



Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the Spirit of Aloha."

WHAT'S NEW – Satellite Tags



In March, George Balazs, left, (leader of NOAA's Marine Turtle Research Program) and Marc Rice (Director of Science and Technology at Hawaii Preparatory Academy), along with several HPA students and Honu Guardians, affixed satellite tags on three Laniakea honu. Below, Fiona Langenberger says Aloha to newly tagged L-11, Genbu, her Honu Guardian badge namesake.

L-2 (HiwaHiwa) and L-4 (Olivia-Dawn) also carry satellite transmitters and Time Depth Recorders. These devices will give researchers more information regarding our turtles' migrations between North Shore foraging areas and their nesting grounds on the French Frigate Shoals. The three Laniakea turtles were chosen based on their migrating history, reproductive maturity and availability. It is unknown when male L-11 last migrated, however females L-2 last migrated in 2002 and L-4 in 2004.



The Argos satellite system has four major components. The transmitter, or tag, sends location information to polar orbiting satellites. The satellite then sends the information to ground antennas, which relay it to the NOAA science processing center in Oregon. The data are processed and sent to the researchers, generally every 48 hours. The tags are battery powered with salt-water switches that transmit only when out of the water on the ocean's surface. When a turtle dives, the transmitter shuts off, saving the battery and allowing researchers to track the turtles longer and farther.

The (TDR) Time Depth Recorder is an electronic data logger that records pressure information at specified intervals. Over time, researchers can extract information about the turtles' dive depths, dive durations, ascent and descent rates, bottom time and behavioral variables.

Earth Day 2009



Malama na Honu participated in the University of Hawaii Sustainability Fest in Honor of Earth Day on April 22. Fourteen Honu Guardians manned the booth throughout the day and offered honu educational outreach, brochures, games, turtle stamping and hospitality to the Oahu community.



Thirty five Preschoolers and Kindergartners from St. Philomena School in Honolulu enjoyed Honu Guardian Mariah Snipes' animated talk about the Laniakea Honu Ohana (turtle family).

CONTEST : Let's give E-4 a name.

Our newest basker and resident tidepool turtle is here to stay. We'd like to give this little one a Hawaiian name. Please submit your name idea (with translation) to Joanne (laniakea1@aol.com) by May 24.

We'll have a vote after all suggestions come in.



Through the Eyes of our Keiki - Mikel Santiel

When my grandson Mikel was helping me volunteer last summer, he was amazed at how many people came to see the turtles. When he saw all the people on the beach and in the water, he said, "Wow, there's almost no room for the turtles. That's sad".

What surprised him the most was the question tourists often asked when they see turtles basking in the sun - "Are they dead?" At first it upset him, but then he found it humorous.

He went back to Arizona with all kinds of stories about the turtles - naming them all and describing them. He showed everyone pictures, and they were surprised at how big they are. Living in the desert, they don't get to see many sea turtles! Mikel was 14 when he was here. Being a teenager, I wasn't sure he would enjoy participating as a volunteer, but he loved it and looked forward to being at the beach each Wednesday.

By Jan Shea

Honu Guardian Activities at the Beach

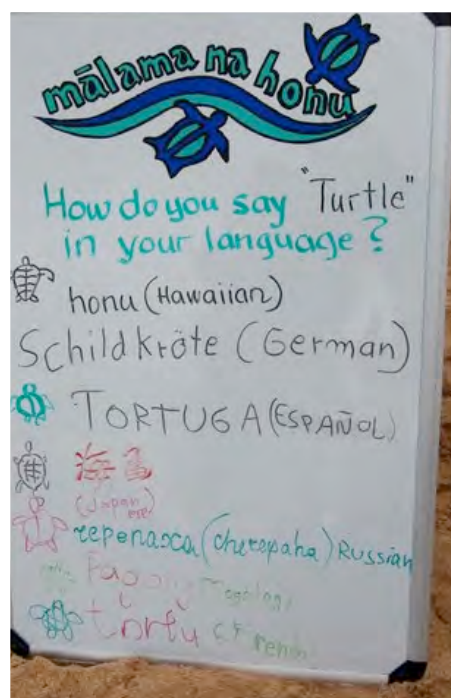
Honu Guardians Karen Banes and Kerry Britanik give an impromptu lesson on migration using the new clipboard on a pole.



Be the Ultimate Honu Guardian Educator! Whether it be a talk on migrating, the differences in turtles, or gathering the keiki under the umbrella for a story, volunteers can choose a favorite topic and hold a mini information session for a group of visitors. See the laminated sheets in the beach bag; post a time for your event on the pole clipboard .

Remember!
Please sign in on the
Volunteer sign-in
sheet.

Mahalo!



Dry Erase Board Ideas:

Ask "How do you say turtle in your language?"

List baskers' numbers and names or individual honu facts.

Write facts on migration or nesting

Volunteers Are Asking.....

Is there a LAW regarding the distance a person needs to be from a turtle, either on the beach or in the water?
There are no laws specifying an approach distance for sea turtles. State and Federal protection prohibits the "take" of the species. Take is defined as - "to harass, harm, pursue, shoot, kill, capture a turtle." While approach distance is not specified, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has issued responsible wildlife viewing guidelines: NMFS urges people to view turtles from a distance. Our ropes placed 5-6 feet from a turtle are a suggested safe distance and we ask for cooperation and voluntary compliance from our public.

What types of limu (algae) do the turtles like to eat at Laniakea?

The turtles at Laniakea like two kinds of green limu growing there. They are Ulva, the leafly sort and Enteromorpha, the stringy algae. The red Rhodophyta is found in abundance on the North Shore and is also a honu favorite.

Do all Laniakea turtles have PIT tags and where are the microchips located?

All of our 25 baskers have at least one microchip implanted in their rear flippers, with the exception of L-21 (Punahele) and L-23 (Nohea Kamakana).

Featured Volunteer - Patrick Doyle



1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

I was raised on Long Island, New York, and grew up very much a "beach kid." During my late teens I lived in Hawai'i. When it was time to leave, I did not want to go. My plan was to buy a typewriter at Sears (no there were no computers back then), create a resume, and find a job. This didn't happen, but as I boarded the plane to depart Hawaii, I swore some day I would be back for good.

After working as a Pediatric Nurse in Chicago for 10 years, I realized that, thanks to my career and experience, I could go anywhere in the world. I was fortunate enough to come back to Hawaii as a traveling nurse working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Kapiolani Medical Center. Within 24 hours of setting foot back on Hawai'i I knew I was home.

How did you become a Hounu Guradian?

I became a volunteer back when it was the "Show the Turtles Aloha" campaign. I saw a banner recruiting volunteers at Laniakea and responded. I was living in Waikiki at the time and planned on volunteering one day a month - and, well, everyone knows how that turned out!!

My motivation to volunteer was the realization, shortly after coming back to the islands, that the honu are my personal aumakua. Almost every time I am in the ocean diving, swimming, surfing, I have been greeted by honu.

3) Describe a favorite beach experience.

My favorite beach experience came as a result of one of the worst experiences for all of us at Laniakea, and one of the worst of my life - the 2008 slaughter of Honey Girl.

Two days after that I was on the beach for my Monday shift, wishing I was anywhere else in the world, when Kuhina hauled out of the water directly in front of Honey Girl's memorial that had been set up at the site of her slaughter. We had to untie the red ropes that had been placed around the site to "allow him entrance." He proceeded to crawl past the flowers, beads, flags and other tributes, and did not pause until his face was up against the picture of Honey Girl. He sat there for quite some time before shifting off to the side of the memorial, where he remained for hours.

At that moment I made a promise to myself that the horrible incident just days before would not go "in vain". With the help of our dedicated volunteers we were able to "ride the wave" of attention, and as a result, many positive things have happened for Malama na Honu in memory of Honey Girl.

4) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

The best part is meeting the keiki on the beach and seeing their reactions to the honu, answering their questions and sending them off into the world with knowledge and appreciation. The hardest?? Summer holidays!

5) What else could Malama na Honu be doing?

Malama na Honu has been growing by leaps and bounds. We are being recognized in the community and by Federal and State programs as an important and valuable Oahu non-profit.

However, it is only through the dedication and commitment of our volunteers that this has been possible. As we continue to grow, it will be a great treat personally to offer volunteers a more active role, both on and off the beach. We have such a diverse, dedicated and talented group who willing give of their time to malama all of Hawai'i's honu.

RESOURCES

BOOKS (available in the locker)

*[Sea Turtles, Ecological Guide](#) by D. Gulko & K. Eckert

*[Sea Turtles of Hawai'i](#) by Patrick Ching

*[The Book of Honu](#) by P. Bennett & U. Keuper-Bennett

WEBSITES

www.turtles.org

www.pifsc.noaa.gov/psd/mtrp

www.seaturtle.org

www.malamanahonu.org

Volunteer Stephanie Thibaudeau's Turtle Art

GENBU - TURTLE TRACKS

I have loved taking pictures since I was a small child and I always had a camera in hand. It wasn't until 2002 when I bought my first digital camera and copy of Photoshop that I realized my true passion in life was photography and digital art.

I have not had any formal training and I am self taught in both Photoshop and Corel painter. These programs allow me to "digitally paint" over my photographs and create unique artwork.

My favorite subjects are small children, landscapes and of course HONU!
I hope to eventually be able to photograph every turtle that frequents our beach and create a painting for each one.

www.hawaiianstylephotography.com



We want your ideas!

Malama na Honu is growing and we're looking for interested volunteers who are able to offer their talent, time and expertise. Would you be interested in adding photos to our website, helping when school groups come to the beach, polishing a grant application or "working" our booth at the Sunday Farmers' Market or this summer's Haleiwa Art Festival?

Please contact the volunteer below, if you are willing to help:

Patrick Doyle (honudude06@aol.com): Social events, media and publicity, liaison to federal and state agencies

Jim Kennedy (indyjimk@hawaii.rr.com) Fundraising, grant writing, website

Cheryl Kojima (cakojima@hawaii.rr.com) School curriculum development

Joanne Pettigrew (Laniakea1@aol.com) New volunteers, beach outreach and activities, t-shirt design, assist with visiting school and community groups.

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Diana Bonsignore & Joanne Pettigrew.



SUMMER 2009

the *Honuwahispeperer*

www.malamanahonu.org

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WHAT'S NEW - *Mahele* (Hawaiian: to share)

It has been a summer of sharing the honu story with many organizations:



Honu Guardians Karen Banes & Joanne Pettigrew with Windward Girl Scout Troop 343



Volunteer Ron Massey leading the Honu Hazard game at the Haleiwa Arts Festival



Japanese teachers learn about the turtles during their teacher training visit to Laniakea.



Mainland Summer Overland College students help the Honu with a July service learning project.

REMINDERS

Honu Guardian T-Shirts

If you have volunteered over 50 hours, you qualify for a free Honu Guardian shirt.

Otherwise the cost is \$12.00.

Contact Joanne:

Laniakeal@aol.com

Styles are lady's Spaghetti

Strap or Tank, and

men's short sleeve.

