

# Bethany HAMILTON

*Defining*  
MOMENTS  
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

*Follow Your  
Dreams!*



by Michael Sandler

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# Bethany HAMILTON



*Follow Your Dreams!*



**by Michael Sandler**

CONSULTANT

**Sunshine Makarow**

Publisher, Surf Life for Women Magazine

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

## Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin  
Project Editor: Adam Siegel  
Creative Director: Spencer Brinker  
Photo Researcher: Marty Levick  
Original Design: Fabia Wargin

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Sandler, Michael.

Bethany Hamilton : follow your dreams! / by Michael Sandler.

p. cm. — (Defining moments. Overcoming challenges)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-270-8 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-270-1 (library binding)

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-298-2 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-298-1 (pbk.)

1. Hamilton, Bethany. 2. Women surfers—Hawaii—Kauai—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Amputees—Hawaii—Kauai—Biography—Juvenile literature. 4. Shark attacks—Hawaii—Kauai—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title. II. Series.

GV838.H36S26 2007  
797.3'2092—dc22

2006006941

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



# Table of Contents

Halloween.....	4
A Family of Surfers .....	6
Keeping Up.....	8
Winning .....	10
Dancing in the Waves.....	12
Clear Skies.....	14
Shark Attack.....	16
Life or Death .....	18
Still the Same? .....	20
A New Life.....	22
Riding the Waves Again.....	24
As Long As I Can .....	26
Just the Facts.....	28
Timeline.....	28
Glossary.....	30
Bibliography .....	31
Read More.....	31
Learn More Online.....	31
Index.....	32
About the Author.....	32





# Halloween

For most children, Halloween is the time to go trick-or-treating. For Bethany Hamilton, it was a chance to catch the perfect wave.

Surfing was Bethany's **passion**. The 13-year-old girl had plenty of talent. Each night she dreamed of becoming a **pro** surfer.



*Bethany Hamilton*

So at sunrise on October 31, 2003, Bethany was already at the beach. She pushed her board into the surf. Floating in the crystal-clear Hawaiian water, she let her left arm dangle below the surface. Bethany was waiting for the next wave.

Instead, out of nowhere, came a giant gray blur. Bethany felt a tug. The water turned red with blood.



Bethany was attacked by a tiger shark that was about 14 feet (4 m) long. Tiger sharks are the most dangerous sharks in Hawaiian waters.

*A tiger shark*

# A Family of Surfers

If anyone was born to surf, it was Bethany Hamilton. She jokes that she was born with salt water in her **veins**. In fact, Bethany grew up in a family of surfers. Her parents loved the sport so much that they moved to Hawaii and never left. The waves for surfing there were just too good.

*Bethany's parents*



*Cheri Hamilton*



*Tom Hamilton*





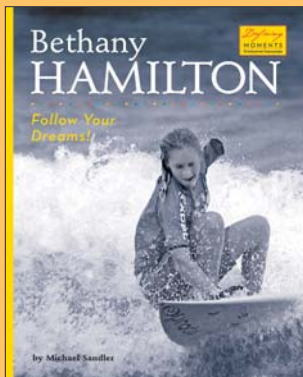
*A surfer riding a huge wave in Hawaii*

Surfers need waves to **propel** them across the water. Around the islands of Hawaii there are plenty of waves. They are often very big, too. So Hawaii is the place to be for surfers. People have been surfing in the area for more than 1,000 years.

Bethany was born in Hawaii. She was just five years old when she first started surfing.

# Index

- Blanchard, Alana 15, 17  
Blanchard, Holt 17  
bodyboarding 8  
  
Father Damien 29  
  
Halloween 4–5, 13, 14  
Hamilton, Cheri 6, 15, 21  
Hamilton, Noah 8  
Hamilton, Timmy 8  
Hamilton, Tom 6, 21, 29  
Hawaii 5, 6–7, 8–9, 14, 28–29  
  
hospital 18–19, 20, 29  
Hurricane Katrina 26  
  
Kauai 9, 14, 19, 28  
  
Makaha Beach 11  
  
parents 6, 9, 21  
  
Rell Sunn Menehune Surf Contest 10–11, 28  
  
shark attack 5, 16–17, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28–29  
  
snowboarding 23  
surfing competitions 9, 10–11, 12, 25, 28–29  
  
Thailand 26, 29  
tiger shark 5, 16  
tourniquet 17  
tsunami 26, 29  
Tunnels Beach 14–15



## About the Author

**MICHAEL SANDLER** lives and writes in Brooklyn, New York. He has written numerous books on sports for children and young adults.

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OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



At sunrise on October 31, 2003, Bethany pushed her surfboard into the ocean. Floating in the crystal-clear Hawaiian water, Bethany waited for the next big wave.

Instead, out of nowhere, came a giant tiger shark. Bethany felt a tug. The water turned red with blood. Bethany was rushed to the hospital. She had lost an arm. Yet even this serious injury couldn't stop Bethany from giving up her dreams—and helping others follow their own.

Ray  
CHARLES

Jean  
DRISCOLL

Michael J.  
FOX

Bethany  
HAMILTON

Helen  
KELLER

Franklin Delano  
ROOSEVELT

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-270-8  
ISBN-10: 1-59716-270-1



9 781597 162708