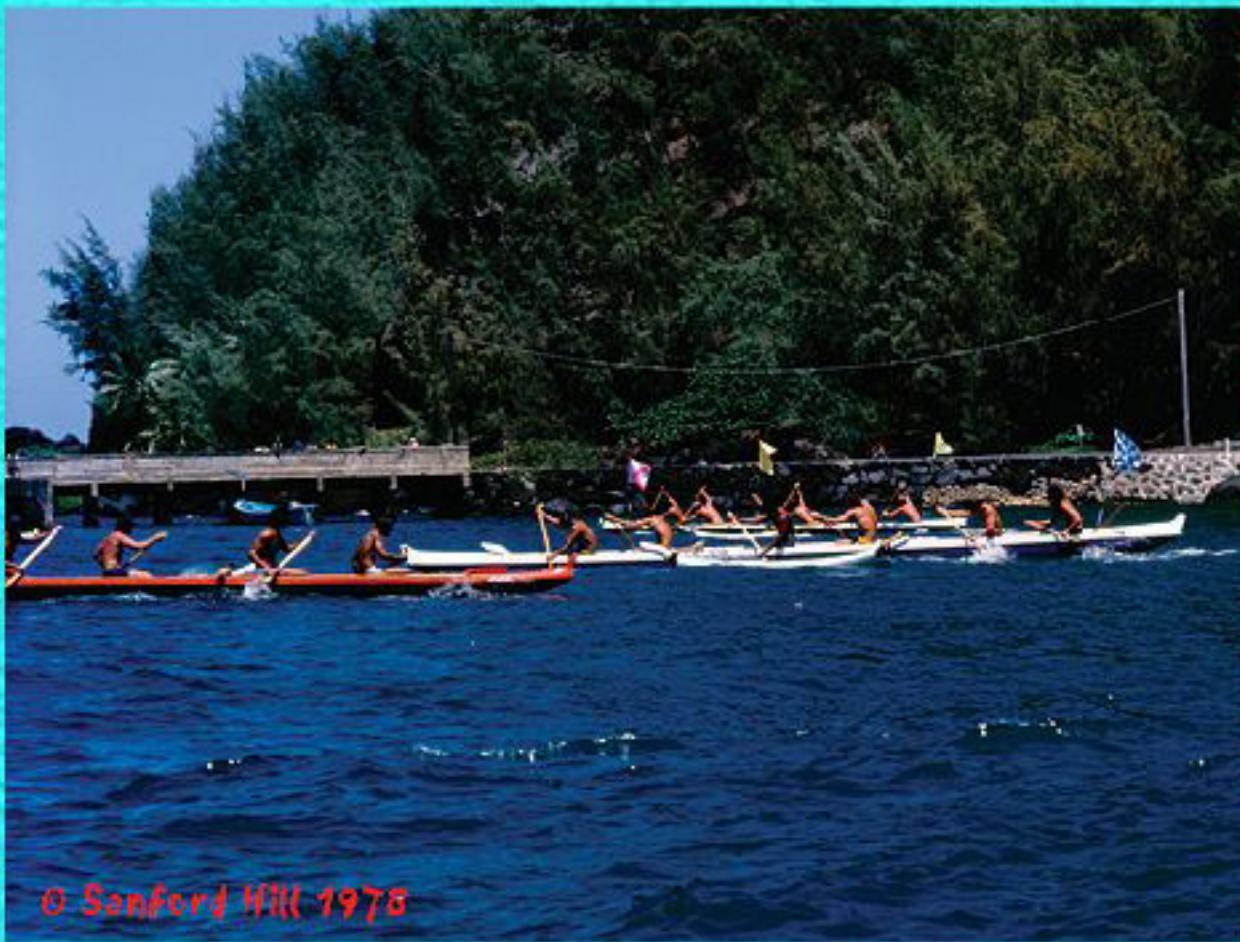
Hana Wahine Practice

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Hawaiian Canoes Return to Hana

