



With Hawaiian paipo rider **Raymond Hookano, Jr.** Honolulu 2006. Tragically, Ray Jr. passed away last year. My close friend Greg Betz, who took these photos, was a paipo rider too. Greg passed away shortly after this photo was taken, so these images carry a heavy emotional load for me. I learned a lot about Hawaiian paipo riding from Ray Jr. The board he and I are holding is a Steve Lis Fish, shaped off the original stand-up fish template Stevie made for Jeff Ching nearly 40 years ago. Ching was a paipo rider himself, raised at the Wall at Kuhio Beach, where he witnessed the amazing stand-up paipo riding of Valentine Ching (no relation to Jeff) in the late '50s and early '60s. The roots of the surf/skate style are in the paipo, and even further back in the mists of time to the ancients and the alaia. Reno Abellira, Buttons, and Bertlemann were raised on paipos, and applied paipo riding lines to their surfing, hence the low, pivotal surf/skate style. Ben Aipa brought it all to a head when he created the Stinger at about the same time that Frank Nasworthy innovated the urethane skateboard wheel, and after that it was on. Surfing and skateboarding would never be the same. The story of the paipo and the alaia is one of the most powerful and poignant in all of surfing, as these boards are a metaphor for both the cultural annihilation and cultural survival of the Hawaiian people.



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