



## >> MEET A SEA TURTLE MAUI GIRL

In 1981, Maui Girl, also known as #5690, was a one-year-old green sea turtle. Along with many other hatchlings, she had been raised for a year at Oahu's Sea Life Park in Hawaii, before being tagged and released into the wild.

For 20 years after her release, Maui Girl was a now-you-see-her, now-you-don't turtle, but in 2002 she began to nest regularly on one beach. That year, the National Marine Fisheries Service's George Balazs put a satellite tag on her back. This meant that fascinated Hawaiians could follow Maui Girl's travels as she swam inshore to nest and back out again, her tag transmitting her location. They also got to know Saichi Sasaki, a man whose house looked out on the beach where Maui Girl frequently nested. Sasaki would call up Balazs and report, "She's back." Sasaki's entire neighborhood helped protect Maui Girl's nests until every egg hatched. Thousands of babies swam out to sea; with luck, many are still alive now, growing big and strong. And today, over 30 years after Maui Girl was released, some of her first female offspring may soon be laying nests of their own.