

SEA TURTLES

Are Protected in the Hawaiian Islands



Hawaiian Green Turtle

The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) live in the ocean waters surrounding Hawaii and are fully protected by State and

Federal laws. The following agencies are responsible for enforcing these laws. Please telephone them if you should see someone taking or harming a sea turtle.

Please Call:

National Marine Fisheries Service	546-5670
State Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement	
24-hour Hotline	548-5918
Neighbor Islands (toll free)	Dial 0 and ask for Enterprise 5469
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	546-5602

This notice has been prepared and paid for by the Hawaiian Humane Society and the National Marine Fisheries Service as a public service to aid in the conservation of Hawaii's marine environment.
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PHOTO BY: GEORGE H. BALAZS.

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🐾 Sherri La Croix, one of the Society's two Animal Health Technicians, has taken on an additional role. She's now an Animal Control Officer too!

Sherri will be assisting the ACO staff with animal pick ups and investigations when needed. She's not the first female ACO at the Society, but she is the only one at this time.

🐾 HHS Veterinarian Nicholas Palumbo recently attended the National Biochemical Simulation Resources simulation training workshop in Durham, North Carolina. It sounds pretty formidable, but it boils down to some potentially good news for those of us concerned over the use of animals in medical experiments.

The doctors who attended the workshop, which was held at Duke University Medical Center August 19-23, were exploring ways to use computers to analyze and expand data gathered from a limited number of animal experiments. The hope is that through this type of "computer modeling" researchers will be able to derive more information from fewer experiments...and fewer experiments will mean fewer animals used in laboratory research.

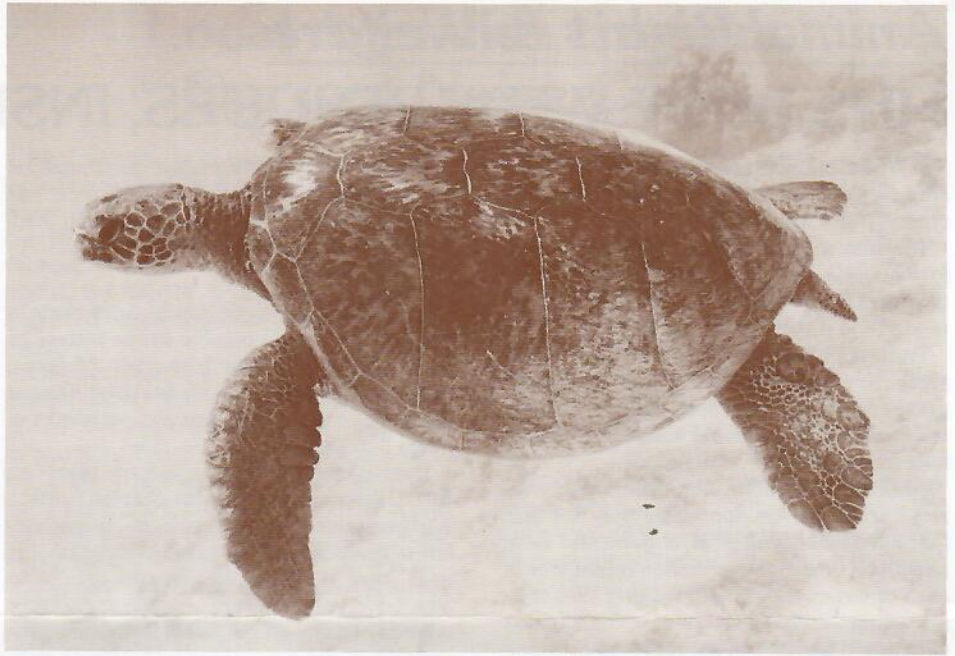
🐾 The Hawaiian Humane Society recently promoted Danny Mangca to the position of Assistant Investigator. His duties now include the monitoring of parades, concerts, circuses, and fairs as well as the investigation of cruelty and neglect allegations. Mangca has been with the HHS since 1970 as an Animal Control Officer.

🐾 So you say you haven't seen much of the Mobile Adoption Unit lately? Well, there's no reason for concern...they'll be back on the road soon.

You can find them for sure at Kahala Mall on the second Saturday of every month—that's September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14. They'll be inside the Mall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mobile Adoption Coordinator Mary'l is hard at work looking for new locations. She's even exploring the possibility of setting up at the handicraft fairs. If you have any suggestions for new locations and/or can help in getting permission to use them, let Mary'l know. She's also looking for more good volunteers to man the program. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Lisa Dunn, HHS Volunteer Director, at 955-5122.

🐾 Hope you didn't miss the nice story in *The Honolulu Advertiser* (7/25/85) about Howard Geiger and his golden retriever, Furrball. After more than two months of separation, the HHS was able to reunite them—all because Furrball was wearing his license! More proof that dog licensing makes good sense.



Green sea turtles in Hawaiian waters are fully protected by both state and federal laws.

Turtles Protected in Local Waters

The recent spearing of a green sea turtle in Waikiki dramatically illustrates the mistreatment that all too often is the fate of these unique creatures. Throughout the Islands there's a lack of knowledge about them—their history, habitat, behavior, physiology, and the laws that protect them. But there are a lot of dedicated people, including those at the Hawaiian Humane Society, who are trying to change that.

