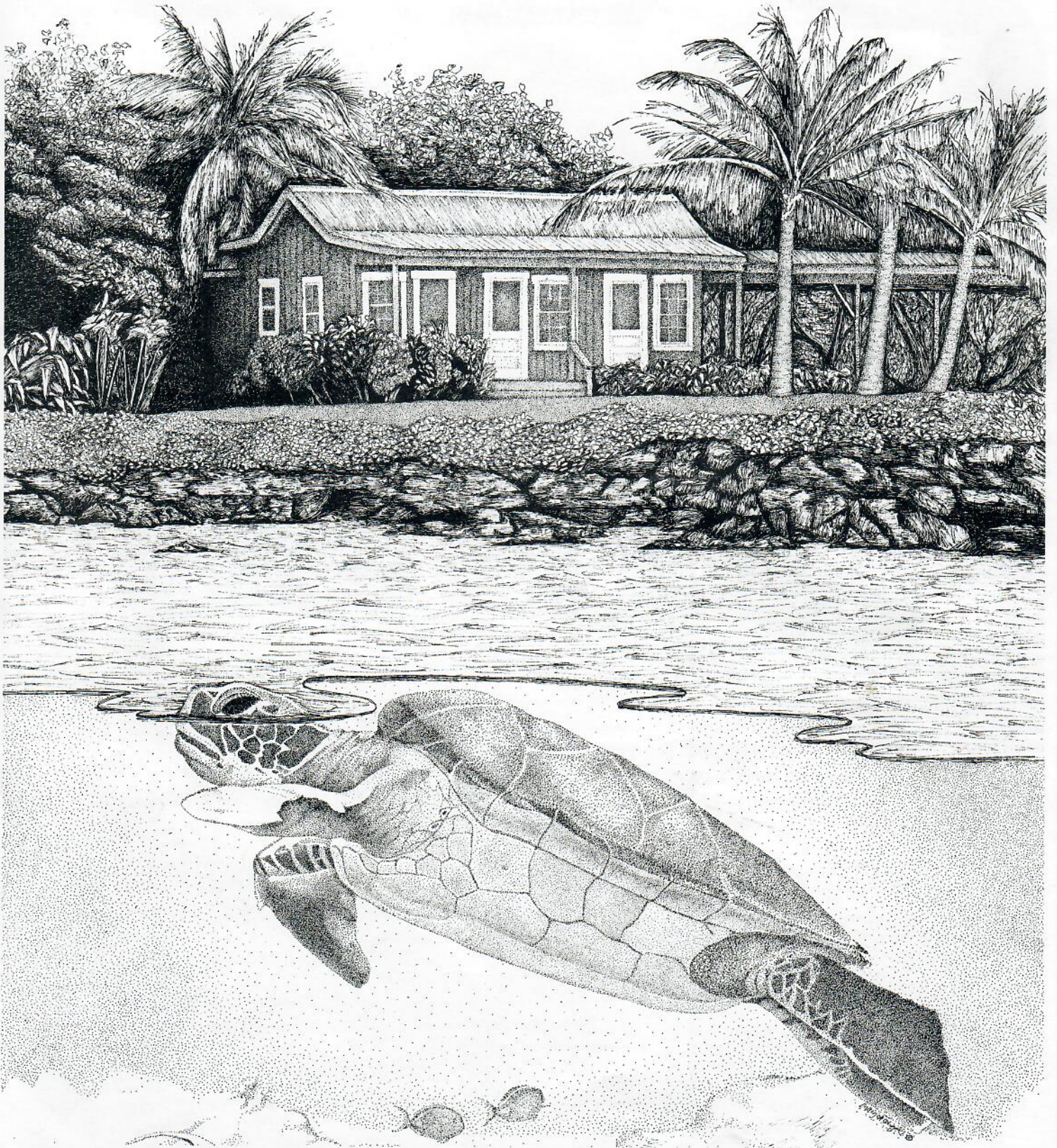


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"Honu's View of Kalahuipua'a" a pen and ink, by Craig Higaki

THE MAUNA LANI BAY FAMILY

A spirit of place and more . . .

