

SCHOOLS

Students release turtles off Kona-Kohala coast

SPECIAL TO WEST HAWAII TODAY

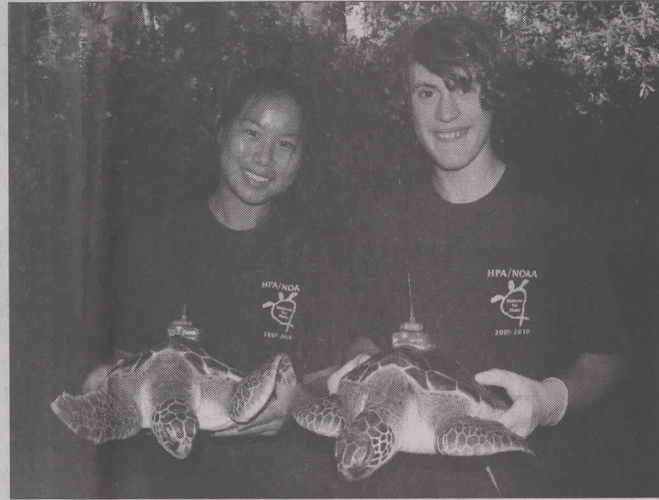
On Nov. 21, four juvenile captive-reared green sea turtles from Sea Life Park on Oahu were released off the Kona-Kohala coast by Hawaii Preparatory Academy's Sea Turtle Research Team, led by Marc Rice, director of the school's Sea Turtle Research Program, and George Balazs, leader, Marine Turtle Research Program, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. This was the first time juve-

nile turtles from Sea Life Park were released off the Kona-Kohala coast. In previous years, the Sea Life Park juveniles have been released north of Kauai and from the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel.

The most recently released turtles were shipped by air on Nov. 20 to the Big Island from Oahu. Rice and Balazs, with assistance from students Meimei Nakahara and Miller White, transported the animals to Waimea, where the students outfitted two of the turtles with Wildlife Computers Inc. Spot5 Argos

satellite tags. The satellite tags will allow scientists to track the movement of the two juveniles while they are out in the pelagic habitat (open ocean) for the first few years of their life. By following their travels, scientists can associate the turtles' locations with satellite-derived oceanographic data to better understand why the turtles travel where they do and what they do during their normal pelagic life.

For more information about the program, visit hpa.edu/turtle.



Hawaii Preparatory Academy students Meimei Nakahara, left, and Miller White hold two of the satellite-tagged juvenile honu (turtles) that were released Nov. 21 by the school's Sea Turtle Research Program.

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A TASTE OF CULTURE

Sabri takes first place at symposium

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Roya Sabri, a Kealakehe High School junior, was the first place winner in the 2009 Pacific Symposium for Science