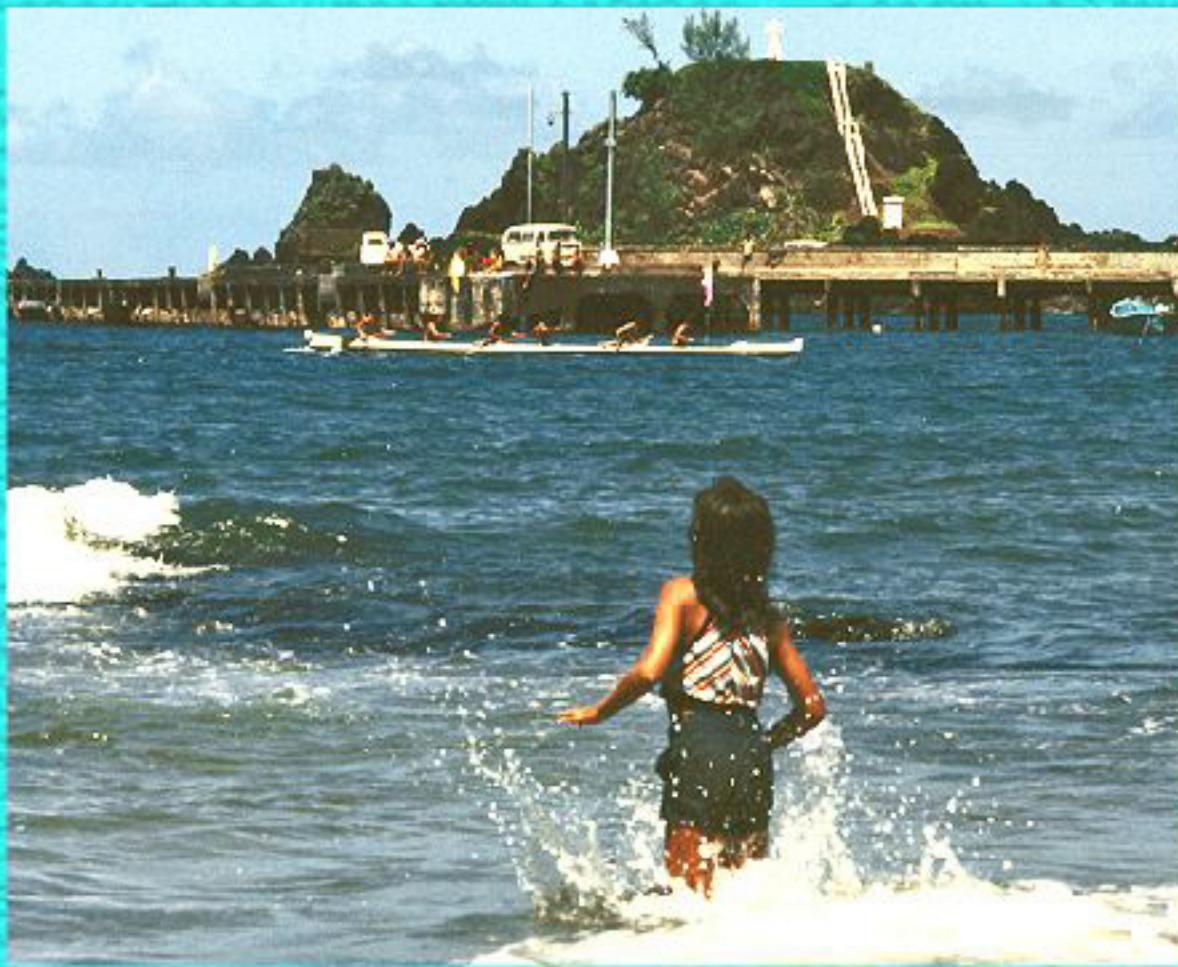
"The Hana Canoe Club"



© Sanford Mill 1975

1st Hana Canoe Regatta

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Good Times

"The Hana Canoe Club"



