

Solid redwood plank.

Date

c. 1920s

Description

In 1913, the oldest known papa he'e nalu (surfboard) was discovered at Ho'okena, on the Kona coast of the Big Island. More like a paipo or bodyboard than surfboard, it may have belonged to Princess Kaneamuna, who lived during the early-to-mid 1600s. In 1918, the Hui Nalu was officially organized and included two outstanding women surfers, Mildred "Ladybird" Turner, and Josephine "Jo" Pratt. "Josephine Pratt was the best woman surfboard rider in the Islands during 1909-10 and 1911," wrote Tom Blake, who arrived in the Islands afterwards, but had gotten the word from others. "She surfed Canoe, Queens and small first break."