In our quest to recognize all of the 700 employees of the Mauna Lani Bay, this month, we salute our employee volunteers who participated in the Konawaena CAREER FAIR.



The sun was shining as 1500 students entered the football field to check out our Mauna Lani Bay Hotel booth at the recent Konawaena Career Fair. Our employee volunteers were on hand to pass out literature and discuss career opportunities within the hospitality industry. Students were also involved in a food and beverage relay and tried their talents at the housekeeping pillow case race.


The students had a great time... thanks to our volunteers!



THE MAUNA LANI BAY

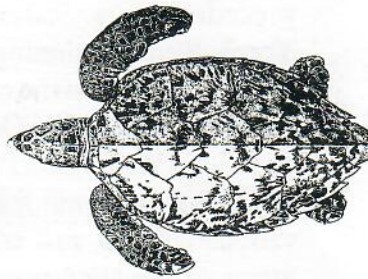
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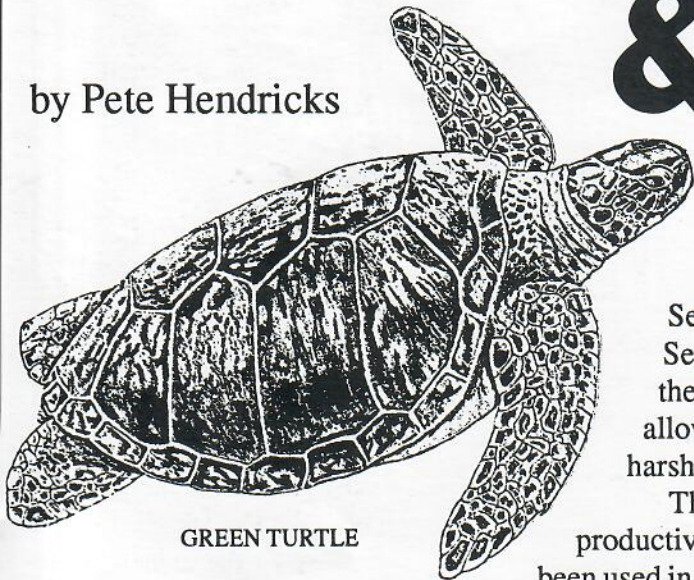
A Pan Pacific Hotel and Resort

Sea Turtles



& Survival

by Pete Hendricks



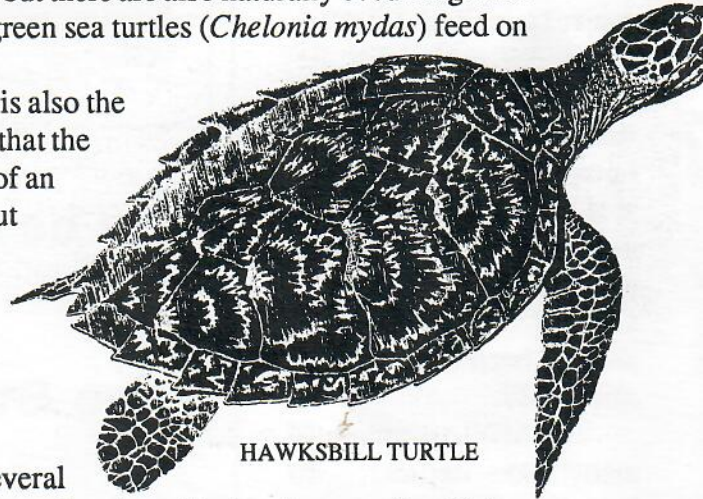
GREEN TURTLE

July Fourth this year will truly be Independence Day for a small group of native Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles residing temporarily at the fishponds of Mauna Lani Bay Hotel. The young turtles are part of a long-term propagation and education program developed by Sea Life Park on Oahu, in conjunction with the national Marine Fisheries Service. Very young turtles are placed in the ponds and cared for until they grow past the size where infant mortality is highest. The program allows young sea turtles to enter the wild at a size more likely to survive harsh environmental conditions and predators.

