



**MAUNA LANI RESORT
TURTLE INDEPENDENCE DAY
2006 CLIPPINGS**

Submitted by:
Sheila Donnelly & Associates

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AFTERNOON EDITION

HONOLULU

Star Bulletin

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2006



ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of seven juvenile green sea turtles was ferried on a mesh stretcher to shore yesterday at the Mauna Lani Resort. The Hawaiian green sea turtle is making a comeback after nearly 30 years on the endangered species list, thanks in part to programs like Turtle Independence Day. About 800 onlookers gathered along the Kohala Coast to watch as the turtles were escorted from the nearby saltwater ponds where they had been raised.

Captive turtles hear freedom ring

Seven pond-raised honu are released off Kohala on the annual independence day

By Karin Stanton

Associated Press

KOHALA COAST, Hawaii >> What's green, has 28 flippers and newfound freedom?

The answer is seven young green sea turtles, or honu, launched into the wild yesterday morning from a beach on the Big Island for what has been dubbed Turtle Independence Day.

An estimated crowd of 800 onlookers gathered along the coast fronting Mauna Lani Resort to watch as the turtles were escorted from the nearby saltwater ponds where they had been raised and ferried individually on white mesh stretchers toward the waves.

Measuring up to nearly 3 feet in diameter, the turtles gave a couple of final fin flips or a quick look back at the shore before heading off on their new life adventures.

Since 1989, Oahu's Sea Life Park has been providing young turtles to be raised in the ponds and, once they reach the age of

2 or 3, to be set free on July 4.

The event includes educational booths, games, food and a special appearance by a Teenage Ninja Turtle.

The Lague family from Minneapolis, Minn., enjoyed an early lunch after visiting several booths and stopping at the face-painting table.

"I've seen turtles before, but not sea turtles. We don't have sea turtles," said Sydney, 9, sporting a blue turtle painted on her cheek. "I learned how they swim with their fins up and down. It's kind of like they are flying."

Sydney and brother Jack, 6, said they were looking forward to snorkeling during their vacation and hoping to see turtles in the wild.

"And maybe sharks," Jack said. "I like sharks."

Parents Julie and Jude said they appreciated the opportunity to show their children that caring for the environment and wildlife can have a positive impact.

"Conservation does work. To see turtles come back shows it does happen," Jude Lague said. "Just for the kids to see it means everything."

Dr. Renato Lenzi, general manager at Sea Life Park, said



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of Halau Kukuna o ka La of Oahu danced a hula in honor of seven honu released into the wild yesterday at the Mauna Lani Resort on the Big Island's Kohala Coast.

the annual event is an important step in raising awareness and educating people about the endangered green sea turtle.

"Remember, they are messengers," he told the crowd. "This delicate environment needs our help. Now, everyday is Fourth of July for these turtles."

Lenzi said he was pleased the day was geared toward children.

"It's nice to see the kids get so excited to see the turtles," he said. "They are one of the most important reasons we do this."

A generation ago, green sea turtles were hunted for sport and restaurant dinner menus. But in 1978, the turtle was added to the federal endangered species list, making it a crime to kill or harass them.

While the number of green sea turtles is rebounding, Lenzi said the task is not complete.

"They are on the verge of a recoup, but there's still a lot to learn and find out," Lenzi said. "You can only protect them if you know them."

Mauna Lani has nurtured more than 100 turtles before releasing them into the ocean. Before July 4, the turtles undergo a veterinary check and are fitted with a microchip and external identification tag. The resort also hosts hundreds of school children each year through its cultural and marine programs.

On the Net:

>> Mauna Lani Resort cultural programs:

www.maunalaniculture.org

>> Sea Life Park:

www.sealifeparkhawaii.com

Independence Day dawns for 7

Pond-raised animals transferred to ocean at Mauna Lani Hotel

BY KARIN STANTON
Associated Press

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Sydney and brother Jack, 6, said they were looking forward to



Mauna Lani Resort

One of seven juvenile green sea turtles transferred from ponds to the ocean yesterday — Turtle Independence Day — was carried on a mesh stretcher to the shore at the Mauna Lani Resort on the Big Island.

snorkeling during their vacation and hoping to see turtles in the wild.

"And maybe sharks," Jack said.

"I like sharks."

Parents Julie and Jude said they appreciated the opportunity to show their children that caring

green sea turtles

for the environment and wildlife can have a positive impact.

"Conservation does work. To see turtles come back shows it does happen," Jude Lague said. "Just for the kids to see it means everything."

Renato Lenzi, general manager at Sea Life Park, said the annual event is an important step in raising awareness and educating people about the endangered green sea turtle.

