

All Hawaiian

### The History of the Pipeline Masters

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**December 1971:** 1968 World Champion Fred Hemmings of Hawaii founds the first Pipeline Masters, then called the 'Hawaiian Masters'. Hemmings talks Continental Airlines into contributing \$1000 dollars, as a non-profit donation, which would comprise the entire winners purse. Designed for TV, only six surfers were invited for a single heat event. On December 16th, the event was held in 8-foot perfect surf. The Masters official's area consisted of 20 feet of police line tape, 10 metal folding chairs, two broken pencils and a card table. Less than 50 spectators watched the event, but after it was over, ABC bussed in 100 more just to make the awards ceremony look festive. Bizarrely, Gerry Lopez was not present for the event, having been duped by fellow competitor, the crafty Corky Carroll, into thinking that the event had been cancelled for the day. According to the rules, hand written on the first page of an elementary school math book found on the beach by Hemmings himself, read: This all-male event is to be scored in this manner: Due to the explosive nature of the this dangerous break in shallow water only 75 yards off the beach, the win will go to the surfer who can ride the deepest in the tube for the longest period of time, reappear and then complete the wave without falling off his surfboard. Hawaiian prodigy, Jeff Hakman, the greatest surfer of his time, took the \$500.00 first prize and the inaugural title of a Pipeline Master.

**December 1972:** Gerry Lopez is not fooled this time, shows up and wins it. His display of surfing is so beautiful that it causes Jim McKay, legendary ABC broadcaster, to wipe tears from his eyes on air.

**December 1973:** Gerry does it again. Then announces his retirement to a stunned media. On air, Jim McKay wipes tears from his eyes for the second year in a row.