

# ODKF Receives Alaia Surfboard in Memory of Duke



Accepting the board on behalf of ODKF were, front, Gary Oliveira, Roderik Patlin, Marinus Joris, Billy and McD Philpotts. Back: Tim Guard, Jim Fulton, Bill Pratt, Olly de Vries, Chris Way, Nic Young.



By Billy Philpotts  
ODKF President

A close up of the board.

On February 6, the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation received a 6'6" inlaid Alaia (thin traditional Hawaiian short board for the commoner), with various hardwood veneer inlaid in the deck to portray the Duke riding.

It was a gift from Olaf de Vries (aka Olly) a surf shop owner and builder from Holland who was visiting the islands.

About two weeks before his first visit Olly, reached out to ODKF, with a heartfelt gesture of pure aloha. He wrote:

"Dear Foundation,

My name is Olaf de Vries. (aka Olly). I've got a little factory called Ollywood Surfboards in the Netherlands. . . I build handmade hollow wooden surfboards with a veneer inlay. I'm traveling to Hawaii to personally drop off a surfboard on Kauai. . .

This year it has been 100 years since the Duke travelled to Sydney and California, and the rest of the world got to know the sport of kings. We are traveling the opposite direction 100 years later. I've been to Freshwater a couple of times through the years. In Holland we have a history of surfing since 1936 and over 50,000 people that surf.

So as a big thank you to the Duke, I made a special alaia that I would like to donate to the Foundation.

Surfing changed my life 23 years ago as it did for many of us. I would like to know if we could drop it off and help the Foundation a little bit with this board, which you can sell or keep at the Foundation.

Mahalo,  
Olly"

On February 6 a small group gathered in the Duke Room, and for an hour or so, shared what aloha, the Duke, and our ocean connections to each other really mean. Genuine sentiments of gratitude heralded forth inspiration of what aloha can accomplish and how we and our world need more of it.

On behalf of ODKF, Emeritus Director Tim Guard, graciously received this beautiful board, and extended a standing invitation to the Dutch to participate in the alaia division at OceanFest. Before taking the guys to the airport that afternoon we caught our last waves together in the *Cline* and shared the "stoke" once more.

August 24 is the 125th birthday of Duke Kahanamoku, and this unique gift from across the world sparks the start of ODKF's Duke 125 Campaign to increase the foundation's reach in our community.

On behalf of the OCC and ODKF and for the children and athletes we serve, we thank Olly and his team for bringing and sharing their Olloha and his generous donation!

ODKF will display the board in the Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame and then auction it to highest bidder at the Waterman's induction ceremony this year. The estimated value is \$2,500 USD.



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