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ON THE WEB

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Sea Life Park:

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Jul 5, 8:59 PM EDT

7 Green Sea Turtles Gain Independence

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07-04-2006

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Seven green sea turtle gain independence on the Big Island

By KARIN STANTON For The Associated Press

The Associated Press

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AP Associated Press

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Neighbor Island Calendar

May

6 Astroday 2K6

Family fun at Prince Kuhio Plaza in Hilo includes Mauna Kea Observatory exhibits, StarLab Planetarium shows, robotics demos and more science fun. It's on the Big Island of Hawai'i, 932-2328.

13-27 Festival of Canoes

This annual Maui event, which celebrates the time-honored tradition of seafaring, includes demos of canoe carving, thatched house making, a craft fair, cultural arts lessons, a parade and more in Lahaina, 888-310-1117.

18-20 Moloka'i Ka Hula Piko

Come to The Friendly Isle for three-days of activities focusing on the Birth of Hula on Moloka'i. Festivities culminate Sat. with arts and crafts, entertainment and food booths at Papohaku Beach Park, 553-3876.

25-28 Kaua'i Polynesian Fest

Beginning Thurs. with a pageant, the Kaua'i Polynesian Festival continues Fri.-Sun. with entertainment, crafts,

dance competitions and food at the Vidinha Stadium soccer field in Lihu'e, 335-6466.

June

10, 17 Kamehameha Day Fun

June 10-North Kohala, the birthplace of King Kamehameha the Great on the Big Island, remembers the monarch with a lei draping ceremony at the statue in Kapa'au, followed by a floral pa'u parade and outdoor festival, 889-6238.

June 17-A 9 a.m. Maui parade proceeds down Front Street through Lahaina for an all-day cultural festival at Banyan Tree Park, 888-310-1117.

22-25 Dolphin Days

Dolphin encounters, creative Hawaiian cuisine and a jazz all-stars concert benefits charities at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Isle's Kohala Coast, 886-1234.

July

4 Rubber Duckie Race

Get quackin' to adopt a duck at this 3 p.m. United Cerebral Palsy benefit at the Waikoloa Kings' Shops on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The all-day fun



INDEPENDENCE DAY—The Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows releases several young captive turtles into the ocean on July 4 and celebrates with a parade, entertainment, educational activities and games for keiki, 885-6622.

starts with entertainment at 10 a.m. and culminates with 8:30 p.m. fireworks over the lake, 886-8811.

6-9 Wine & Food Festival

Maui's premier celebration of wine, food and the good life is at the 25th Kapalua Wine & Food Fest, 1-866-669-2440.

15 Kilauea Cultural Festival

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park presents its annual Hawaiiiana event with this year's theme "to carry on the virtues, arts and skills of the family." 985-6011.

22-30 Koloa Plantation Days

Kaua'i remembers its sugar heritage with guided historical tours, family sports, a sunset block party and a parade in Koloa, 822-0734.

29 Wilderness Runs

Race on the rim of a volcano at the 24th Kilauea Volcano Wilderness Runs on the Big Isle. Choose from a 10M run, 5M run or walk and a marathon rated "one of the toughest and most scenic in the world." 985-8725.

24-28 Angler Action

The prestigious 47th Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament pits 50 top teams

off the Big Isle's Kona Coast, where anglers are known to snag 1,000-pound "granders." Catch the 4 p.m. weigh-ins at Kailua Pier and see past tourney trophy fish at King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, 329-6155.

August

4-6 Hilo Orchid Society Show

The Big Island, nicknamed the Orchid Isle, has its exotic flower capital on the isle's windward side. This 54th annual show offers a burst of color found in hundreds of orchids. Browse among exhibits and vendors at Edith Kanakaole Stadium, 968-8196.

5-6 Maui Onion Festival

How sweet it is at Whalers Village in Ka'anapali where you'll find onion-eating contests, cookoffs, colorful farmers market and family fun celebrating Maui's sweet orb, 661-4567.

12-13 Establishment Day

The massive Pu'ukohala Heiau, where King Kamehameha the Great dedicated his war god, offers a weekend of Hawaiiiana activities geared for families. The National Historic Site is in Kawaihae on the Big Island of Hawai'i, 882-7218.



COURTESY ALEXANDER & BALDWIN SUGAR MUSEUM

FILIPINO DANCE—The Maui Sugar Plantation Festival on the grounds of the nonprofit Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum features multi-cultural performances by members of Dance Production International. Enjoy historic displays and ethnic food Aug. 5, 871-8058.