Sizes are S M L XL.

* First and foremost, we, as Honu Guardians, are to carry out our educational responsibilities' *"in the spirit of Aloha!"*

* Politely ask swimmers and snorkelers not to surround a turtle in the water. No shouting, no whistles. To people crowding the shoreline, say "If we all move back, the turtle might feel safe enough to come ashore."

* Red ropes should be placed 5-6 feet from a basking turtle.

* For injured beachgoers, call 911. Do not provide pills, lotions or other medication.

* Leave the locker organized and neat for the next volunteer.

* ~~Store donated beach chairs outside the locker.~~

* If you cannot make your shift, please make your best effort to find a replacement. Send a mass email to all volunteers.

* While on duty:

Wear your Honu Guardian volunteer shirt.

Use your cell phone only for emergencies.

HONU GUARDIANS ARE GOODWILL AMBASSADORS!



Ariel, granddaughter of Honu Guardians Mark and Ruth Bryner, used this sign and her winning smile to entice other children to a "Turtle Story Time."

This sort of creative interaction ensures a positive experience for beachgoers. Our goal as Honu Guardians is to provide information to our beach visitors on a PRO-ACTIVE basis. This means we need to be up and about, approaching visitors in a cheerful way, perhaps saying something like, "Welcome to Laniakea Beach. Do you have any questions about our honu?"

The "Off da Beach" training June 6 at Waiimea Falls Park emphasized the importance of respecting cultural differences of the wide variety of humans who come to see the turtles. Sharing Aloha with all people builds everyone's feeling of Aloha for the turtles.

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L5 Isabella or *Kila Kila*, the Majestic One

Isabella is the largest female turtle of our Honu Ohana. Weighing over 250 lbs. with a Curved Carapace Length (CCL) of 98 cm. She is easy to identify with over 15 barnacles on her shell. In general, a barnacle is a hitchhiker and doesn't harm a turtle.

Isabella basks approximately 2-3 days a month at Laniakea. During one of her recent visits, she shared the beach with two monk seals (R5AY and RO18). L-5 last made the 1000 mile roundtrip migration to the French Frigate Shoals in 2007.



Malama Na Honu Awarded Grant

Malama na Honu has been awarded a \$10,000 Educational Outreach and Volunteer Safety grant from NOAA's PIRO (Pacific Island Region Program Office). A big Mahalo to Malama na Honu's Chairman of the Board and Treasurer, Jim Kennedy, for crafting the NOAA 2009-2010 grant proposal!



Family Shares Reward with Honu

After their Honu Guardian shift, the Thibaudeau family stopped at Malama Market in Haleiwa, where Rudy found a bank bag with over \$1100.00! They immediately asked store personnel if they knew who the money belonged to, but without success. Fortunately, a gas card in the money bag had a name on it, and the money was returned a few days later to the owners of the Waiialua Bakery. The Thibaudeaus were given a \$100 reward, and daughter Brooke asked that \$50 be donated to Malama na Honu. Thank you, Brooke, for helping our honu.

Brooke Thibaudeau with her parents Rudy and Stephanie and her pencil drawing of Honey Girl.

Two Honu Guardians to Receive Professional Training as Naturalists

Honu Guardians Noelle Shaughnessy and Ron Bercaw have been awarded Malama na Honu tuition waivers for the internationally recognized professional certification course "Certified Interpretive Guide" (CIG) to be offered at the Honolulu Zoo at the end of August.

The four-day program combines theoretical foundations with practical skills to help volunteers and professionals deliver quality interpretive programs to the public.

Give Aloha to Malama Na Honu September 1-30

For the month of September Foodland customers are invited to make donations to their favorite non-profit. This donation will then be matched by Foodland and the Western Union Foundation. At the check-out counter tell the cashier you would like to make a contribution to Malama Na Honu 78444.



FEATURED VOLUNTEER NOELLE SHAUGHNESSY



1. Where were you raised & how did you come to Hawaii?

I was born and raised in Ohio, but every summer I visited family on the east coast, where my love of the ocean and its inhabitants was born. When I was 19 I said "goodbye" to Ohio winters and moved to Florida, spending every free moment either on a boat or in the water. Shortly after marrying Josh, who is in the US Army, we were given orders that we would be moving. After looking at the list of available duty stations, which all involved "cold weather" locations, I asked Josh, "Why can't they send us somewhere like Hawaii?" Two days later he called me laughing and said, "Guess where we're going?"

2. How did you become a Honu Guardian?

It was weeks after moving here that I saw a news report about Honey Girl. I remember watching it with tears in my eyes and feeling my heart break for the people who loved and cared for her, not realizing that they were volunteers. Shortly after Josh deployed, I couldn't sleep and was flipping through channels on the TV. There was a commercial that caught my attention ~ Patrick Doyle sharing about Malama na Honu and becoming a volunteer. So it was through Honey Girl, a sleepless night, and Patrick that I became a volunteer.

3. Describe a favorite beach experience

One of my favorite experiences came after a rain shower had cleared the beach of most of that afternoon's visitors. I met a wonderful 5 year-old named Amanda, who was full of questions about the honu and other ocean creatures. She remembered everything I told her word for word...amazing!!! Folly joined us and when she asked Amanda what she wanted to be when she grew up...she responded in a very grown up tone, "I want to be a honu watcher!" Gotta love it when we can make that kind of connection and impact.

4. What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

The best thing is seeing people's excitement when they catch their first glimpse of a honu, whether it be on the beach or in the water. It reminds me of the first time I saw them!

Remembering that feeling and taking a deep breath before I speak really helps with one of the hardest parts of being a volunteer...RE-educating visitors about "honu viewing etiquette." This can be difficult on days with lots of visitors when I have shared this message 100's of times. I always try to remember that this is most likely someone's first encounter with a honu and they are just overcome with excitement.

5. What else could Malama na Honu be doing?

A few of our volunteers have mentioned starting a "honu adoption" program, where even those who have never been to Laniakea would be able to learn and be a part of Malama na Honu.

As a volunteer I feel it is also necessary for us to continue educating ourselves - attend trainings, read email and binder updates, learn from other volunteers how they identify our basking honu and what they "say" to share our message with ALOHA. There is always something new to be learned every time we have a shift at the beach!

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Brochures

We now have a beautiful tri-fold color brochure and informational bookmarks featuring "Did You Knows" and proper wildlife viewing guidelines. A big Mahalo to Debbie Z.; Joanne T. and Cheryl K. for creating these quality materials to promote public awareness of our honu.

Each day's allotment for the handout stand will be in the locker.

✧ **WHAT'S NEW** ✧

UH-West Oahu Service Learning Students

Please welcome nine University of Hawaii - West Oahu students from Dr. Fenny Cox's Marine Biology class. All of these enthusiastic service learning students have been trained as Honu Guardians and will be assisting us in the coming months at Laniakea. Please allow each of them to perform the normal volunteer duties of properly placing the red ropes, recording our basking data and talking with our beach goers. They will be wearing Honu

Guardian shadower badges and are all eager to help.

Please initial their service learning sheets at the end of their shift. Mahalo!



Remember!

SIGN-IN

During each volunteering shift, please date, print your name, indicate hours and initial the sign-in sheet. Mahalo!

Turtles in Distress - What to Do

Call Joanne Pettigrew (375-1207) if you are unsure of a situation. Turtles stuck in tide pools are probably fine. However, if the turtle is hooked or entangled, call the stranding line 983-5730 weekdays,

288-5685 weekends. The weekend NOAA 24/7 responder phone number is a government pager number. The voicemail says, "Leave your numeric number now." Please leave your phone number on the recorder and the responder will return your call as soon as possible.

Hatchlings! Born to our Honu Guardians....

Brett and Deena Walter: Baby Boy ~ Dylan Brandon Walter,
December 1, 2008, 4 lbs, 9 oz

Paul and Angela Costanzo: Baby Boy ~ Dante Kail'i Costanzo,
January 3, 2009, 9 lbs.

Jeff and Mandy Phillips: Baby Boy ~ Pierce McCoy Phillips, February 1, 2009, 7 lbs, 14 oz.



The Golden Guardians

Honu Guardians who have volunteered over 300 hours at Laniakea Beach and received Gold Malama na Honu incentive pins(as of December 2008) Congratulations and Mahalo nui loa!

Dawn Collins	Jane Devine	Patrick Doyle	Nancy John
Jim Kennedy	Folly Murdock	Donna Orr	Joanne Pettigrew
Kristen Plath	Alan Renninger	Adela Renninger	Jan Shea
Rhona Slingerland	Joanna Tabor	Deborah Zitkovich	Terry Zitkovich

Featured Volunteer - Kirsten Plath

Where were you raised and when did you come to Hawaii ?

I was raised in Denmark and arrived in the United States in 1971. I moved to Hawaii in September 2005.

How long have you been volunteering ?

I became a Honu Guardian in February 2007.

Do you have a favorite experience at the beach you'd like to mention?

My favorite experience was when Isabella (L-5) returned to Laniakea from her 1000 mile migration to the French Frigate Shoals in August 2007.

What's the best & worst part of volunteering with Malama na Honu ?

I love being on a beautiful beach and meeting people from all over the world. Sometimes in the summer, the midday shifts can be challenging with some people not being respectful to the turtles.

What direction would you like to see Malama na Honu take?

I'd like to see the Malama na Honu website expanded. It would be great if visitors could be educated before they arrive in the Islands, perhaps by seeing a video on the airplane prior to arrival. It would be wonderful if no fishing were allowed at Laniakea.



One More Thing

Kirsten rides her bike from Waialua to Laniakea whenever she volunteers!



Through the Eyes of Our Keiki

Many of our Honu Guardians are accompanied by their children and grandchildren at the beach. The Keiki (children) of Malama na Honu offer a valuable contribution as the next generation to preserve and protect our honu. Here several comment on their experience:

My favorite turtle is Squirt because he reminds me of "Finding Nemo." I love Turtle Beach! I love the turtles, monks seals and big waves. I also love that I joined because you get to help the turtles, meet new people and spend family time together.

Brooke, Age 11,
daughter of Rudy and
Stephanie Thibaudeau

My favorite turtle is Brutus because he comes up on the beach a lot. I really enjoyed seeing the monk seal because I had never seen a monk seal in my life. I like how calm it is on the beach when I go. I really like the fact that I'm helping the turtles and I like to see them crawling up on the beach. They are like a very motivated, slow-moving bull dozer!

Alexander, Age 12, son of
Andrea Tembruell

Sam was only 2 when we started volunteering and is totally nonplussed by the unique opportunity to see the honu. I guess that is one of the privileges of growing up in Hawaii – you have no idea how special many of your experiences are! Sam loves to play in the tide pools and spends more time under water than above it. I think he has the diving capability of a honu. Allison Krug volunteers with Sam & baby Ben.