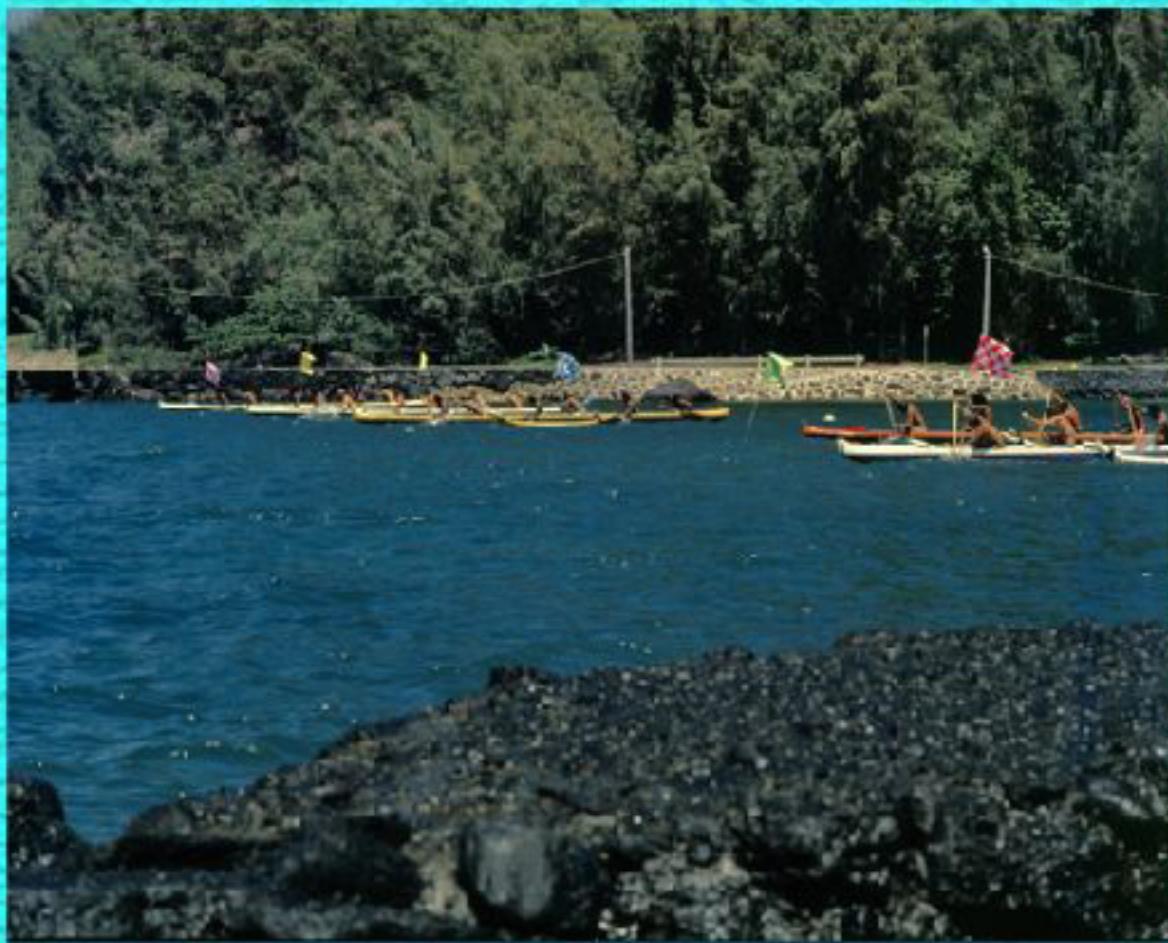
Hana comes alive

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Too Much Fun

"The Hana Canoe Club"



First Race Starts

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Hana Wahine Give um

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Canoe Practice Hana Style

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Hana goes on the Road

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Da Boys No Scared

"The Hana Canoe Club"



1978 Kahului Regatta

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Winning Spirit

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Watch Out For Hana

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Hana Boys Represent

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Hana Men Take the Lead

"The Hana Canoe Club"



Giant Killers Paddle Out

Missing The Sara Joe

On February 11 1979, five Hana men set out for a fun day off fishing on the "Sara Joe", a 17 ft. Boston Whaler. Something happen to the boat off Hamoa just as a violent storm blew in and they were never seen again. The missing crew and other changes transformed Hana forever. This is a tale about that fateful day, the men lost to the sea, and how it changed Hana.

