



“Old Injury – I’m Fine Now”

The short story of Hawaiian Honu “L2” sleeping ashore at
Laniakea’s HonuLani Beach

“L2”, as she is affectionately called, is a large female sea turtle that can regularly be found basking on the beach at Laniakea on the North Shore of Oahu. Quite a few turtles come here to sleep ashore and feed on seaweed in the shallow waters. The turtles seem to happily share the sand and sea with hundreds of people that also come here daily for surfing and sightseeing. L2 has a fissure or “crack” on the top of her shell resulting from an old, healed injury. The fissure has completely mended from inside the turtle’s body. Although the grooves and scar tissue detract from L2’s beauty, she is healthy in every other way.

While no one knows for sure, L2’s injury was most likely caused by a speeding boat colliding against her shell. It’s amazing, and a great credit to a sea turtle’s will to survive, that she didn’t die from this bad accident. L2 was treated by our sea turtle veterinarian, Dr. Robert Morris, in December of 2001. At that time L2’s injury had already begun to heal and was probably more than 6 months old. L2 was taken to Dr. Morris’ veterinary hospital to have the broken portion of the shell repaired with an acrylic dental patch. She was returned to the ocean and several months later the patch started to shed as the injury continued to heal from within.

In June of 2002, L2 surprised everyone when she was seen nesting and laying eggs 500 miles northwest of Laniakea at French Frigate Shoals. L2 was healthy enough to swim like other turtles on an ocean migration to this famous Hawaiian sea turtle breeding site northwest of Kauai. Later in the summer she returned to Laniakea, thereby accomplishing a round-trip voyage of 1000 miles or more. Since most adult female sea turtles in Hawaii only breed once every 3 years, it’s very possible that L2 will migrate again to French Frigate Shoals in 2005. So if you see L2 asleep on the beach at Laniakea, please let her rest in peace—she has a long trip ahead of her.

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nested again in 2006?



**L2 Adult Female – Old healed impact injury (crack)
to top of shell.**

Please store in locker at Laniakea.