Honey Girl Tribute

Gayle Kriese lives most of the year in the

Northwest and spends each winter volunteering at Laniakea. She has donated her beautiful handmade quilt as a fundraiser for Malama na Honu. Here Gayle explains:
I was in Washington State in July when I heard the news about Honey Girl. Like everyone else, I was upset and wanted to do something, but did not know what. I had previously found a special piece of turtle fabric, and decided it was just what I needed to make a quilt in memory of Honey Girl. I chose three other strong

colors to make the statement that she really did matter. The gold represents the sand on which the honu bask, the green is for the limu that nourishes them, and the brown represents the rocks that are on the beach, and also form part of the cove that protects them. The pattern is a simple one that I just let unfold. There is no definite trail across the quilt as the turtles never have a definite path as they come to the beach. I had Theresa quilt it with a meandering stitch which flows without a definite path. So this was my little

project that says Honey Girl, you will be remembered.

NEW WEBSITE

www.malamanahonu.org

Have you visited our Malama Na Honu website recently? It has been newly designed and enhanced by Mark Edwards of Tikiglow Media Services. Check it out and turn up the sound!



FEATURED TURTLE E4

The newest addition to our Laniakea Honu Ohana (turtle family) is juvenile turtle E-4.

In April 2008, an injured and entangled juvenile turtle was spotted in the tide pool at Laniakea Point. Honu Guardians Mariah S. and Natasha F. remained with the small (58.7 cm Straight Carapace Length) turtle for hours waiting for the responder. The 57 lb. turtle was taken to the veterinarian in Kaneohe and the fishing line and hook removed. Seventeen days later, after being treated with antibiotics, microchipped, and mototooled with the white " E-4" on both sides of its shell, the turtle was released at the Kawainui Canal on the Windward side. Within a week, the turtle was reported back in the tidepool at Laniakea.

On November 30, 2008, E-4 hauled out onto the beach following L-24 Kuhina, becoming the newest and youngest member of our basking Honu Ohana. Since then, E-4 spends most of her time swimming and feeding in the tide pools at Laniakea Point. The name E-4 comes from the last digits of her implanted PIT tag.



A frequent "basker," monk seal 5AY aka " North Shore Girl" and " Brutus"

MONK SEALS

If a monk seal hauls out onto the beach, please call 220-7802 immediately. We have yellow signs in the locker to place around the seal until the monk seal responders arrive. Jen Maldonado, NOAA's Monk Seal Responder Coordinator offers a few helpful reminders:

1. Distance - NOAA recommends a viewing distance of 150 feet from the seal - while this is not always possible, giving the maximum distance possible is very important

in order to not disturb the seal.

2. Volunteers follow the same guidelines as visitors - as volunteers we are not granted any special access to the seals. Please do not approach the seal within the designated perimeter for any reason without consent from NOAA.

3. Crossing the perimeter at the water line - Never cross the seals access to the water because this may cause disturbance and could endanger the human if the seal feels threatened.

4. Visit www.monkseal.org for more information



2010 Spring Edition

the Honuwhisperer

www.malamanahonu.org

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WHAT'S NEW - *Spring Turtle Migration*

The first week of March, George Balazs, leader of NOAA's Marine Turtle Research Program) and Marc Rice (Director of Science and Technology at Hawaii Preparatory Academy) attached satellite tags and Time Depth Recorders to L-2 (HiwaHiwa) and L-4 (Olivia-Dawn/ Ipo) . These two Laniakea adult females were chosen based on their migrating history, reproductive maturity and availability.

Honu Guardian volunteers assisted by answering questions from the curious crowds and moving the heavy animal carriers and signs.

The satellite tag transmits location information to polar orbiting satellites. The satellites then send the information to ground antennas, which relay it to the NOAA science processing center in Oregon. The tags are battery powered with salt-water switches that transmit only when out of the water on the ocean's surface. When the turtle dives, the transmitter shuts off, saving the battery so the researchers to track the turtles longer and farther.

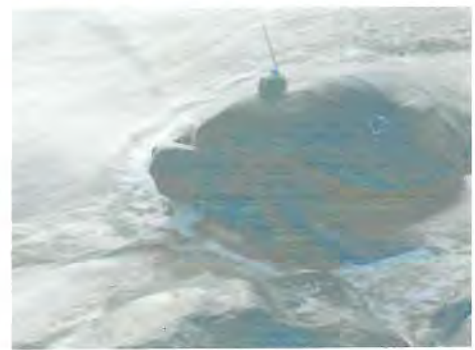
The (TDR) Time Depth Recorder is an electronic data logger that records pressure information at specified intervals. Over time, researchers gain information about the turtles' dive depths, dive durations, ascent and descent, bottom time and behavior variables.

Presidential Service Award

Malama na Honu and Patrick Doyle were recently presented the Presidential Service Award from the The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. A copy of the award will be displayed at the Laniakea. Each of you who volunteer for Malama na Honu can be proud of your contribution to the spirit of service so prevalent at Malama na Honu.



George Balazs and Honu Guardian Ron Bercaw wait for the resin to harden on L-4's satellite tag.

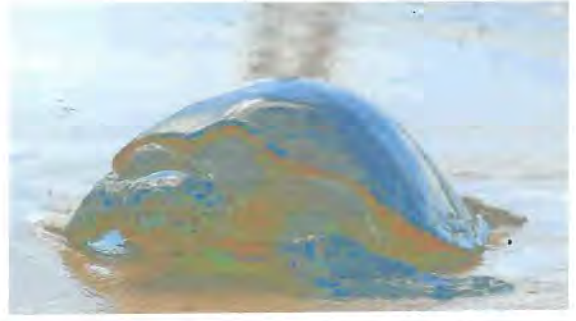


L4 (Ipo) returns to Laniakea to show off her new satellite tag and TDR. When NOAA sends the first L-2 and L-4 satellite tracking maps, Joanne will forward the migration path to all Honu Guardians.

NEW LITTLE BASKER

A juvenile turtle has joined our Honu `Ohana (turtle family)! A young turtle (with a petite, shiny 22" shell) has come to bask at least eight times this month. We will not know the gender of this newcomer for another 5-10 years.

Let's give this little one a proper Hawaiian name ! In the coming days please continue to observe its characteristics and personality, and submit a Hawaiian name and translation to Joanne (laniakea1@aol.com) by **April 7th**. We'll all vote thereafter and a prize will be awarded to the winner.



Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Spring & Summer Events

April 5 - Nationally recognized Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) trainer Gail Richards will offer a mini training to Honu Guardians at Laniakea Beach at 11:30.

April 10 - Honu Guardian Spring Beach Potluck at Laniakea Beach ! 3:00 pm Bring your favorite dish and come meet your fellow Honu Guardians and families. Games, prizes, fun, food and honu. If you have questions, contact Tiffany Cox (tigertiff816@gmail.com) 277-0224.

April 22 - Sustainability Fest 2010 In Honor of Earth Day at UH Manoa campus. Join us at our Malama na Honu booth, along with many other environmentally and socially responsible community groups. We'll be "talking turtle," recruiting, fundraising, playing games and enjoying the festivities. 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Contact Joanne Pettigrew (laniakea1@aol.com) if you can help.

July 17, 18 - Haleiwa Arts Festival. Join us at our North Shore community booth at Haleiwa Beach Park!

FEATURED TURTLE - IPO (Olivia Dawn)



Olivia-Dawn- "Ipo", one of Laniakea's original female adult baskers, is about 35-40 years old and weighs approximately 204 pounds. Honu Guardian volunteers frequently comment on her "social" personality, in that she often basks closely huddled with Brutus, Nalukai and Punahele.

Scientists affixed a satellite transmitter and (TDR) Time Depth Recorder on Ipo's carapace again this year, in hopes that she will migrate to the French Frigate Shoals. During her last migration in 2004, L-4 departed Laniakea Beach on March 13th and it took Olivia 35 days to swim 500 miles. During the first 20 days of her migration, she averaged 16 deep ocean dives each evening, with the maximum depth of one dive recorded at 135 meters (over 400 feet). This is the deepest dive recorded for a green sea turtle. Olivia returned safely to her feeding area at Laniakea on September 17th, 2004. Aloha Ipo..Have a safe journey to your nesting beach!

Featured Volunteer ~ Robert Porec



1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii? I grew up in Southern California, but have lived and traveled all over the world. It seems fate kept sending me toward the South Pacific and each time I came through Honolulu I would plan a stay over. Three years ago I visited my niece Molly who goes to school at UH. I had been thinking of moving back to Guam, but Molly said "Uncle Robert you should move here!" So I decided it would be nice to have family close by again. I also have my nephew Joey, his wife Natalie and their baby Taj living here on Oahu.

2) How did you become a Honu Guardian? I became a Honu Guardian after I saw a television commercial about Malama na Honu. On the Mainland I had volunteered with the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation as well as Bat Conservation International. I believe in being active in your community and helping protect wildlife through education.

3) Can you tell us a little about your experience with different animals other than turtles? I have always been involved with animals. In high school I raised endangered Desert Tortoises, hatching out over 100. I have over 20 years experience training wild animals for the entertainment industry, including motion pictures,

television and magic shows. Most of my experience is with big cats (tigers, jaguars, lions, leopards, etc) and with elephants, but I have handled and trained a wide variety of animals. I also have 7 years in animal law enforcement as a Humane Investigator/Animal Control Officer, and 7 years in the zoological field where I worked as an Animal Training Supervisor for the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Just this month I was selected as the Curator of Mammals for the Honolulu Zoo. Prior to that I was a Humane Officer with the Hawaiian Humane Society, and the Operations Supervisor for the State Animal Quarantine Station.

4) Have you had a favorite beach or ocean experience while volunteering? I especially like the early morning shift, and I usually come very early, sometimes before dawn! I am the only one on the beach at that time, with just the sound of the waves. Sometimes I don't see a turtle on shore for weeks, but that's ok. I see them in the water. On a few lucky occasions I have come down to find a turtle or a Monk Seal already on the beach! Plus it's easy to find parking then!

5) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer? There are many best parts for me: knowing I am helping protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles, meeting some other volunteers that have become friends, getting to meet the visitors and passing along correct information and instilling in them the need to protect and care for all wildlife. There really isn't a hard part, I like it all.

6) What else could Malama na Honu be doing? I would like to see more volunteers, but then again so would everyone! I would like to see enough people to cover other beaches where turtles bask. To get more volunteers maybe offer credit through UH or a community college, or have a weekly or monthly TV segment on a local news show where we could let people know what is happening at the beach, and tell people how they can donate or volunteer. I guess more PR.

TURTLE TALK



Donation from Calgary Students On March 29 Malama na Honu received a scrapbook with photos and a check for \$1100.00 from the Calgary Eugene Coste 6th grade students! Last year, they raised \$500.00 for Malama na Honu by selling Valentine candy bags. Raising money for our honu ("Toonies for Turtles") is becoming a new school tradition.

How do the honu know how to migrate to the FFS?