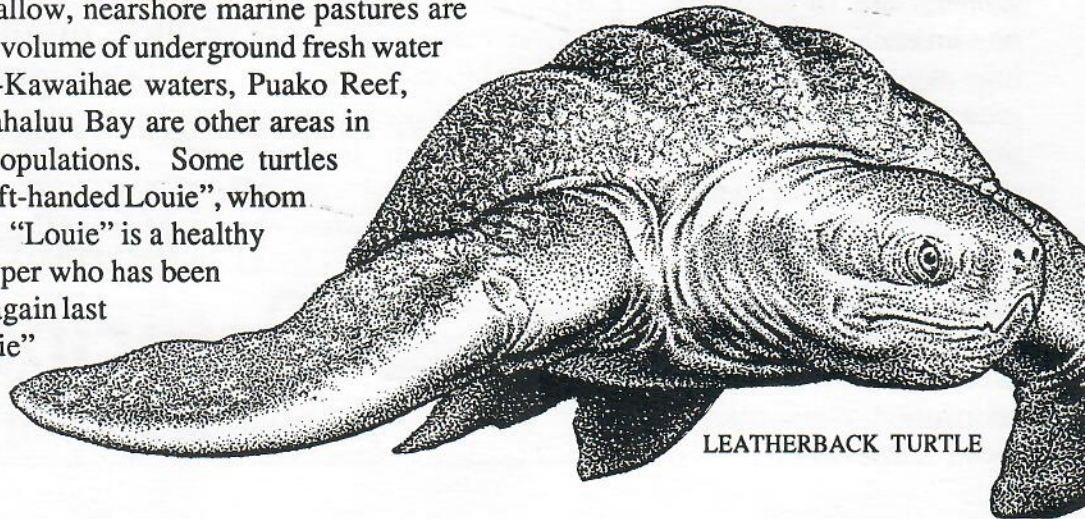
The four main fishponds at Mauna Lani contain some of the most productive examples of the traditional Hawaiian ponds system. The ponds have been used in the past to raise native food fishes such as *Ama Ama* (mullet) and *Awa* (milkfish). Prepared feeds are given to the turtles in the ponds, but there are also naturally occurring *limu* (seaweed) for the youngsters to browse. The resident young green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) feed on a variety of items, including smelt (fish) and lettuce.

The turtles' guardian at Mauna Lay Bay Hotel, Daniel Akaka, Jr., is also the Hotel's historian and interpreter of the fishpond complex. Danny notes that the constantly hungry young turtles vie for hotel guests' attention in hopes of an edible reward. Adult green sea turtles feed almost exclusively on *limu*, but the young ones are not so discriminating. Feed must be kept similar to items found in nature. Akaka welcomes folks to join him at regular feedings but asks that no unscheduled "between meal snacks" be given to the turtles. Community and school groups often enjoy the historical tours with Akaka and especially "feeding time" at the ponds.

The ocean fronting the Mauna Lani Resort area is one of several important sea turtle habitats in Hawaii. When the turtles are released to the wild, they have a prime living habitat as soon as they reach the water. Since they are "grazers" like horses and cattle, turtles prefer to live near the best "pastures". These shallow, nearshore marine pastures are often located where there is a substantial volume of underground fresh water mixing with the ocean. Spencer Park-Kawaihae waters, Puako Reef, Anaehoomalu Bay, Kiholo Bay and Kahaluu Bay are other areas in West Hawaii with substantial turtle populations. Some turtles become regulars in these places, like "Left-handed Louie", whom we nicknamed in 1983 off Mauna Lani. "Louie" is a healthy green sea turtle without a right front flipper who has been sighted occasionally over the years, and again last month off Anaehoomalu Bay. "Louie" probably lost his right arm to a tiger shark, who is the main turtle predator besides man.



HAWKSBILL TURTLE



LEATHERBACK TURTLE

preceded by a Statewide Torch Run beginning on Maui, stopping on the other islands and ending on Oahu, June 3, at Washington Place.

The Games will feature various cultural and ethnic forms of competition such as Hawaiian Makahiki Games, Pacific Cricket and numerous other events that often center on group and ethnic participation.

