From: **honu world** < itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 2:22 AM
Subject: Hawaiian Hurricane Walaka's submergence of East Island
To: < CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu>

Dear Cturtlers, One of the under-appreciated beauties of Cturtle is it's archival element. All that is said, and has been said, on Cturtle is stored and searchable now and by those of the future. With this awareness I share below a view I recently contributed to the Washington Post's Letters Web Site- expanded upon from my earlier post sent to CTurtle.

"About Hawaiian Hurricane Walaka washing away the green sea turtle (honu) nesting islet of Hikina (East) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands: Surely this is one of the most exciting times of my 48-year career working with Hawaiian green turtles. The loss of East Island at French Frigate Shoals started decades ago documented by photo evidence. My first stay on the island as a University of Hawaii sea turtle researcher was in June 1973. At that time about 30% of the island had eroded away since the mid-1940s. The loss of the island is part of some natural long term process where sand, unlike stone, comes and goes, accumulates and then washes away in cycles. The entire northwestern segment of the Hawaiian chain has been sinking and disappearing over geologic time. And new land is formed by active Pele volcanism at the southeastern end of the chain. Sea turtles for millennia have always been able to adapt to such changes. If they hadn't they would all have gone extinct long ago. The Hawaiian green turtle population is robust, durable and incredibly adaptive. They will figure out where to nest new and it will be insightful and amazing to watch it happen over the next few years. Perhaps increasing their nesting on Kauai and Niihau where elevated sand beaches occur. With Confidence in both Mother Nature and the Honu of Hawaii 'Change is the Name of the Game' George Balazs, NOAA Retired Hawaii Senior Sea Turtle Scientist"

Referenced article from the Washington Post October 25, 2018:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2018/10/25/this-remote-hawaiian-island-was-critical-nesting-ground-threatened-species-climate-change-powerful-hurricane-wiped-it-out-overnight/?utm_term=.37975f90f970

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