Despite lots of research, no one is sure exactly how turtles navigate back to their nesting beaches. Research has suggested that it is a combination of an ability to sense the earth's magnetic field and, when they get relatively close to the beach, their keen sense of smell. Neither of these explains fully how they do it, however. What amazes me is that females nesting for the first time navigate back to the beach on which they hatched. This means that somehow, their brains (which are not much bigger than an almond in fully grown turtles) retain a memory of a location they only know from the first few hours after they emerge from the egg. Once hatchlings dig out of the nest, they swim out to open water and are at sea for years (no one is sure how many). When they do approach shore again, it is not usually anywhere near the beach they hatched on. So not only are they astonishing navigators, they also have incredible retention, at least for that one piece of information. By Peter Bennett (www.turtletrax.org) author of *The Book of Honu*

University Students Learn About Honu Fifteen Utah State University students came to Laniakea on March 16th to learn about the Hawaiian green sea turtles. As part of their community service, the students thoroughly cleaned the beach and created eco-bag designs for Malama na Honu.



A New Name for a New Turtle By an almost unanimous vote, Clawdette's Hawaiian name is now "Kainani, beautiful one of the ocean."



**INTERESTED IN
VOLUNTEERING WITH
THE SEA TURTLES?**

See a Honu Guardian or www.malamanahonu.org

NEW BANNER AT THE BEACH

Please hang the new recruiting banner in addition to our Malama na Honu banner.

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Joanne Pettigrew & Joanne Pettigrew



2010 Fall Edition

the *Honuwhisperer*

www.malamanahonu.org

Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the Spirit of Aloha."

Chronology of Hiwahiwa's Journey

April 23: Last seen basking at Laniakea

April 25: First satellite transmission from the Kauai Channel confirming departure

May 16: Hiwahiwa comes within 40 miles of the French Frigate Shoals

May 25: Arrives at East Island in the French Frigate Shoals

June 10: Successfully nests on East Island

August 5: Last satellite transmission from FFS

September 6: Labor Day! Hiwahiwa returns to Laniakea

September 19: An "E Komo Mai" party in honor of Hiwahiwa is held at Laniakea, and attended by 50 volunteers and their families.



Hiwahiwa returned safely to Laniakea from her 1000 mile migration to the French Frigate Shoals. It had been 8 years since she last migrated.

*Here she is greeted by Honu Guardians
Janis,
Sonny,
Geri,
Noelle,
Tina,
Shari,
Joanne*

~ E Komo Mai Hiwahiwa ~ Welcome Home!

Hiwahiwa (L-2) is the first Hawaiian honu to complete a migration with both a Time Depth Recorder (TDR) and a satellite transmitter affixed to her shell. On her approach to East Island in the French Frigate Shoals, the TDR logged a record dive of 570 feet (165 more feet than L-4 Ipo's 2004 dive.)!

Nesting was witnessed by the staff and the scientists on June 10th. It is believed Hiwahiwa nested approximately 5 times, once every 12-15 days, while she remained in the French Frigate Shoals.

Concern grew when her satellite transmission stopped on August 5; but a month later she rode a wave on to Laniakea beach, her antenna broken, but otherwise healthy. Welcome Home Hiwahiwa!

FEATURED VOLUNTEER - Diana Bonsignore

1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

I grew up on the beaches of southern California, dreaming of a career in marine biology. Life intervened and I graduated from college as an elementary school teacher. However, that teaching certificate became my ticket to move to Hawaii where, even though I would not work in the ocean, I could at least live surrounded by it.

2) How did you become a Honu Guardian?

Joanne Pettigrew, a longtime friend, can be quite persuasive, so... when I retired from the Hawaii Department of Education, I agreed to help out on the beach. What I did not realize at first was how nicely this volunteer opportunity would draw together my interest in marine biology and my love of teaching. As my commitment to Malama na Honu increases, I have found that I am growing in ways I never imagined. For example, I was the kid who could barely draw stick figures, and now I am designing honu brochures, educational materials, and the newsletter. I truly feel I have benefited more than the turtles!



3) Have you had a favorite beach or ocean experience while volunteering?

There are many “favorites”... certain people, sunsets, and of course, the turtles. I guess if I had to pick a favorite experience it would be every time a beachgoer gushes with wonder upon seeing a wild turtle for the first time.

4) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

Staying calm is hard, especially when there are huge crowds. What helps is to remember that our beachgoers are potential ambassadors on behalf of ALL honu. If I am snippy with them, they will take away that embarrassing experience. If I can stay respectful, and better yet, fan their curiosity with tidbits of knowledge, they will take that with them. What pleases me the most is when I overhear someone I have just talked to share what they have learned about the honu with their companions.

5) What else could Malama na Honu be doing ?

The heart of Malama na Honu is the volunteers. Yet we rarely get to know each other unless we have shifts together. I really enjoyed our beach dinner in honor of Hiwahiwa's homecoming, and would like to see more events like that... easygoing get-togethers.

REMINDER

While on duty:

* Wear your Honu Guardian volunteer shirt & badge

*Use your cell phone only for emergencies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 25, Thanksgiving Potluck,
Laniakea, 4:00
Contact Ron Massey: 284-0826 or
r.a.massey@att.net
about what food and items to bring

Details to follow on our December events!
Malama na Honu Holiday Party
Haleiwa Christmas Parade (Dec. 10)

Name Our Featured Turtle L-28



L-28, our newest basker, first appeared at Laniakea late this summer.

The subadult has a rounded shell with noticeable indentations on the top carapace scutes. Volunteers have noticed a white spot above the rear left flipper on the shell, perhaps a speck of bleached coralline algae or a developing barnacle. It seems to be the good clue for L-28's ID.

During the month of September, L-28 was logged on the NOAA basking data sheets 12 times, usually hauling out between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

It's time to give this beautiful new resident basker an appropriate Hawaiian name. Please email Joanne (Laniakea1@aol.com) with your Hawaiian name suggestion and translation by November 10th. All Honu Guardians, past and present, qualify to submit a name and vote!

TURTLE TALK - Hatchlings

The last clutch of Hiwahiwa's hatchlings recently emerged from their sandy nest after an approximate 60 day incubation period. If the temperature of the sand was warmer than 82-83 degrees, there will be more females. Cooler nest environments produce more males.



Hatchlings work cooperatively for two to three days digging themselves out of their nest. They emerge at night and crawl toward the sea, attracted by the light reflected off the water. Fortunately, hatchlings at the French Frigate Shoals are completely safe from human interference, such as distracting lights and destructive beach activities. However, they do face threats from tiger sharks, fish, and sea birds, which devour about 90% of the clutch.



Four to six years may pass from the time these tiny turtles take their first swim to the day they return to coastal waters to forage as juveniles. This pelagic (open ocean) phase is often called the "lost years," since tracking sea turtles during this period is difficult. It is thought they live on plankton, jellyfish and fish eggs floating on the ocean's surface.

Once the young turtles have grown to approximately dinner-plate size, they return to coastal waters where they become vegetarians, feeding primarily on algae and sea grass.

HONU ID BOOK



One of the questions visitors frequently ask is, “How do you tell the turtles apart.” This question is important, because identifying the turtles correctly is essential for collecting accurate basking data for NOAA. But sometimes knowing who-is-who is hard, even for an experienced Honu Guardian.

One answer to this question is “faces.” Although some turtles are easily identifiable by an obvious characteristic, such as Brutus’ shark-bitten, left, rear flipper and Isabella’s barnacles, many turtles look alike at a casual glance - but not if you closely examine the pattern of the turtles facial scales. This pattern is unique to each turtle, like a fingerprint.

The “Laniakea Honu Identification Booklet” can be of great help for using facial patterns (as well as other clues) to identify turtles. There is a copy of the “Honu ID Book” in the beach bag, and every Honu Guardian who has logged 100 hours of service receives a personal copy.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKING

What should I do if a beachgoer is injured? Call 911. Tell the dispatcher to send the ambulance to Laniakea Beach halfway between Haleiwa and Waimea Bay on the North Shore near Pohaku Loa Way. Have someone go to the road to flag down the ambulance. If the situation calls for ice, you may arrange for that. However, do not provide pills, lotions or other medication. All emergency numbers are located in the lid of the beach locker and in the white beach binder.

What should I do if I cannot make my shift. Please make your best effort to find a trained Honu Guardian to take your shift as soon as possible using the Active Volunteer Contact List. Also communicate with your partner or the shift on the beach ahead of your shift to let them know.

VOLUNTEERS ARE SAYING

"Brutus slipped from the shore break and landed himself squarely on the beach. He lumbered up the incline, one awkward shift at a time, ignoring the eager crowd of tourists excited to be close to him. The familiar red rope made a space between him and the pressing tourist mass. Finding his resting place, he posed for dozens of photos, while visitors learned why he was there. This is why I enjoy volunteering with Malama na Honu." - Linda Staton

“Volunteers are Asking/Saying” is a new, interactive Honuwhisperer feature. If you have a question or a comment, please email editor Diana Bonsignore
dbonsignore@hawaii.rr.com

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Joanne Pettigrew & Diana Bonsignore



Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the Spirit of Aloha."

WHAT'S NEW - *Big Surf!*



High surf closed Laniakea Beach several times in December. The unusually high 30-40' foot winter surf has removed much of the Laniakea sand, leaving large shoreline boulders exposed. When surf is dangerous, the contents of our beach locker are removed, and sometimes the locker itself is taken to higher ground. Police will also block access to the beach with caution tape. If you encounter caution tape, please do not go down to the beach, even if turtles are basking.

Honu Guardian Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Party - Saturday, 12/5/09

What happens when you bring together 60 Honu Guardians, a playful holiday gift exchange, a high quality silent auction, ono food, a view of swimming turtles and a Karaoke Santa Bear? A great evening of fun and fellowship.



Party guests enjoy the gift exchange.

Jeannie Martinson, Karen Banes, and Patrick Doyle sing with Santa Bear.



Haleiwa Christmas Parade - Friday, 12/11/09



Clockwise:
Brooke Thibaudeau & Ron Massey * Marti
Theune & Heide Weber * Fans at Aoki's * Shari
Johnson, Joanne Pettigrew, Tina Berry, Drina
Martin, Karen Banes, Marti Theune



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Grant Awards for 2010 - Malama na Honu received a \$10,000 grant from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and \$30,000 from the HTA (Hawaii Tourism Authority). This money will be used for volunteer training and coordination, as well as educational materials and programs.

New Malama na Honu Board of Directors -Welcome Ron Bercaw and Diana Bonsignore to our Malama na Honu Board of Directors. Joining Jim Kennedy, Patrick Doyle, Cheryl Kojima and Joanne Pettigrew on the board, Ron's strong business experience and Diana's many years as an educator, will benefit our Malama na Honu program.



FEATURED VOLUNTEERS

Alan and Adela Renninger

1. Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

Alan was born in Pennsylvania and Adela in the Philippines. We met while Alan was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and Adela was studying to be a teacher. We were married there, and then returned to the US. We lived in the California Bay Area for 32 years, working and raising our family. We retired and moved to Hawaii about 3 years ago. We have three grown children and three grandchildren all in CA, so we put in a fair number of flying miles.