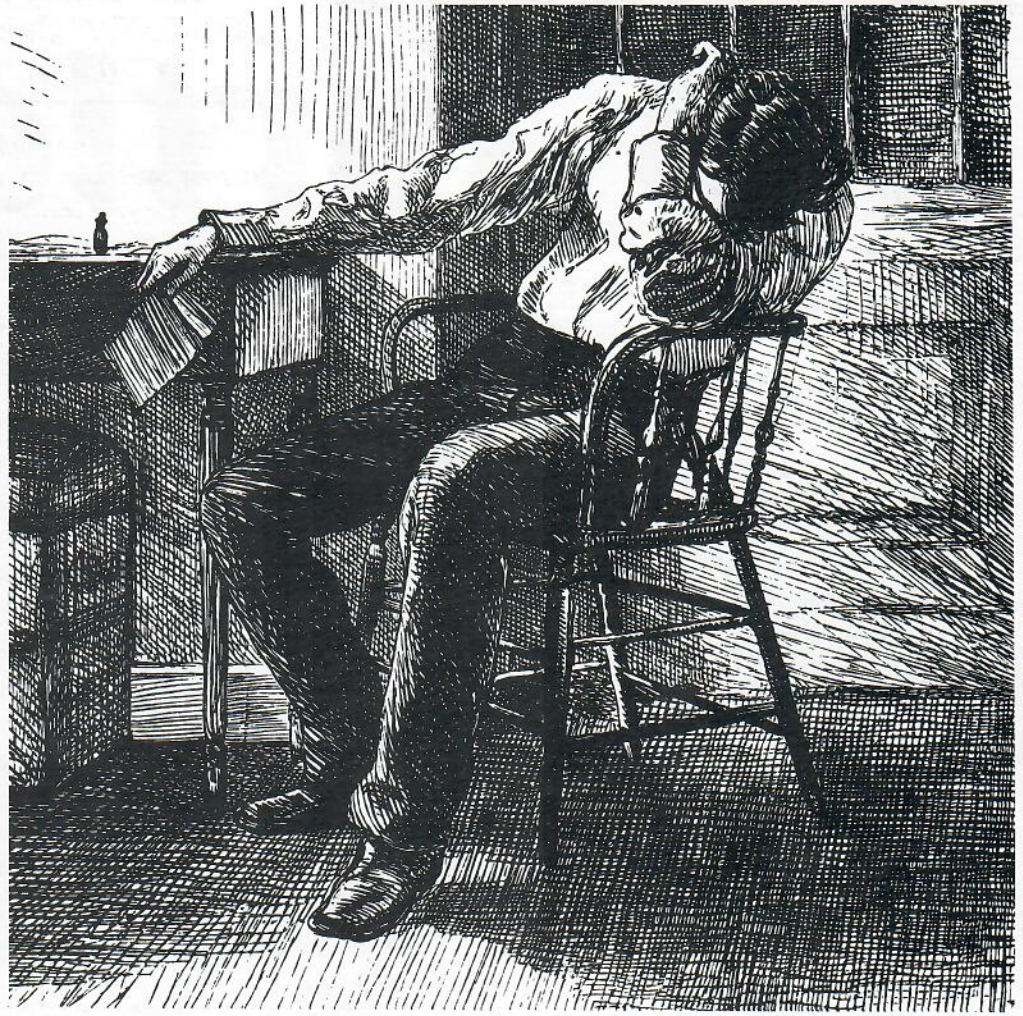
For more information, call the Aloha State Games office at 522-0700.

BOWER, WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Barbara Bower has been elected "Woman of the Year" by Kanoelani Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA).

Barbara is an Administrative Specialist for the California Association for Research in Astronomy. She has done volunteer work for numerous organizations and is currently the Vice-President and Bulletin Committee Chair of the Kanoelani Chapter of ABWA, which she has been a member of since 1989.

The ABWA is a national association dedicated to bringing together businesswomen of diverse backgrounds and to providing opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. ABWA has three chapters on the Big Island and fourteen chapters in the state of Hawaii. For membership information, please contact Dawn at 883-8946.



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Below: Turtle caretaker, Daniel "Kaniala" Akaka, Jr., gives the kids a closer look at this member of the Mauna Lani/Sea Life Park headstart program.

