

town Lihue, and Poipu's beach parks and narrow streets make it a likely candidate for a third bike expected to be purchased later this year. All equipment has been funded by private donations.

Two beat officers came up with the idea for the bike patrols, seeing it as a way to support the department's move toward community policing while expanding patrol capabilities at very little cost. The bicycles also will be used for safety education in the schools. Local bike shop owners, who sold the equipment to the department at cost, are hoping the two-wheeled patrols will help legitimize bicycles on Kauai roads.

Police Chief George Freitas hasn't assigned any officers permanently to the bike beat, instead asking officers to volunteer to spend a couple of hours on the bike during their shift. So far there hasn't been any shortage of officers interested in the duty, especially since the chief amended the police uniform to allow bike shorts.—J.C.

## ALOHA, ASTA

Kauai's visitor industry is congratulating itself on scoring a major coup in Hawaii's intensely competitive tourist market by hosting the annual Western regional conference of the American Society of Travel Agents May 2-5. The event promises to bring several hundred people who own or manage travel agencies to the Garden Island for a firsthand look at its charms.

The new Kauai Marriott Resort is hosting the conference, although hotel operators and activities vendors around the Island are working together on tours and exhibits to help familiarize the agents with Kauai. Mayor Maryanne Kusaka, who is promoting restoration of the Island's visitor industry as the best way to move beyond the county's current \$7.5 million budget deficit, personally invited ASTA to stage its conference on Kauai.—J.C.

## HELLO, HONU

After an absence of three years, Hawaiian green sea turtles or *honu* have returned to the Allerton Garden's Lawai Kai Beach. The result: 305 baby turtles. Rick Hanna, marine biologist with the National Tropical Botanical Garden, reports in the garden's newsletter that the turtles

last season returned in force to Lawai Kai, a favored nesting habitat. The beach was badly altered by Hurricane Iniki, which also wiped out all vegetation.

Armed with shovels, notebooks and cameras, Hanna excavated abandoned nests with Don Heacock of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Carl Berg, a Florida biologist, and Lisa Sonne, a documentary filmmaker. They found 305 empty egg shells and 21 infertile eggs.

The turtle nesting season begins in June, reaches its peak in July and declines in August.

At night, the female scouts out a suitable nesting site—usually near a patch of beach morning glory—and scoops away a pit big enough to hold her body. She then digs a deep, narrow hole with her back flippers and deposits her eggs, which look like large leathery Ping-Pong balls. When she is finished, she covers the nest and returns to the sea.

Two months later, the baby turtles hatch and, waiting until night, scamper down the beach and into the water.—J.B.

## HONORING ALBERT

Princeville will honor its namesake, Prince Albert Edward Kauikeaouli Lei o Papa a Kamehameha, with a celebration of international music and cultural arts at the Prince Albert Music Festival May 23-26.

The highlight of this year's event should be the first statewide keiki kane hula competition, which will bring together some of Hawaii's finest young hula dancers between 5:30 and 7 p.m. May 25 in the grand ballroom of the Princeville Hotel. The competition is open to boys ages 6 to 12, with Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island allowed to send three dancers each, Molokai two and Lanai one.

Other musical entertainment, as well as craft displays and exhibits, is planned



Significant numbers of baby turtles have hatched on Lawai Kai Beach.

GEORGE BALAZS

at Princeville Hotel through the festival weekend. Information, 826-2286.—J.C.

## CHEF CHEZ POIPU

Southshore residents and visitors don't have to drive to Kapaa anymore to enjoy the culinary delights served at Kauai's most celebrated restaurant, A Pacific Cafe. Executive Chef Jean Marie Josselin, who also recently opened restaurants on Oahu and Maui, is taking over management of The Beach House in Poipu.

The restaurant will retain its name and much of its staff, but the menu will bear Josselin's distinctive signature. He has brought in Chef Linda Yamata, formerly of Honolulu's Executive Center Hotel and Kauai Marriott, to design a dinner menu featuring Mediterranean food with a touch of Pacific Rim flavors.

The restaurant, which features lovely ocean views from its Lawai Road location, also plans to offer regular musical entertainment. And it's changing both its operations and design in an effort to attract group parties of 10 to 250 guests. Dinner is served from 5 p.m. nightly and reservations are recommended. Information, 742-1424.—J.C. ☞



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