2. How did you become a Honu Guardian?

We started volunteering in the Spring of 2007. When we lived in CA we visited Hawaii often, and considered moving here after we retired. On one of those visits we happened upon Laniakea beach, and talked to Scott, a volunteer who told us about the Honu Guardians. It seemed like a great thing to do, so within a year of moving here, we signed up. Volunteering in a number of activities has been a great way for us to give back now that we have the time.

3. Describe a favorite beach experience.

It's hard for either of us to think of one favorite experience. We volunteer on Wednesday afternoons, yet every week is different. Therefore, it is not so much one big event as all the little changes from week to week that make it so much fun. The beach changes and the turtle's behaviors change as well. Seeing turtles come in to shore is like seeing old friends again. We also enjoy chatting with the other volunteers and the visitors. It's really a kick to see people's reactions to the turtles, and hopefully we can help them have a good experience while still providing a safe environment for the honu.

4. What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

I suppose we would all say that the hardest part is visitors who don't appreciate the need to protect the turtles, and you have to somehow keep them from doing harm while still being polite. The best part is the flip side when you encounter someone who really understands and is eager to know more about the honu, so you can share what you have learned.

5. What else could Malama na Honu be doing?

Malama na Honu already does a lot besides protecting the turtles at Laniakea. Perhaps we should focus on doing what we are already doing as well as we can. It is hard to communicate with many of our visitors because of language differences. It is a shame that many leave without having any more information about the honu. Perhaps we could again have handouts in various languages that they could take with them. It might be a bit tricky to avoid leaving some groups out, but perhaps we could get advice from someone in the visitor industry as to which groups have the most difficulty with English.

TURTLE TALES

Do the turtles come up all year round?

Yes, absolutely!" As the "wildest" season on the North Shore begins with awe-inspiring surf, you will see honu that body surf in and haul out within yards of Kamehameha Highway, as well as multiple baskers sunning themselves. A fine example was "Ten Turtle Tuesday," November 15, 2005.



MAHALO NUI LOA

* **Ron Massey** for offering his truck as the "Honu-mobile" in the Haleiwa Christmas parade

* **Lez`lie Reynolds** for creating a detailed spreadsheet and calculating volunteer hours

* **Nami Nielipinski** for translating our brochures and bookmarks into Japanese for future educational outreach

FEATURED TURTLE - L24 Kuhina, the Ambassador



Kuhina, the most recent adult turtle to join our Laniakea Honu Ohana, is the largest male basker. He was sighted as early as 2006 at Laniakea, yet it wasn't until Christmas Day 2007 that he began regularly basking. Over the years he has been called "Kalikimaka", the "Big Kahuna," and "Kahuna Nui." "Kuhina", the ambassador, was respectfully suggested by the Hawaiian language specialists at Kamehameha Schools, and was adopted in 2008. Kuhina's shell measures 91.4 cm (36 in) Straight Carapace Length. He spends approximately four days each month on the beach and prefers to bask in the rocky, south-western end of Laniakea Beach. Almost a twin to L-7 Wooley-Bully, Kuhina is distinguished by his uninjured, intact rear flippers.

Certified Interpretive Guide Training (CIG) Enhances Interactions at the Beach

Several of our Honu Guardians attended the internationally-recognized professional certification course "Certified Interpretive Guide" (CIG) offered at the Honolulu Zoo in August . The four-day program combined theoretical foundations with practical skills to help volunteers and professionals deliver quality interpretive programs to the public. Our volunteers comment on how the training helped them as a Honu Guardian:

Linda Staton - Cooperation, not Confrontation

"One Saturday we had a large crowd at the water's edge keeping the turtles from coming up. Janice, Robert and I made every effort to get the crowd to move away to allow the turtles to come up, but they did not respond. My CIG training kicked in and I placed myself in front of the crowd and asked in a loud voice "Who knows what the Hawaiian word for turtle is?"

They all smiled and we called to the turtles in unison, "Honu." I then asked if they would mind stepping back about 10 feet, and we all engaged in some fun cheering for the turtles. The response was wonderful. They stepped back, and I was even able to share "turtle facts" with a friendly crowd. It didn't matter that the turtles did not come up, the visitors seemed very satisfied with their experience and went away happy."

Ron Bercaw - Educational Outreach

"I learned so many things from the CIG training session. However, there is one simple training tip that is perfectly suited for our informal educational outreach at the beach. It directly ties into the "talk story" presentations that Joanne created for our use at the beach.

Here's a recap:

- * Remember that our purpose is to provide educational outreach, and ensure that visitors leave the beach more knowledgeable about turtles than when they arrived.*
- * It's not necessary to tell our visitors everything about the honu in one visit.*
- * Select 2-3 turtle topics that you are knowledgeable about and are comfortable discussing.*
- * Be prepared before you go to the beach....practice, practice, practice.*
- * Keep your conversation/communication short, no more than 10 minutes.*
- * Always thank visitors for taking time to learn more about the turtles and for visiting the beach and our honu"*

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Diana Bonsignore & Joanne Pettigrew.

Photos by Patrick Doyle & Stephanie Thibaudeau

See more at www.malamanahonu.org



2011 Spring Edition

the *Honuwhisperer*

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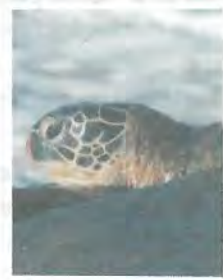
Name That Turtle! ... When all else fails, look at facial scales



"J" or "Fishhook"
by right eye



"Puppy Paw"
on left cheek



"W"
by left eye

Beach visitors often ask Malama na Honu volunteers, "How do you tell the turtles apart?" Some of Laniakea's turtles are easily recognized by a fairly obvious characteristic, such as the crack on top of Hiwahiwa's shell, or Brutus' shark bitten left rear flipper.

But many turtles are more difficult to accurately identify unless we look closely at their facial scales. Most honu have 15-20 darkish scales on their cheeks. The shape and arrangement of the scales are as individual "fingerprints." Often looking at a basking turtle's profile and comparing it to the facial picture in the Honu Identification book, makes for a quick and positive identification.

See if you can identify these Laniakea turtles pictured above by their unique facial scales! (Answers on page 4)

Congratulations to our newly elected Malama na Honu Board of Directors:

President: Patrick Doyle
Secretary: Diana Bonsignore
Treasurer: Jim Kennedy
At large: Ron Bercaw



Educational Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator: Joanne Pettigrew

A few words from our President, Patrick Doyle: "When I first learned of the Honu Guardian Program, I thought this was the ideal way for me to give back something, not only to these wonderful creatures, but to the islands, its waters, and its people. I had no idea I would become as passionate as I have about our *honu ohana* at Laniakea. The most rewarding aspect of my volunteer experience has been working with the children. After all, they are the next generation to inherit all of this. If we can inspire them to respect, protect and conserve our planet, perhaps the future will bring a reversal to some of the damage that has been done.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER - Marti Theune

1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

I was born and raised in Washington, D.C. Although I never lived more than a few miles from where I was born, I travelled in Europe, Canada, Africa, and South America. My husband Don and I moved to Hawaii March 2001 when he accepted a position in support of the Pacific Command at Camp Smith. It was very difficult for me to move so far away from everything and everyone I knew and loved, but I soon met new friends.



2) How did you become a Honu Guardian?

When I first came to Hawaii, a neighbor told me about her volunteer job as a "turtle guardian," and I kept that little tidbit of information in the back of my mind. Five years and several moves later a new neighbor, Kathy Bird, coincidentally told me about her turtle job on the North Shore. This time I was settled, and very interested in learning more about this rewarding volunteer opportunity. I became a "Thursday Volunteer," mostly working the Mid-shift. My "partner" is Sonny Sampaga. He knows every turtle as it emerges from the water. He also possesses a wealth of historical knowledge and an amazing variety of trivia, plus he has a terrific sense of humor! Rain or shine, at the end of our shift, we always say, "Well, it was another good day at the beach."

3) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

I enjoy interacting with the visitors, but I understand there will be challenges. It pays to put myself into a positive mindset before stepping onto the sand each week, and to plan to have fun. For the times I find myself having to be firm, I try to find another opportunity before that person leaves the beach to engage in a friendly gesture. I have more than once apologized for being over-zealous. People really appreciate it.

4) What else could Malama na Honu be doing?

Over the years I have noticed that MNH has become really well-established and accepted on the beach, much like the life guards. So, what else could we be doing? One thing I wish is that Malama na Honu had a sturdy little pavilion so we could get out of the sun and rain on occasion. Other than that, it's all good!

5) Describe a favorite volunteer experience?

I love the chance to play "Honu Fairy Godmother." I often dress up in my costume when reading to groups of children at the beach, and I especially enjoy wearing it when walking with MNH in the Haleiwa Christmas parade. A particularly serendipitous event occurred after the last parade. I was still in my costume while Don and I were having dinner at Jameson's, when I was approached by a friendly stranger who engaged me in a lengthy and entertaining conversation. A few days later Joanne sent out an email telling us that MNH had received a very generous donation. I had a funny feeling about it and told Joanne about my encounter at the restaurant. She gave me a link to the donor's website, and up popped a photo of the very same man I had talked to at Jamison's! I was stunned to learn of his remarkable background, and even more amazed by his incredible generosity. It was enough to make this Honu Fairy Godmother believe in magic!



Mark your calendar..

Saturday, June 18 4:00 p.m. - Volunteer Beach Potluck, with NOAA's Irene Kelly

Come spend time with our basking summer turtles and fellow volunteers!

Please bring your favorite pupu, entree or dessert.

NOAA's Irene Kelly will be available to answer questions about sea turtle recovery and honu behavior.

Featured Turtle: L-11 ~ Genbu

L-11 first began basking at Laniakea in 2003. At the time, there were a total of 12 baskers coming up on the beach, six females, four subadults and two males. L-11's tail soon began to grow and he joined Brutus and Wooley Bully as the third male baskers of Laniakea. A year later, L-11 disappeared. When he returned over 12 months later he had a large, grapefruit-sized fibropapilloma tumor on his left jaw and smaller tumors on his neck and eyes. Fortunately, he was successfully treated by the veterinarian with an experimental canine drug, Dermex.



Photo by Melodie Grafstrom

A volunteer suggested the name of "Genbu", which is Japanese for one of the Four Symbols of the Chinese Constellation, the Black Tortoise of the North, representing long life, wisdom and strength. Genbu, also known by his Hawaiian name of Kupono, disappeared again in 2009. He returned in March 2011, covered in algae and with over 20 new barnacles on his shell. While he was absent from Laniakea, the marine scientists believe Genbu may have been resting and feeding in Kaneohe Bay on the Windward coast.



TURTLE TALK - Barnacles

(See Genbu above)

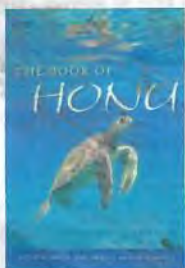


Sea turtles often have barnacles attached to their shell and skin. There are many species of barnacles, but the type most often seen on Hawaiian green turtles are *Chelonibia testudinaria*.

