

KEITH 'KEONE' DOWNING

SUMMARY

Keone Downing was born in [redacted] and raised in Honolulu. The son of big-wave pioneer George Downing, he began surfing at age five in Waikiki. He won the juniors division of the Makaha International in 1968 and 1969, placed fifth in the 1970 World Surfing Championships at Bells Beach in Australia, a runner-up in the 1980 Duke Kahanamoku Classic and Winner of the 1990 Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau big-wave contest at Waimea Bay.

Downing was one of Hawaii's most decorated outrigger-canoe paddlers in the 1980s, helping his team to five victories in the Molokai-to-Oahu championship between 1980 and 1988, and winning the World Canoe Surfing Championships in 1988. He attended California College of Arts and Crafts majoring in commercial art and went on to design logos for surf industry giants Quiksilver and O'Neill.

In the 1990 Quiksilver Eddie Aikau event, still considered by many to be the most exciting big-wave contest, Downing was regarded as a long shot contender. But he selected waves perfectly, went through the one-day event without so much as a slip or bobble, and led from start to finish, riding a board shaped by his father. At that time Downing's \$55,000 winner's check was the sport's biggest-ever cash prize.

He currently also operates Downing Hawaii with his sister, the surfboard shop his father launched in 1949.

EXPERIENCE

State of Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources 2015 – 2019

Downing Hawaii 1978 – present

Operates Hawaii's oldest surf shop, specializing in innovative and custom surfboards offering name-brand apparel and surf gear. Each board is shaped by a member of the Downing family.

Member, *Surfing Education Association* 1973 - present

Save our Surf is dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's oceans, coral reefs, waves and beaches.

EDUCATION

Commercial Art, California College of Arts and Crafts

Kamehameha Schools