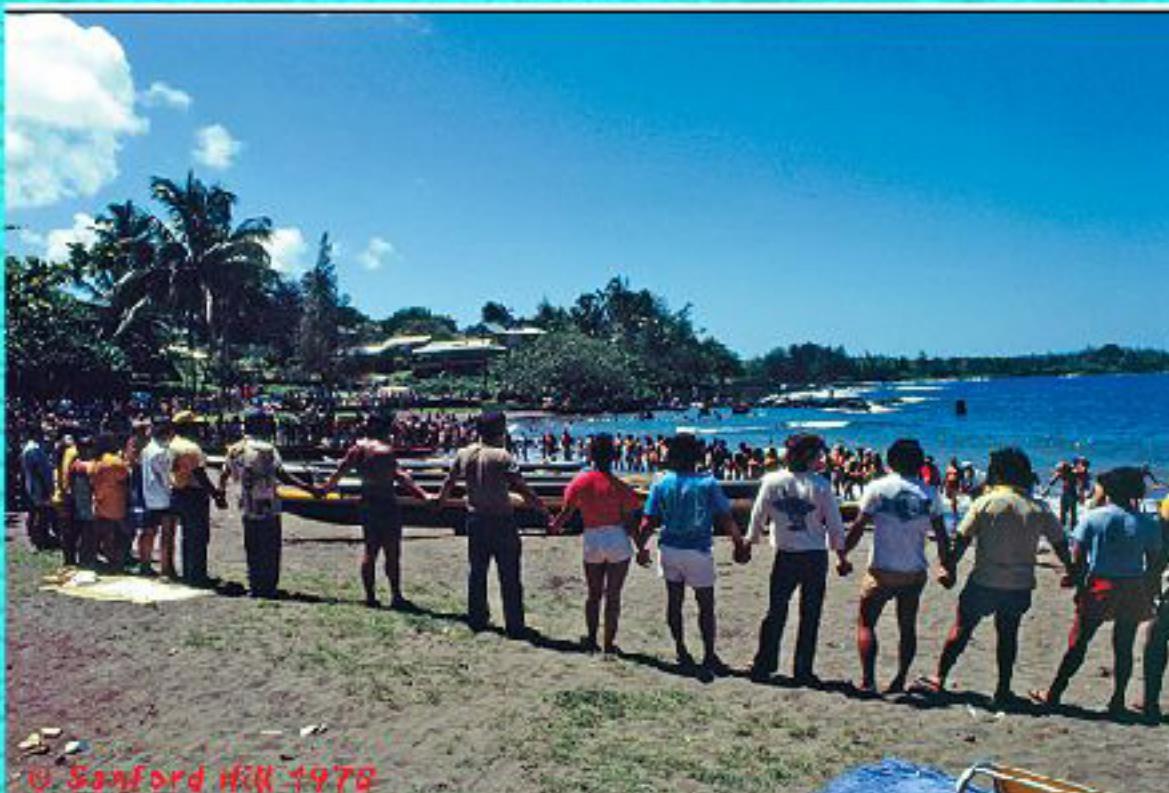
I knew all of the crew lost that day and a few of them were good friends of mine. We surfed, partied, and help each other out all the time. The men on that boat ranged from Hana's oldest families to guys who had only live in Hana a few years. They were key members of the Hana Canoe club, which fell apart after their deaths. The lost crew haunts the canoe club of this tale. You can see many of the lost crew in the photographs.

The morning they left Hana Bay to fish off of Hamoa the weather was calm and the skies were clear. Fishing was something Hana people did every day for food and income. The weather technology back then gave no warning that a huge storm was blowing in that afternoon. No one knows exactly what happened, but the Sara Joe never made it back to Hana bay.

The Alenuihaha channel, between Maui and the Big Island is considered one of the roughest in the world. The storm was so bad that not even the Coast Guard could search for days. By the time the massive search started there was no sign of the of the Sara Joe. In 1988 the remains of the boat and one of the crew was found on a remote Marshall Island in the south Pacific.

I had the only good view of the Alenuihaha Channel back then from my new house above Hamoa shown in the last photo. I'd left days before they were loss to party on the mainland for couple weeks. No one could drive up my road because the gate was locked. I'll always wonder if things would've been different if I been home on that faithful day. Would I, or others, have seen something from my deck that might have changed the outcome of this heartbreaking tale. Bad timing and Bad luck.

"Missing the Sara Joe"



© Sanford Hill 1978

A Bitter Sweet Tale

"Missing the Sara Joe"



Pride of Hana

"Missing the Sara Joe"



The Crew Pull Together

"Missing the Sara Joe"



Hana celebrates Another Win

"Missing the Sara Joe"



All Eyes on Hana

"Missing the Sara Joe"



© Sanford Hill 1978

Pato Looks On

"Missing the Sara Joe"



Living For Today

"Missing the Sara Joe"



Scott Looks Back

"Missing the Sara Joe"

*Dedicated to the crew of the Sara Joe Lost at sea
February 11 1979*



*Ralph Malaikini
Peter Boy Hanchell
Pato Woessner
Benny Kalama
Scott Moorman*

Respect the Past

A Story of Resistance

In 1975 a small band of Hawaii activist began vigorously trying to stop the US military from using the Hawaiian Island of Kahoolawe for target practice. This is the tale of the beginning of the "Stop The Bombing" movement as I remember it. It is a classic David and Goliath story of effective civil disobedience that brought about real change. Really protecting the Aina from harm is a true test of being Hawaiian. This scruffy group of activist, Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian, passed that test.