Although barnacles are frequently confused for mollusks because of their hard shell, they are actually crustaceans, closely related to crabs and lobsters. They begin life as free-swimming larvae exploring potential surfaces with their antennae. Once in place, barnacle larvae use cement-secreting glands at the base of their antennae to attach themselves, headfirst and permanently. They then develop six hard calcareous plates and spend the rest of their lives upside down using feathery legs to capture plankton.

Turtle barnacles are "obligate commensals." "Obligate" means this type of barnacle only lives on turtles. "Commensalism" describes a relationship between two living organisms where one benefits, and the other is not significantly harmed or helped. Barnacles use sea turtles to be transported to nutrient-rich waters. The barnacles gain food, the turtles gain nothing.

Barnacles are just one of many varieties of "epibionts" that live on turtles. An epibiont is a plant or animal, normally non-parasitic, that lives on another animal. To find out more about other turtle epibionts, check out this website: <http://www.euroturtle.org/epibionts.htm>



Book of Honu

As part of Malama na Honu's 2011 NOAA grant funding, each Honu Guardian will receive a complimentary copy of Peter and Ursula Bennett's Hawaiian green turtle guide, The Book of Honu.

Please contact Joanne Pettigrew (laniakea1@aol.com) if you'd like your copy left in the locker or mailed to you (\$3.00 postage).



Outreach -

Ka Mole o na Pua -April 16th Many keiki enjoyed the Match the Turtle game at Leeward Community College's Ka Mole o Na Pua Festival on April 16th.

COMING UP - Haleiwa Arts Festival

Saturday and Sunday, July 16 & 17th - 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Malama na Honu has been invited to have a booth in the community tent at this year's festival. Come help for a few hours at our table, and enjoy one of Oahu's best art festivals, featuring exquisite art, musicians, singers, dancers, cultural/historical tours, student art, art demonstrations and children's activities.

CALLING ALL TEACHERS - Free Honu Teaching Materials Available

The Hawaiian green turtle (*honu*) provides an engaging area of study for students of all ages, and lends itself to the development of Standards Based thematic units linking many content areas, such as science, social studies, math, language arts, fine arts, and Hawaiian language.

Malama na Honu has compiled a packet of educational materials for anyone who wants to share accurate, scientific information about *honu*, whether they teach at the preschool, elementary or secondary level. Others who may find this packet useful include Scout leaders, camp counselors, and tour guides.

To receive a packet please email Diana Bonsignore at dbonsignore@hawaii.rr.com



VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKING

Q: Would it be possible to get an update every so often on which turtles have been basking at Laniakea recently?

A: Yes! Beginning June 1, monthly updates will be emailed to our Honu Guardians with turtle basking totals from the Laniakea NOAA Basking Data sheets.

Q: How many of our turtles have microchips and where are these chips?

Of the 29 turtles that have been known to bask at Laniakea, 26 of them have PIT (Passive Integrated Transponders) tags injected into their rear flippers. About the size of a grain of rice, the PIT tag consists of inert wire, a chip and a capacitor encased in glass. When a scanner is passed over the site where the PIT tag was injected, the radio frequency of the scanner will excite the PIT tag, which in turn will reflect the radio waves back to the scanner. In this way, the scanner can detect the unique alphanumeric code of the PIT tag. The main benefit of using PIT tags for marking turtles is that the tag is nearly permanent.

Answers from page 1 (L to R): L-6 Oakley/Me aloha, L-28 Ironman/Hao'okanaka, L-10 Squirt/Lele

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Joanne Pettigrew & Diana Bonsignore



2011 Fall Edition

the Honuwhisperer

www.malamanahonu.org

Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the Spirit of Aloha."

~ *What's New* ~

Laniakea Summer Migrators

Swimming to East Island in the French Frigate Shoals (FFS) is a treacherous challenge for Hawaii's green turtles, but every 2 - 8 years individual *honu* are determined to migrate the 1000 mile round trip from their foraging grounds on the main Hawaiian islands to their natal beaches in the FFS. Two Laniakea baskers, L-1 Brutus and L-5 Isabella, made that journey this year. A total of 808 female turtles nested in the shoals this season, compared to 67 in the mid 1970's. Click on this slide show for images and information about our turtles' nesting ground:

www.turtles.org/ffs/ffsss/ffsss01.htm

Isabella lays a clutch of eggs 7/26/11 at East Island, FFS. She last nested there 2007.



Summer Outreach

East Coast high school students visited Laniakea this summer and created amazing eco shopping bag designs.

This one says:
4 Flippers
1 Heart
No Voice

L-23 Kamakana Lives



Although L-23 Kamakana hasn't been seen at Laniakea for several years, he has matured into an adult male, and can be found basking frequently at a private cove between Laniakea and Chun's Reef.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER - Morton "Sonny" Sampaga

If you spend time at Laniakea on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, you'll very likely meet volunteer Sonny. He is an expert at identifying our turtles, and has logged over 1100 hours on the beach volunteering with Malama na Honu.

1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

I was born on Oahu and grew up in the Salt Lake area near the Honolulu airport. I am of Hawaiian and Filipino heritage and have one younger brother. I graduated from Moanalua High School in 1982. On our high school senior trip, we visited the Big Island of Hawaii and I enjoyed seeing the volcano and Parker Ranch.

2) How did you become a Honu Guardian and when?

I travel mainly by bus and once in 2005 while riding up to Turtle Bay, I noticed what I thought were boulders on the beach at Laniakea. I stopped to check out the beach and started volunteering under the "Show Turtles Aloha" program with George Balazs and Joanne Pettigrew.

3) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

The best part is making great friends with the fellow guardians. The hardest part is not "flying off the handle" if I see a visitor harass a turtle or ignore our requests.

4) Describe your favorite honu Experience.

Years ago I used to spend time at the Haleiwa Harbor. I watched a young turtle swim and do quite well even though it was missing part of its flipper. That's when I first became interested in seeing turtles up close and in the wild.



Prince of Wales School students, Calgary, Canada donated \$1060.00

Recent Donations to Malama na Honu

Laniakea turtles and volunteers have touched the hearts of many, some of whom have responded with generous donations to Malama na Honu.

- *Vincent and Diana Jue Charitable Gift Fund - Palos Verdes Estates, CA. - \$500
- * Mr. Shiho, Tokyo, Japan - \$663
- * Hiroshi, Honolulu, HI - \$100
- * Alison, Vancouver, Canada - \$50
- * Marcia, Poulsbo, WA - \$50
- * Jarret, Jamie, Rene, Honolulu - \$200
- * Anita, Monterey Park, CA - \$100

Golden Guardians

Honu Guardians who have logged over 300 hours volunteering with Malama na Honu



- Karen Banes
- Ron Bercaw
- Kathy Bird
- Diana Bonsignore
- Vickie Dela Cruz
- Jane Devine
- Patrick Doyle
- Peggy Golden
- Janis Honda
- Shari Johnson
- Jim Kennedy

- Cheryl Kojima
- Gayle Kriese
- Jeannie Martinson
- Ron Massey
- Folly Murdock
- Donna Orr
- Joanne Pettigrew
- Tina Pierson
- Robert Porec
- Kirsten Plath

- Alan Renninger
- Adela Renninger
- Lez'lie Reynolds
- Sonny Sampaga
- Noelle Shaughnessy
- Jan Shea
- Betty Smith
- Sarah Svedberg
- Marti Theune
- Debbie Zitkovich

Stay up to date on honu topics and photos submitted by our volunteers and supporters.



- * Type Malama na Honu in your search bar.
- * Click on the blue MnHonu box to go to our fb site.
- * Find our name at the top and click "Like."

LIFE HAPPENS

So if you cannot make your shift... Please find a trained Honu Guardian to take your place as soon as possible using the "Active Volunteer Contact List."

Also communicate with your shift partner or someone on the previous shift to let them know about the situation.

You Are Important!!!

Save these Dates For December

Saturday, 12/3 - MnHonu Holiday Party
Friday, 12/9 - Haleiwa Christmas Parade

If you know of a suitable site for the Holiday Party or can help with the planning, email Joanne: Laniakea1@aol.com



Volunteers Stephanie Thibaudeau, Ron Massey, Brook Thibaudeau, and Joanne Pettigrew pass the time whirling glow sticks waiting for the hatchlings. Sadly, the nest was later discovered to be a false crawl.

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Joanne Pettigrew & Diana Bonsignore

Featured Turtle: L-1 ~ Brutus



Twelve years ago in 1999 Brutus became Laniakea's first green turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) to haul up on the beach. Virtually unnoticed except by a few surfers and several neighbors, he continued to bask a few hours at a time, several days a week.

Joanne Pettigrew, who lived close by, contacted NOAA's George Balazs at the Marine Turtle Research Program. Since it was unusual for healthy, uninjured, turtles to sun themselves on the beach, the marine scientist took an interest. Microchip identification tags were inserted into the turtle's hind flippers, and he became known as Laniakea-1 or L-1.

By 2003, eleven other turtles joined L-1 to bask at Laniakea Beach. A "HonuCam" surveillance video recorder was mounted on a nearby coconut tree, allowing marine scientists from around the world to monitor the basking turtles. Each turtle received a microchip, and was fitted with an individual fiberglass marker on its shell for easy camera identification.

In 2004, L-1, L-4 and L-7 were outfitted for the first time with Time Depth Recorders. They migrated to the French Frigate Shoals that spring, along with L-12 and L-15. Beach visitors and neighbors coined pet names for the resident turtle baskers, and L-1, who returned with a shark-bitten rear flipper on the Ides of March (3/15), became known as Brutus.

Brutus, who is approximately 45 years old now, continues to bask at Laniakea 50-60% of the year. This summer, he surprised the researchers and volunteers, by migrating to the mating and nesting area of the French Frigate Shoals. He completed the dangerous thousand mile journey in 91 days.

Over the years, L-1 Brutus has been hooked, entangled, bitten by a shark and photographed thousands of times. As an "old salt," he lives up to his Hawaiian name, *Nalukai*, the one who has endured the storms of life.

QR CODE LINKS TO M_nHONU WEBSITE



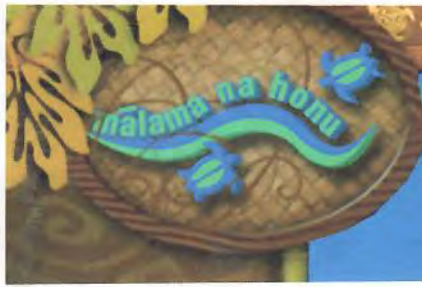
Malama na Honu's new bookmarks and English brochure now have a QR (Quick Response) code printed on the back.

When scanned by a smartphone, it will quickly pull up our website. If your smartphone does not have a

built-in QR code reader, you can download a free one at a site like [RedLaser](#), [ScanLife](#), [Barcode Scanner](#), [Shop Savvy](#) or [i-Nigma](#).



Josie Socias distributes new English and Japanese bookmarks with our QR code while helping her mom, Trish, volunteer.



2011 Winter Edition

the Honiwhisperer

www.malamanahonu.org

Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the Spirit of Aloha."

