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## Hawaiian surfing is going old school

A retro-craft surfboard maker brings the feeling back to Maui

“I SHAPE WEIRD BOARDS because there’s more than one feeling to be felt in the water.” So says former professional downhill skater turned surfboard maker, Joshua Weisfeld. Born in Maui, the designer believes “surfing is a true conceptual art form, utilising a movable canvas. You can make it your own dance.”

Weisfeld shapes under the brand name JAW (his initials), and claims to be one of only three board builders on the island of Maui who actually hand-crafts each stick from start to finish, while other board shapers use a production line. His Lahaina workshop is chock full of retro boards, with unusual fins, shapes and styles.

As a downhill skateboarder, Weisfeld has braved Maui’s daunting Haleakalā volcano

“Surfboard-making has turned into this cookie-cutter production thing here,” says Weisfeld, who sports long blond hair and surfs with a graceful glide. “I want to bring back the old-fashioned craft of surfboard-shaping, and see the art and soul come back to Hawaii.”

Weisfeld learned the ropes as a young skateboarder, when he would build his own decks from fibreglass. He once set a 70mph speed record, having trained on Maui’s 10,023ft Haleakalā volcano — and says his background taught him a lot about aerodynamics.

Nowadays, he treats the shaping process with a certain reverence. “I’m not thinking ‘I’ve got to shape this as fast as I can.’ It will take as long as it takes. Sometimes the lines on the board talk to me. It’s a deeply personal process, just like surfing.”

**Jaw Retro Surfboards are on [instagram.com/jawretrosurfboards](https://www.instagram.com/jawretrosurfboards)**

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## Man-made waves are the next big thing

And Californian Tom Lochtefeld is leading the race

With surfing announced as a sport for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, the race to create ocean-quality artificial waves is gathering pace. Leading the charge is Californian Tom Lochtefeld, who created the FlowRider static wave in the ’90s. Now his dream is to create “SurfLochs” that mimic the real thing. With plans to create surf parks in Las Vegas, Rotterdam, Lisbon and Bristol (England), Lochtefeld recently traveled to Tokyo to meet prospective developers. “Fingers crossed,” he says, “we’ll be making the Olympic wave.”

[surfloch.com](http://surfloch.com)