Several agencies—the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement—are busy conducting research; managing the existing population; enforcing state and federal laws; and educating the public.

George Balazs, a research biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, is one of the people who specializes in the study of the turtle populations of Hawaiian waters. He's actively involved in gathering data about the animals and feels that this information is critical for insuring their survival. He's especially involved in collecting data on stranded, injured, and diseased turtles.

In a recent interview he explained that the green sea turtle, known as *honu*, is common in Hawaii's coastal waters and that they are not an endangered species. But he went on to explain that they are threatened and that any decrease in population could put them on the brink of extinction.

He continued by saying that their survival depends on the size of the breeding herd, not on the size of the overall population. The catch here is that the turtles are not mature and ready for breeding until they are 30 to 35 years old. At that time they weigh an average of 175 pounds and have a shell length of around 35 inches!

In order to survive long enough to reproduce, the turtles must avoid natural predat-

tors, direct and indirect human-induced injuries, and sickness.

State and federal laws have been passed to protect the sea turtles from human malice and greed.

Under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the green turtle has been granted *threatened species status*—complete protection. It is illegal to import, possess, sell, transport, or harass these animals.

Civil violations of this law call for penalties of from \$0 to \$10,000. Gene Whitham, Senior Enforcement Agent with the National Marine Fisheries Service (Enforcement Division) in Honolulu, said that the average fine is between \$600 and \$700.

Criminal violations—blatant acts by commercial and similar ventures—call for penalties of \$10,000 to \$20,000, plus one year in jail.

He added that, "If the turtle is already dead, we haven't helped that turtle at all. The law functions best as a deterrent—before a violation occurs."

State law provides for the same level of protection. Violations are misdemeanors. Most violations are referred to the federal agency for prosecution.

Whitham said that the publicity and interest in the turtle issue this year has resulted in a higher incidence of alleged violations. There have been eight federal cases since the beginning of the year and six more are pending.

The Hawaiian Humane Society and the National Marine Fisheries Service recently cooperated to reprint a poster which informs the public of the protected status of Hawaii's sea turtles. It also provides the telephone numbers of the agencies responsible for the enforcement of state and federal laws. The posters have been distributed to sporting good stores, dive shops, boat harbors, marinas, and other appropriate sites.

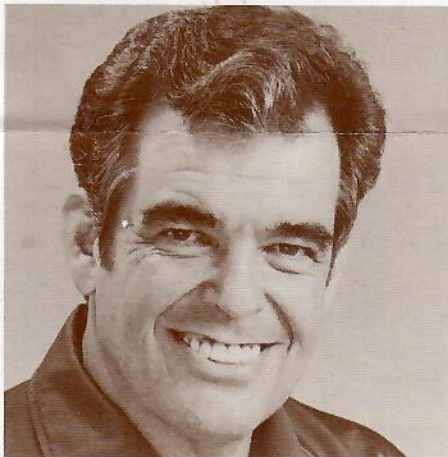
HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2700 Waialae Ave. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 • (808) 946-2187

Sept. - Oct. '85

LARRY PRICE TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING



Larry Price will be "Speaking Out for Hawaii's Animals" at the Hawaiian Humane Society's 88th Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 26. The event, which is open to the public, will be held in the Bird Sanctuary of the Waialae facility from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

After the election of new board members and reports from the Society's president and auditors, Price will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the media in covering animal-related events and issues.

He'll also be recounting his personal experiences in covering stories such as the ongoing zoo controversy.

If you'd like to attend the Annual Meeting, please R.S.V.P. with the reply form by Monday, September 23.

I'll be attending the Hawaiian Humane Society's 88th Annual Meeting on September 26. I'm looking forward to hearing Larry Price "Speaking Out for Hawaii's Animals."

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Number of People Attending _____

Play KGMB Bingo for the Society

BINGO! That's the cry we're hoping to hear during the week of September 9-13 when Hawaiian Humane Society members, friends, staff, board members, and suppliers will be playing KGMB-TV's \$9,000 Jackpot Bingo.

If you're over 18, we'd like you to play with us. We'll be playing for a good cause—to raise operating funds for the Society. We're asking everyone to sign a release which says that any money won by the signer will be given to the Hawaiian Humane Society (see release form).

The action's not going to be confined to those playing in the KGMB studio. It will also include those of you who'll play for us at home.

If you and your friends would like to play bingo in the KGMB studio audience, please call Lisa Dunn at 955-5122. But remember, if you sign up, we're counting on you to show up.

If you'd like to play for us in your home, just fill out the release form and send it to us before September 16.

You can pick up bingo cards at any Times Supermarket or Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. The more cards you play, the better our chance at winning. There are no guarantees, but it's about time someone won that \$9,000!

HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

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RELEASE FORM

In view of the mutual benefits resulting herefrom, I,

_____,
being of legal age, hereby donate and assign all monies which I may win playing KGMB \$9,000 Jackpot Bingo between September 9 and 13, to the Hawaiian Humane Society. It is my understanding that any such money will be used as operating funds for the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Home Address _____

Telephone _____ Date _____