

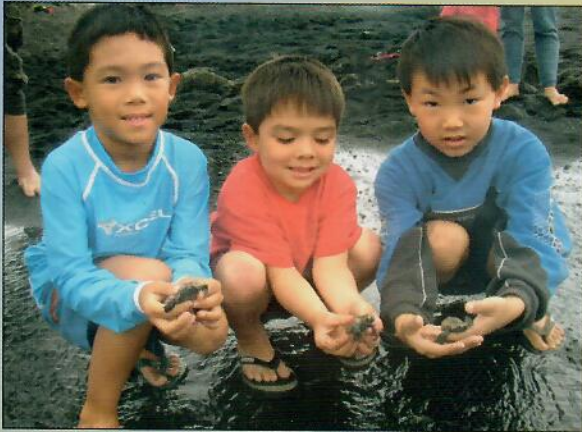
HONU'EA NEED YOUR HELP

Volunteers are needed to monitor and protect nesting sea turtles on the island of Hawai'i.

Contact the Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to report nesting activity and find out how you can help.

phone: (808) 985-6090

email: HAVO_Turtle_Project@nps.gov



Children help biologists release trapped hatchlings at a community nest excavation.

Report people harming sea turtles:

Department of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, Hawai'i Island 974-6208
after business hours dial 0,
and ask for enterprise 5469

Report dead, sick or injured sea turtles:

NMFS - Marine Turtle Research Program/
UH - Marine Options Program

Hawai'i Island cases 327-7780
State-Wide (808) 983-5730

HELP THE ENDANGERED HONU 'EA



Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project



THREATS TO SEA TURTLES

Human Activities

- lights disorient sea turtles
- fishing nets and floating debris entangle and drown sea turtles
- plastic bags and other litter can choke sea turtles
- beach driving destroys nest sites
- development alters nesting habitat

Introduced Plants

Non-native plants such as coconut and haole koa create root barriers that prevent nesting turtles from digging suitable egg chambers and trap hatchlings in their nests.

Introduced Predators

Mongoose, rats, cats, dogs and pigs dig up turtle nests and eat eggs and hatchlings.



Natural Predators

Sharks, fish, crabs, and birds eat sea turtles.



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HAWAIIAN NESTING TURTLES

Honu'ea (Hawksbill Sea Turtle)

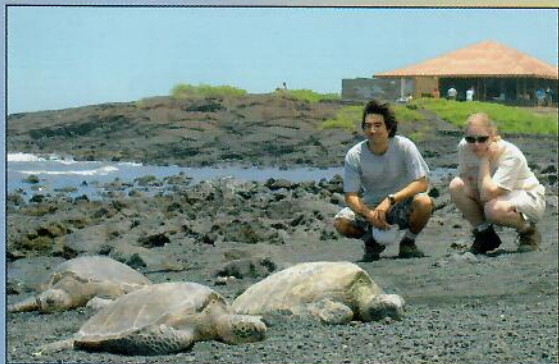
- nest on the main Hawaiian Islands
- feed on sea sponges, primarily along the Hāmākua Coast
- come ashore only to nest



Hawksbills prefer to nest around native plants.

Honu (Green Sea Turtle)

- nest on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, over 700 miles away
- feed on limu (seaweed)
- frequently seen in shallow waters and basking on the beach



Greens commonly bask at Punalu'u Beach.



HAWAIIAN HONU'EA FACTS

- nesting turtles number fewer than 80
- nesting occurs from May to November on Hawai'i, Maui, and Moloka'i
- females lay multiple nests per season
- adults can weigh 300 lbs, grow to three feet long, and live over 75 years



Nests contain an average of 175 eggs.

The Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project has protected over 600 nests and assisted over 65,000 hatchlings to the ocean since 1989.



One in 5,000 hatchlings survive to adulthood.



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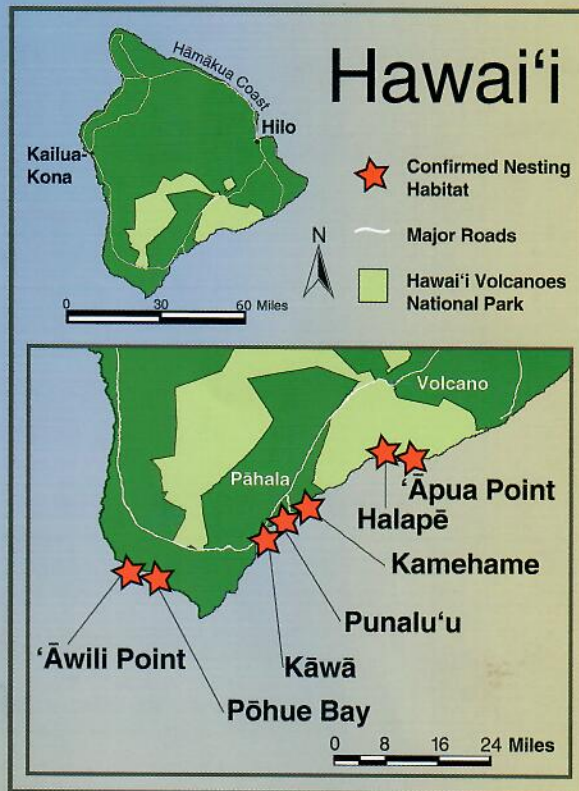
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NESTING BEACHES



Over 90% of hawksbill nests in the state are found on the island of Hawai'i.



Halapē is an ideal nesting beach.

