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Saving the Surfer Identity: The Paddle-out Ceremony

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The circle has many forms within Surf Culture, including the lei. The Circle in the Paddle-out is known as the Symbol of Eternity.

After releasing the ashes, splashing and flower tossing ensues to celebrate the deceased's incorporation into the ocean.

Death Rite
- Promotes the idea of an afterlife; appearance of the ‘Aumakua
- Removes polluting emotions; reduces grief
- Reproduces culture; intensifies relevance of surf culture to the living

Rite of Passage
- Purification Ritual, separating the sacred from the profane
- Dangerous transport over open water, waves
- Incorporated into the sea, rejoining the circle

The widow wears the backpack that carried the ashes of her deceased husband into the circle. As the participants return to shore, many of them place a flower upon the deceased’s surfboard.

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