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# BIG BREAK

The name is “Jaws.” No, it’s not a man-eating shark. Yet it is dangerous. Jaws is a place. Here, ocean water rises from the deep. It rushes to greet the shallow waters of the shore. The impact is strong. Water is forced high into the air. Then it curls over on itself and crashes back into the ocean.

Jaws is a spot where big waves **break**. It is found in Maui. This is an island in Hawaii. Jaws has become a popular **surf** site. Waves are high. They get up to 80 feet.

Many say waves at Jaws are like untamed beasts. One surfer called a wave a sea monster. A wave had snuck up behind him. He tried to ride it. The wave tossed him 40 feet.

Another surfer took on Jaws. Her name is Keala Kennelly. Jaws threw her off her board. She did three cartwheels. The board hit her shin, ribs, and face. Water swallowed her up. Then she washed onto shore.

Kennelly is a big wave champ. People ask her questions. What is it like to ride a wave? She says there is nothing like it. Senses heighten. Vision gets sharper. Raw power takes over. Then the wave spits the surfer out.



### Fast Fact

The original Hawaiian name for the Jaws surf spot is Pe'ahi. This word means "wave."

Keala Kennelly





Surfing may seem simple. But it takes a lot of skill. A board and the sea are needed. The surfer swims out. A wave comes. Arms paddle fast. Legs stand on the board. Balance is key. The surfer tries to stay up. Water carries them forward. Then the wave crashes down. Everything flows back to shore. The surfer returns for more.

This sport has no rules. Each person makes their own. Surfers take on big waves. They **skim** small ones. Some roll. Others do flips. Every wave is different. It is a chance to try something new. Surfing is like a game with no end. But when did it begin?