The activist had learned that if even one person was on Kahoolawe the military wouldn't bomb it. So a few of them would sneak on the island, and the military would spend weeks chasing them around. Since it was illegal to go on Kahoolawe, the protesters would be arrested and thrown in jail when caught on the island. As soon as one group of protesters was arrested, a few more would sneak on to the island. It was not easy, but this effectively kept the US military from conducting operations and bombing Kahoolawe, which was our only goal at the time.

Back then, the majority of Hawaii's people supported the U.S. military using Kahoolawe. The movement was a few small groups of local activist from different Hawaiian islands that protested and raised funds anyway they could for bail and other expenses needed to Stop the Bombing.

Two Hawaiian activist, George Helm and Kimo Mitchell died during the dangerous occupation and many other went to Jail before the US military gave up and stopped bombing Kahoolawe. The US later cleared some of the unexploded ordinance from the Island and turned it over to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission who now control access. I hope someday Kahoolawe will be open to all of Hawaii's people to experience with respect to those that freed it. In the 1990 I went on a illegal sailing voyage around, and camped on, Kahoolawe. I was finally able to experience the mana of the Kahoolawe for myself, in my own way. The true story of the Kahoolawe resistance has not been told. How did George and Kimo die? Was the resort development of Wailea and Kihei the real reason the bombing stopped ? Who got paid?

"A Story of Resistance"



Stop the Bombing

"A Story of Resistance"



1976 Kahoolawe Benefit Concert

"A Story of Resistance"



The Maui Resistance

"A Story of Resistance"



Making Kulolo for Bail Money

"A Story of Resistance"



Maui Kanikapila For Kahoolawe

"A Story of Resistance"



Hawaiian Renaissance

"A Story of Resistance"



Gloria and Loretta Mix Kulolo

"A Story of Resistance"



Copyright 1976 Sanford L. Hill

*In memory of George, Kimo, Danny,
Buzzy and Uncle Sol*

"A Story of Resistance"



Freedom For Kahoolawe

All In The Ohana

In 1974 a local girl from Makaha named Maili Woo moved into our house in Haiku. She, and her family and friends, brought a unique energy to our little world. She was a totally cool vegetarian, Seventh Day Adventist, who didn't smoke or drink, which gave me a different perspective on life than the people I usually hungout with.

