

# HAWAIIAN SHAVE ICE STORY

*An authentic Hawaiian shave ice begins with ice that is spun across a razor-sharp blade creating a soft snowy texture. It is so fine that flavorings are absorbed into the ice. This is definitely not your mainland 'snow cone'.*

The Hawaiian Shave Ice story begins back in the days of the old sugar plantations of Hawaii. Thousands of immigrants from Japan came to Hawaii to work these plantations. With them they brought a frozen treat now known as shave ice.

The frozen confection that was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands was not a new concept. In Japan, shave ice was called Kakigori and it dated back to the Heian period which was from 794 to 1185 A.D. During that time, the ice was brought down from the mountains in the winter and stored in a cave called 'Himuro', which in Japanese means 'ice room'. At that time, ice was rare and shave ice was a luxury, a treat reserved only for royalty.

The modern form of shave ice is believed to have been invented in Yokohama, Japan in 1869. Due to its popularity, shave ice was a common attraction in stores throughout Japan in the 1920's. Japanese plantation workers who migrated to Hawaii from 1920 to 1930 to work in the sugar and pineapple fields brought shave ice to Hawaii. The workers enjoyed it as a refreshing break in the hot, tropical climate. In those days it was sold on Sundays, which was typically the only day off the plantation workers received. They would use their machetes to shave flakes from a large block of ice into cups and then pour fruit juices over the top.

When Japanese immigrants moved off the plantation and opened their own family-run grocery stores, shave ice went commercial and it was, and still is, hugely popular. In the 1950's, children would

order their shave ice by color only, knowing what flavor each color represented. A mix of colors was called kalakoa, Hawaiian for calico. Shave ice can be found throughout the Hawaiian Islands - in coffee shops, mom and pop stores, shave ice stands, lunch wagons, and most public events. In Hawaii, shave ice is thought of as a snack and a thirst quencher. No trip to Hawaii is complete without having shave ice. Shave Ice is an integral part of the 'Aloha Spirit'.

Mainlanders call them snow cones, but locals in Hawaii call it shave ice (not shaved ice). Unlike a snow cone, shave ice is not ground ice. The shave ice is so fine and fluffy that flavorings are absorbed into the ice rather than settling to the bottom of the cup like a snow cone. An authentic shave ice starts with ice that is spun across razor-sharp blades which shaves the ice creating a soft snowy texture.

Shave ice exists all over the world today and is known by different names such as Gola Gunda in Pakistan, Juski in India, Ice Kachang in Malasia & Singapore where it is served with red beans and other fruits, Raspa, Raspado, or Raspadillo in Mexico and Peru (Raspar means "scrape" in Spanish) and of course the Snow Cone on the mainland.

At Hula Hawaiian Shave Ice in Alameda, you can choose up to three flavors for the ultimate shave ice. We can add on a scoop of vanilla ice cream in the bottom of the cone to create the Traditional Hawaiian Treat or offer sweetened condensed milk, azuki beans or li hing mui powder.

We serve an authentic taste of North Shore in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit us most weekends and summer weekdays at South Shore Shopping Center in Alameda. We are near the corner of Park Street and Shoreline Drive (Next to Mc Donald's).



*Come see us or we will bring our fully contained ice truck to you for your corporate outing, party, luau, picnic, birthday, fund raiser, or any special event.*  
[www.HulaHawaiianShaveIce.com](http://www.HulaHawaiianShaveIce.com) or call 510.523.5530