Right: From the left, Leilani Hino of Mauna Lani Resort, Steve Kaiser, curator for Sea Life Park, Danny Akaka, Jr., and Bob Moore, General Manager of Sea Life Park on Oahu.

Turtle artwork courtesy of G.H. Balazs/Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology



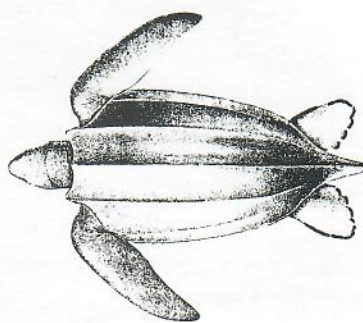
Green sea turtles are the most common of three species of sea turtles found here. Hawksbill turtles are occasionally seen as they feed close to shore on sponges and bottom-dwelling invertebrates. Hawksbills are small to medium size and have a distinctive hawk-like mouth with the upper jaw overhanging. Several hawksbill nestings have even been observed in remote sandy areas of the Big Island. The leatherback turtle, weighing as much as a ton, is the giant of the world's sea turtles. Leath-

erbacks usually stay far offshore, feeding mostly on jellyfish, and local sightings are rare.

Sea turtles are graceful saltwater reptiles, well adapted to life in the ocean, and they can count ancestors back 150 million years. Hawaii's most common sea turtle, the green, is also found in all tropical seas of the world. Man learned early that the meat, eggs, oil and shell material were all useful items. In 1503, on his fourth and last voyage to the new world, Christopher Columbus reported his ship



"... in sight of two very small and low islands, full of tortoises, as well as all the



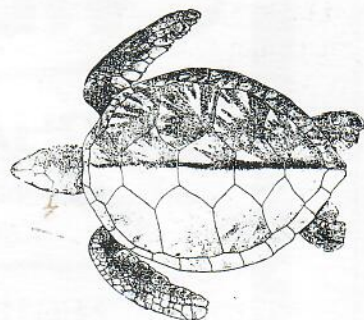
sea about, insomuch that they look'd like little rocks, for which reason those islands were called Tortugas." By the late 1700's, the Tortugas, renamed the Caymans, were no longer important for commercial turtle fishing. By 1900, the Cayman turtle rookery was extinct.

This cycle of overfishing was repeated in the world's tropical oceans, including Hawaii, until six of seven species of sea turtles were declared under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. Ocean pollution, habitat destruction and marine debris are other major factors in the decline of the sea turtle populations. All sea turtles are also fully protected under

State law.

Federal and State agencies formed a Turtle Recovery Team in 1985. In 1987, a Sea Turtle Recovery Plan was completed. The Plan goal is to "assist the animals in recovering to a healthy population size in Hawaii", according to Mr. George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu.

Along with the declara-



tion of endangered status for sea turtles, there has been a significant research effort in recent years to learn more about these unusual air breathing, egg laying reptiles. One of the unknowns about turtles is what they do after emerging from the sand as hatchlings and going to sea. How do these tiny creatures, just several inches long, survive to take up residence

along our shores as foot-long youngsters about a year later? What triggers the adult turtles, male and female, to swim 800 miles and find the right nesting beaches in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands? How do the females find the beaches where they were born to nest and lay their own eggs?

George Balazs has been studying sea turtles for a number of years, and supervises several projects on the Big Island. The University of Hawaii Marine Option Program participates in a cooperative tagging and monitoring project at Punaluu Bay, Ka'u district. Students and faculty project members periodically catch, measure, tag and release a number of turtles in the bay. Many turtles are recaptures and already tagged. Recap



Steve Kaiser measures, while "Kaniala" holds a turtle for identification and data collection.

ture information is valuable as it provides growth, travel, feeding and health data. Another tagging and monitoring project is conducted through the faculty and students of Hawaii Preparatory Academy in Waimea. Kiholo Bay is the focus of the HPA effort. The latest field work at Kiholo was done last month. In a related project, even "Left-handed Louie" now has a tag!

Sea turtles were a plentiful food item in traditional oceanic societies for centuries until breakdown of firm conservation measures and the advent of modern harvesting techniques combined to eliminate turtles in some areas. The future for sea turtles is still unsure, but a number of people are working hard to help them survive.

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