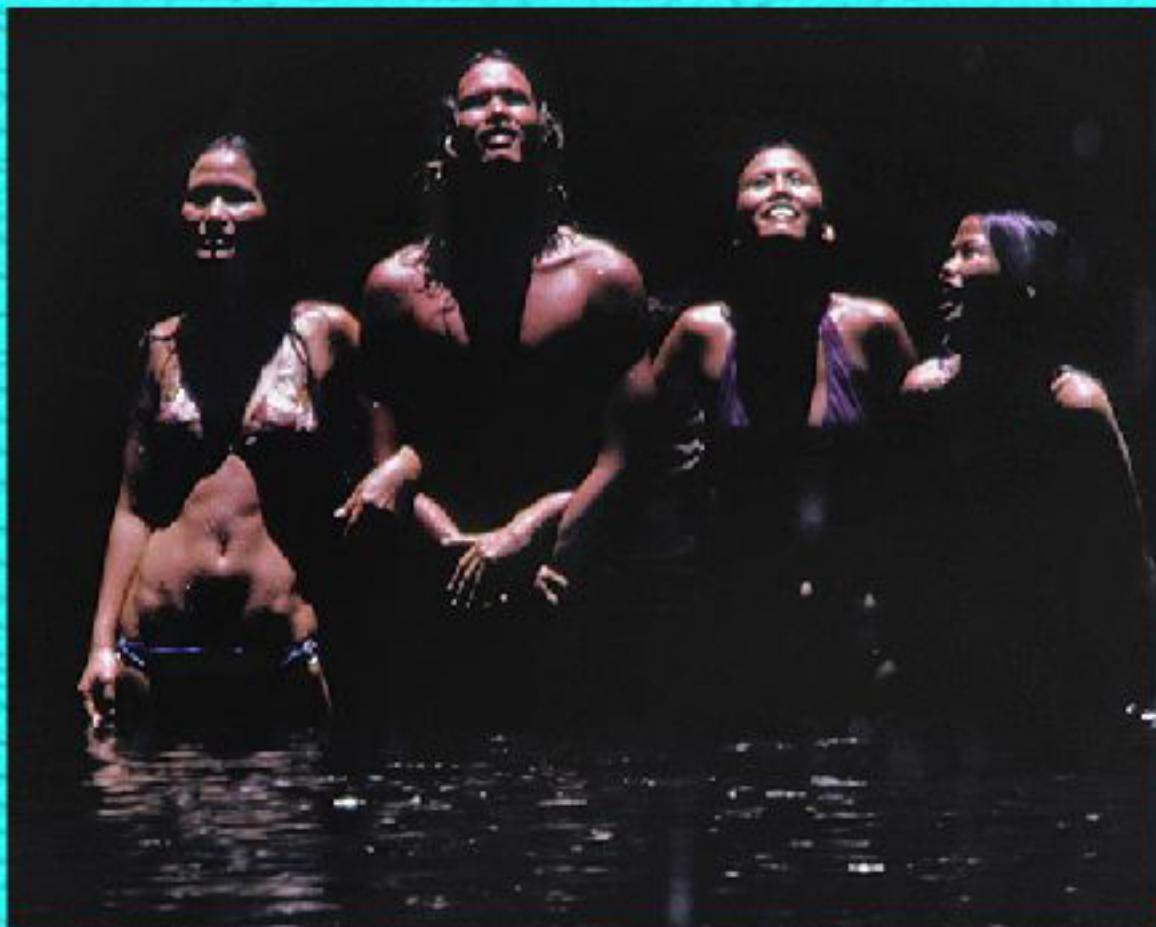
I met Maili at Maui Community College where we were both students and became friends. Once I talked Maili and a few others into hijacking the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council convention on Maui with toy guns. Her group demanded the end of development on Maui and a return to the Hawaiian Nation. Much to our surprise the kids of the Council passed a resolution supporting our demands. There was this wild feeling that we could actually change things. Of course the development of Maui continued and the Hawaiian culture became one of the main attractions of Maui land.

The photos come from a photoshoot of her, and her brother and sisters, as the family gathered for her older sisters wedding in 1975. The photos were taken mostly around the waterfall in Huelo where her sister got married. They gave prints of the photos to her parents for Christmas in exchange for allowing me to use them.

These photos are not only portraits of Hawaiian keiki, but of a more innocent, peaceful time. I hoped to capture the strength, diversity, beauty and aloha of Hawaiian youth just before they moved on to create their own lives and ohana. Within a year, Maili got married and moved to Kauai.

The photos capture the melting pot of races and cultures that make up Hawaii's people. Maili's family comes from the west side of Oahu. They are descendants of Hawaiian, Chinese, European, and other accessors who came to Hawaii long ago. It seems that we were all descendants of people who came to Hawaii by boat from far away to make these islands their home.

"All in the Ohana"



Keiki of Hawaii

"All in the Ohana"



Behind the Waterfall

"All in the Ohana"



Looking Toward the Future

"All in the Ohana"



Hawaiian Smiles

"All in the Ohana"