A Year in Pictures



June
Hands Across
the Sand



L-2 Hiwahiwa

March

L-2 & L-4 receive Sat Tags,
TDRs to track migration.

April
L-2's
journey
begins



June
L-2
lays
eggs
at the
French
Frigate
Shoals



April
Heidi, Sasser, Melissa
at UH Earth Day



July
Haleiwa
Arts
Festival



September
L-2 Returns



November Yvette's Outreach
at Hale Kula Elementary

December
Haleiwa
Christmas
Parade



FEATURED VOLUNTEER - Ron Massey

1) Where were you raised and how did you come to Hawaii?

I grew up in Astoria, on the north coast of Oregon. The local economy was based on fishing and logging. During high school and college I tried my hand at both, but decided on a career in the military instead.

In October 1965 my squadron had a three day stop at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station on our way to Vietnam. My first and most lasting memory was a view of the Koolau Mountains.

Waikiki in 1965 was fantastic. I came back on vacation in 1969, and then annually from 1985 (sometimes 2-3 times a year) until moving here in 1993.

2) How did you become a Honu Guardian?

I got involved with Malama na Honu shortly after Honey Girl was taken from us. Ron Bercaw and I were talking and he told me about the program. I was hooked.

3) Have you had a favorite beach or ocean experience while volunteering?

My favorite experience was being part of the team to catch Hiwahiwa early last year to install the satellite tracker and Time Depth Recorder, and then to follow her travels to the French Frigate Shoals and her successful return to Laniakea Beach.

4) What is the best/hardest part of being a volunteer?

The best part of my time as a Honu Guardian is interaction with our guests - especially the keiki. Their enthusiasm about the honu is infectious. The hardest part is when the occasional person does not understand (or doesn't care about) the red ropes and 6' rule. It is then that my ole Marine training wants to step out, but I can't let that happen, darn it!

5) What else could Malama na Honu be doing ?

The new brochures in English and Japanese are a great addition. Overall I'm very happy with the program we present to the visiting public. Each day I have duty I arrive early just to set up and enjoy the experience.



Code of Conduct Pledge

Even though Honu Guardians are volunteers, there is a level of professionalism you will want to cultivate whenever you are on the beach.

The "Malama na Honu Code of Conduct Pledge" is designed to guide you toward this end. The pledge was recently re-written for brevity. Please read the copy of the pledge in the white beach binder, and sign the adjoining sheet to show that you have read it and aspire toward its goals.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ka'ena Point Shoreline Hike
Sunday, February 13, 8:30 a.m.

See nesting albatross, monk seals, turtles, breaching whales, and winter surf.

Meet in the parking lot at the end of Farrington Highway in Mokulei'a.

Bring water and sunscreen.
Sorry, dogs are not allowed in the Reserve.

Three New Baskers join the Laniakea Honu `Ohana in 2010



Kekoa

2010 brought three new honu baskers to Laniakea Beach.

In March, a juvenile began following several adult turtles on to the beach to bask. The name **L-26 Kekoa**, brave one, was given to this courageous little turtle, as it is very unusual for a turtle under the age of 25 years old to bask. With a petite, clean shell measuring only 22," Kekoa is probably only about 15 years old.

In July two more new turtles arrived. The first was an adult male with a large fish hook in its neck. He eluded rescuers by returning to the ocean, but finally, with the coordination of NOAA's Marine Turtle Rescue Program, a Kaneohe veterinarian, several Honu Guardians, and a crew from Waialua Fire Station, the large male turtle was captured, treated and later released. His appropriate name is **L-27 Kulihi**, meaning hooked, but got away.



Kulihi



Hao'okanaka

Another new subadult turtle hauled onto the beach soon after. With a very round, indented shell, the approximately 25 year old honu began basking three or four times a week. This new turtle displays the unusual behavior of gnawing on the shells of other basking turtles. It was named **L-28 Hao'okanaka**, (Iron man) in memory of legendary surfer, Andy Irons.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKING

What should I do if a Monk Seal comes up on the beach?

Call the Oahu monk seal sighting line immediately:

808-220-7802

As a courtesy, ropes may be placed about 100 ft. around the seal until a monk seal volunteer arrives.

Monk seal signs stored behind our beach locker can be placed around the rope.

At sunset please store all equipment, even if the seal is still on the beach.

Program this and all other emergency numbers on your cell phone, or find them in the white binder.



VOLUNTEERS ARE SAYING

How gratifying it is for me to spend my day at the beach, doing something that I am passionate about and then to be thanked by strangers for what I do ! MAHALO, Malama na Honu.

~ Ron Bercaw

"Volunteers are Asking/Saying" is an interactive Honuwhisperer feature. If you have a question or a comment, please email editor Diana Bonsignore dbonsignore@hawaii.rr.com

The Honuwhisperer is created and edited by Joanne Pettigrew & Diana Bonsignore

Featured Turtle: L-19 ~ Scallop

Scallop first came up to bask at Laniakea Beach in 2004. In October of that year, she became the 19th Laniakea Honu to be microchipped, thus her title L-19.

It is estimated that this adult female is approximately 30 years old. Her Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 30" is relatively small compared to other adult females at Laniakea, such as L-5 Isabella whose SCL is 35.5." In November and December 2010, Scallop basked a total of ten times, hauling out onto the beach between 12:45 and 3:00 p.m and returning to the ocean within several hours.

L-19 can be identified by her beautifully rounded carapace and "notch" above her right rear flipper, where the lateral scute is chipped and healed.

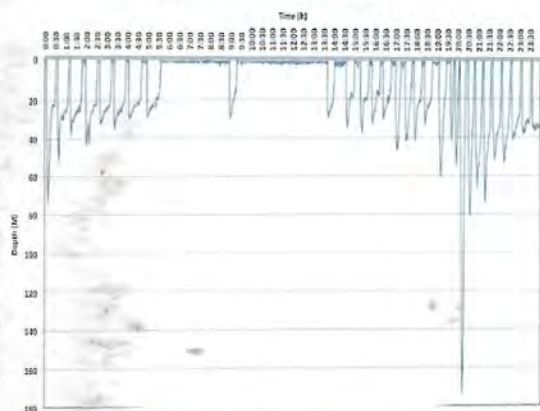


Hawaiian Name
Kauhi`nihoniho
(scalloped edge)



TURTLE TALK - Deep Diving

Dive Profiles for Hiwahiwa on 5/21/2010.



A TDR (Time Depth Recorder) is an electronic device that records water pressure, and is used to monitor the behavior of marine animals, capturing such information as dive depth, duration, ascent and decent rate, and bottom time.

Several Laniakea turtles have worn TDRs in the past, but Hiwahiwa is now the record holder for deep water dives. On May 21, a few nights before arriving at her nesting beach at the French Frigate Shoals, she plunged to a depth of 570 feet! Scientists are not sure why she would dive this deep, but theorize she may have been seeking deep water food, perhaps cucumber-shaped gelatinous organisms called pyrosomes.

Go to this fascinating interactive web site to see graphs of data from Hiwahiwa's TDR which was analyzed by the Hawaii Preparatory Academy/NOAA Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program. Especially note dives for April 27 and May 11, 13, 20 and 21.

<http://akepa.hpa.edu/~mrice/turtle/laniakea10/L2map/l2map.html>

2011 Whale Count

Join Malama na Honu Volunteer Patrick Doyle,
site leader for the Whale Count at Ka'ena Pt.
Saturdays: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26

Register online

www.sanctuaryoceancount.org





Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation, all in the spirit of Aloha."

Malama na Honu Board Highlights

April-September 2018

We are pleased to announce the names of the current Malama na Honu officers:

Joe Murphy, President; Don Porter, Vice President; Beverly Murphy, Treasurer; Kylie Emily, Secretary. Other board members include Debbie Herrera (VEC), Denice Painter, Candy Peach, editor of *The Honu Whisperer*, Vickie Dela Cruz, and Kelly Hardy. Volunteers who have suggestions for how to improve Malama na Honu are asked to send their ideas to a board member.

This has been an extremely busy and often challenging spring and summer season, with record crowds of visitors to Laniakea. The Board recognizes the extra effort that it has taken to deal with the heat, basking turtles, grazing turtles in the water and on the shelf, and pushy visitors often disrespecting the turtles and often showing rudeness toward volunteers trying to protect the honu. We appreciate all of your time and efforts; all board members are active volunteers who have experienced the same issues. Unfortunately, there are no magical solutions. We persevere

and do our best to share the spirit of ALOHA whenever possible.

In addition to covering many shifts on the beach and running several new volunteer orientations, Debbie has coordinated many outreaches: Sea Life Park Education Events, Brownie and Daisy Troops Education Events, Ocean Fest at Turtle Bay, Zeal Travel Group from the mainland, Au pair Education, Kahala Mall Keiki Day, and Asia Pacific International School, just to name a few. Special thanks to her and the many volunteers who assisted her.

Our website is currently undergoing a major revision and update. It will still be operational in its present form during this process.

In the event that peaceful protests against the Laniakea traffic jams should resume with parking lot blockage, volunteers scheduled for duty on the affected weekend days will be notified by Debbie or Joe related to safe and approved parking available at Kawailoa Ranch. A parking permit to be displayed on

your dashboard will be sent to you in a timely manner. We will keep you informed as needed.

New and improved educational teacher packets are being printed and should be available by October.

The current "Active Volunteer List" which Debbie sends out regularly now reflects only the names and information of people who have actually volunteered during 2018. Everyone is reminded that volunteering for two beach shifts per month is our expectation.

The annual Christmas party to celebrate 2018 volunteerism is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at the Sunset Lanai, located at Camp Smith. Look for an official invitation from Bev Murphy during the month of October.

The fourth and final 2018 People Count will be held from Sunday, October 28--Saturday, November 3. Look for an email from Joe requesting the support of volunteers for this special project.

Reminder: Drink plenty of water!

Reminder: Use our book to be definitive on identification, even if you know who it is!

Malama na Honu Spotlight on...

HAO

by Joe Murphy

HAO HAS RETURNED!

After a 15 month hiatus, the turtle that used to be our second most frequent basker (in the days when our beloved Brutus used to frequent our shore as many as 25 days a month), Hao, is once again gracing us with her presence at Laniakea. Once acclimated to being gawked at by a hundred or more humans at a time, she began hauling out quite

female turtle! Wanting to retain the honoring of the young surfer, the Board shortened the name to just "Iron," hence the name this turtle now proudly possesses...Hao.

Over time, Hao's beach appearances waned some, but she was still a regular sight at our beach. Then, disaster struck.

reckless with their watercraft and injure innocent turtles as they graze in the near shore waters.

On September 5th, 2015, Hao had a run-in with a boat and its propellor got the best of the encounter. What appeared to be a very severe injury to Hao's carapace was treated by a NOAA veterinarian. Dental epoxy was used to seal up the gaping wounds, the scars from which are still readily visible. Observation of Hao over a next few days convinced the doctor that possibly Hao was not as severely injured as it first appeared. She was returned to the water at Laniakea 3 days later, but volunteers were asked to keep an eye on her with particular emphasis on the movement of her rear flippers. The concern was possible damage to the spinal column. Thankfully, no such problems developed. Over the intervening couple years, this brave young turtle has healed up quite well.



frequently, averaging over 10 appearances per month over a 3 year period.