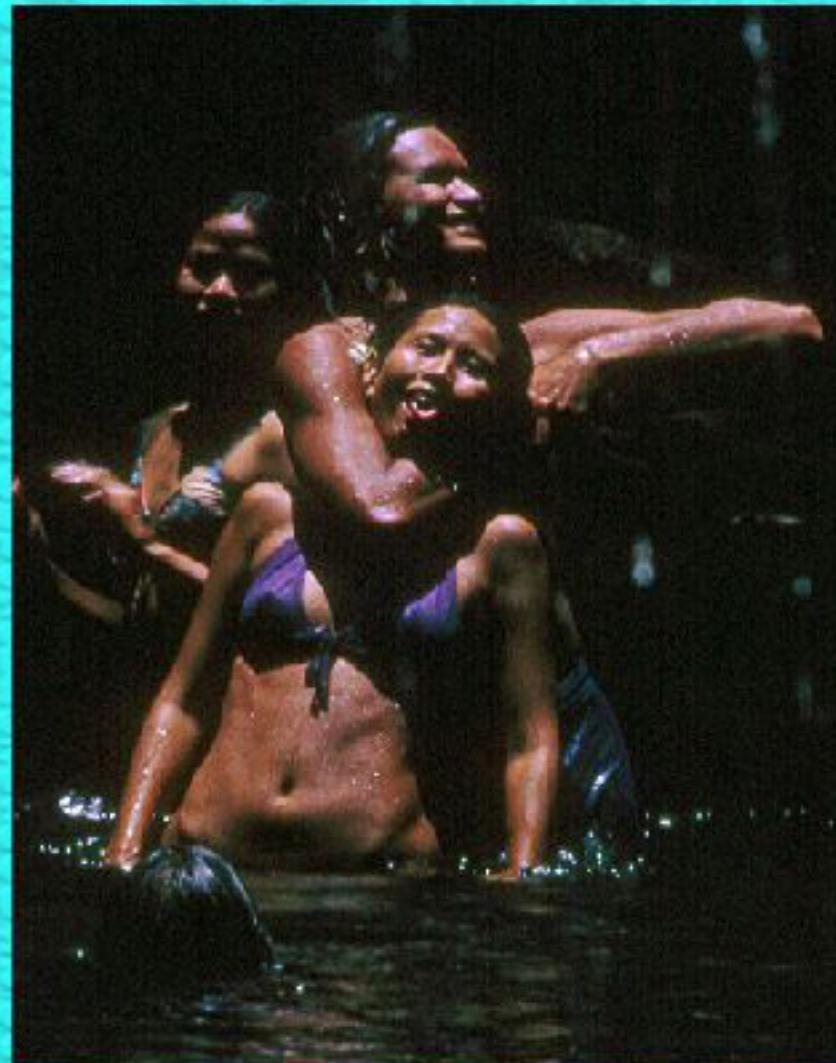
Reflection of Hawaii

"All in the Ohana"



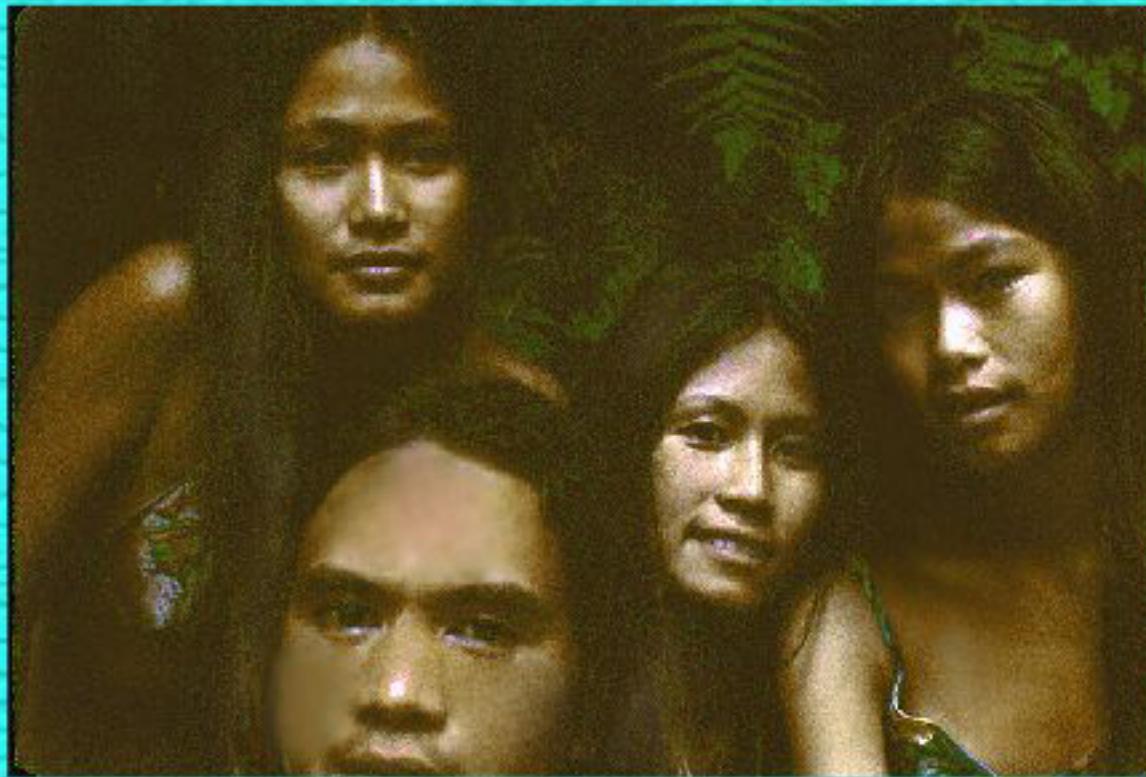
Last Days of Youth

"All in the Ohana"



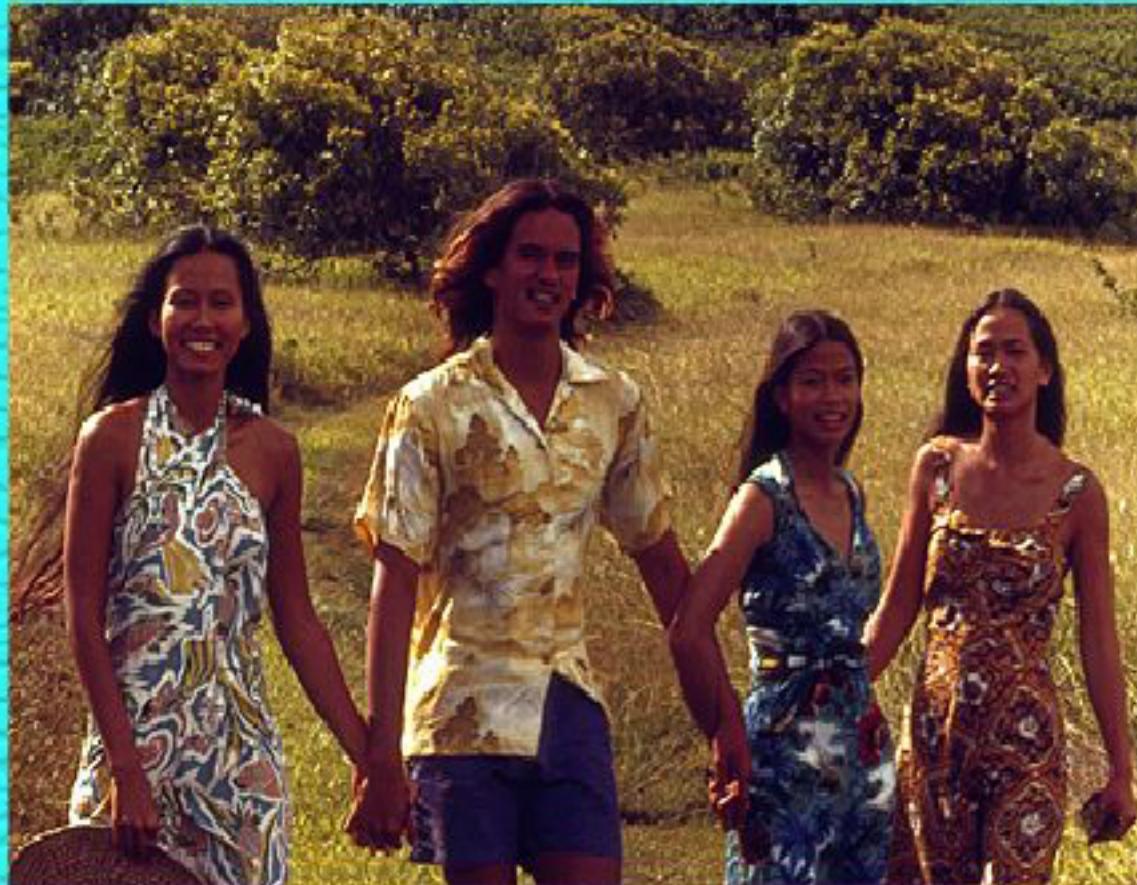
Good Fun

"All in the Ohana"



Hawaiian Mix

"All in the Ohana"



Brother and Sisters

"All in the Ohana"



Shadows of Hawaii