Hao first appeared at Laniakea in the summer of 2010, shortly after the untimely demise of surfer Andy Irons. To honor him, Malama na Honu named this new turtle "Ironman" (Andy's nickname) or Hao'okanaka.

Since Hao was a subadult at the time, it was not known that the name shortly thereafter would become inappropriate when it was ultimately determined that Hao'okanaka was a

It's a dangerous place...the Pacific Ocean. Not only do these great creatures have to be on the lookout for Tiger Sharks that want to eat them, human beings can be

It is so exciting to have her back. Let's hope she will continue to frequent our beach regularly in the coming years!



Malama na Honu Ohana

Volunteer spotlight on Janis Honda

For this issue we would like to spotlight one of our most dedicated volunteers, Janis Honda. Janis was kind enough to share her journey to volunteering with us. Thank you for all you do for our beloved Honu, Janis!

When I moved to Oahu from Reno, NV, I started to teach myself to snorkel and when I was in the water it was like a new, great, quiet, different, scary world. I knew that to see all this I had to be grateful and humble for what the ocean was letting me see. I knew that per my spirituality I also needed to give back to the islands.

Sometimes it's hard to give material things but giving your time is the most valuable thing you can give. So I looked online for volunteer places. I looked first at the Hanauma Bay program and the Hawaiian Monk Seal programs. Malama Na Honu was the last program I looked at. It seemed very cool, but I also knew it would be very hard work. I started

learning with Joann Pettigrew as the lead and who JP is named after. I have loved working with all the people and when the first Honu came up I was so happy and honored to see them come up and rest on the sand.

I like it when people leave the beach happy and positive because they have seen a honu, whether it be Woolly Bully, Brutus, JP, Olivia Dawn, Mana, or Kulihi (I call him Captain Hook, like in the Disney film).

I have been volunteering for 10 years now and hope people learn something about turtles on their vacation. I love trying new and old foods, and I will gladly share with people about good local places as well

as places that are overpriced.

The ocean and honu have taught me many things: to be humble, to be present, to laugh, to love yourself and to take care of yourself with sunblock, water, & eating. I'm a breast cancer survivor so I try to do these things but sometimes I forget and usually the ocean, especially when snorkeling, will remind me to enjoy the moment and not to think too far ahead. The honu have taught me to be present, graceful, loving, and to enjoy my home.

So if you see me on the beach be sure to say "Hi" and bring chocolate, dark chocolates preferred!



Reminder: Volunteer with Aloha!

Sea Life Park Turtle Extravaganza

Hatchlings, Hatchings, Hatchings!!!

by Lindsay Pell

Even though there have been fewer green sea turtle nests on Oahu than last year, some of our volunteer beach walkers still got to meet a hatchling or two! Over the past couple of years, Malama na Honu has been building a partnership with Sea Life Park through outreaches, education, and beach clean-ups. Sea Life Park is home to the only active breeding colony of green sea turtles in United States facilities, so it has been the perfect place to educate locals and visitors about the honu – other than Laniakea of course! Every year, several mature female turtles at Sea Life Park nest, producing anywhere between 200-800 hatchlings. Most of these hatchlings are released within 24-48 hours. Each one carries a PIT tag to aid in future identification. Data has shown that these turtles have appeared all throughout the Hawaiian islands, with some females returning to beaches near Sea Life Park to nest.

Each time a Sea Life Park turtle is identified out in the wild, it contributes to our knowledge of green sea turtles' habits and movement. The better we understand them, the better we can protect them!

Life Park's turtles every day. Aquarists taught them about food preparation, habitat maintenance, and tracking the turtles' health and growth. The park's curator Jeff Pawloski spent time teaching them about the turtle program and answering questions. The volunteers even got to participate in turtle morphometrics: collecting weekly data to monitor the hatchlings' growth. Using a variety of tools, they weighed, measured the shell length, and cleaned algae off of 3-month old honu. It was a rewarding experience for many who have been surveying for turtle nests but haven't seen too much activity this year. Thank you to Sea Life Park for the opportunity and thank you to our faithful volunteers who have dedicated extra time to helping the honu!



A few hatchlings remain at Sea Life Park for approximately 2 years to play an important role in educating the public. This month, some Malama na Honu volunteers who survey for turtle nests were rewarded by getting to meet some of these hatchlings! They went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Reef Life department, which cares for Sea



Reminder: Bring a bag for beach clean-up to your shift.

Upcoming Events

Orientation Dates

October	12th	@	10:00 AM
October	23rd	@	10:00 AM
October	27th	@	3:00 PM

Important Numbers

Stranding Line

24HR sightings/Emergencies
888-256-9840

Debbie
808-388-9778
kuuipo4kc@yahoo.com

Contact

www.malamanahonu.org
malamanahonu1999@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/malamanahonu
Instagram: malamanahonu

Board of Directors

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Don Porter—Vice President
Bev Murphy—Treasurer
Kylie Emily— Secretary
Debbie Herrera—VEC
Denice Painter—Board Member
Candy Peach—Board Member
Vickie Dela Cruz— Board Member
Kelly Hardy— Board Member

Outreach Dates

October

Sea Life Park Education Event

October 2nd 10:30 AM-2:30 PM

STEM Program

Waulani Judd School

October 19th TBA

Sea Life Park Education Event

October 20th 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

Home School Co-op

Manoa Park

October 22nd 10:00 AM

November

Home School Co-op

November 2nd 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Sea Life Park Education Event

November 6th 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

Tokai University

November 14th 5:00 PM

Sea Life Park Education Event

November 17th 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

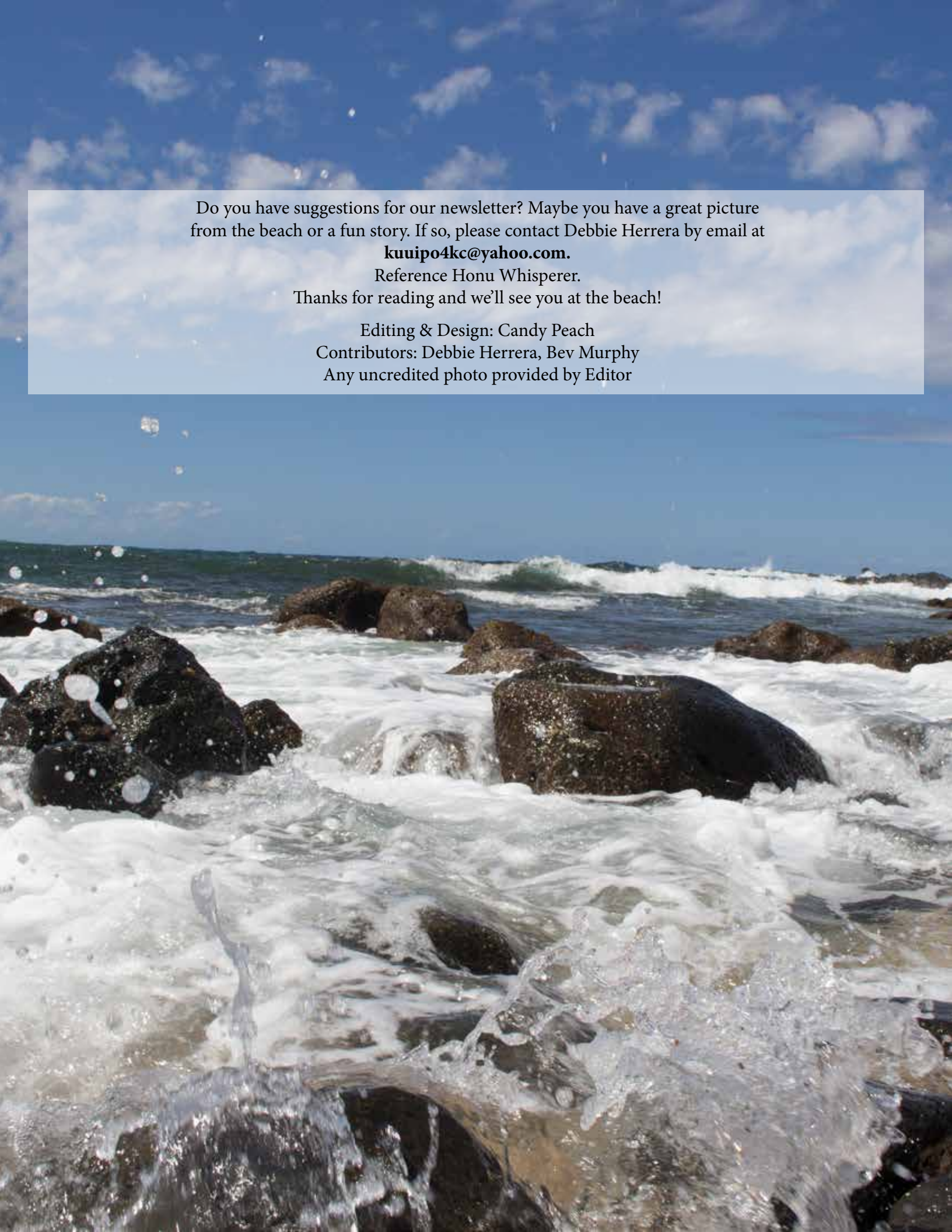
December

Sea Life Park Education Event

December 4th 10:30 AM-3:30 PM

Watch the calendar and email for additional dates to be added in 2018.

Reminder: As the surf increases, remind visitors to respect the ocean strength.



Do you have suggestions for our newsletter? Maybe you have a great picture from the beach or a fun story. If so, please contact Debbie Herrera by email at **kuuipo4kc@yahoo.com**.

Reference Honu Whisperer.

Thanks for reading and we'll see you at the beach!

Editing & Design: Candy Peach

Contributors: Debbie Herrera, Bev Murphy

Any uncredited photo provided by Editor



Mission: "To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtles through education, public awareness and conservation in the spirit of Aloha."

Malama na Honu Board Highlights

With the summer season almost behind us, we can all take a deep breath and look forward to a less crowded, less stressful fall season. We still need at least two people per beach shift to do an effective job of protecting our honu and educating the public about how to respectfully view them. The Board appreciates your dedication and commitment to Malama na Honu.

The Board is pleased to announce we have a new member. Erika Dittmar joined the board in January. Therefore, if you see Erika tell her congrats and feel free to pass along any suggestions!

Signs, Signs, Signs!!! Have you looked at the new signs on the beach? We have two large banners that are simple in their message and in multiple languages. The translations were provided by UH foreign language individuals associated with a volunteer group named PONO. These signs were designed by NOAA and allow simple instructions about giving our honu space. The message is written in English, Japanese, Korean and two Chinese dialects. Please remember to put these up if you are on first shift and take them down at sunset.

I hope by now you have all had a chance to look at our updated website. It took a lot of work by Joe to get this right and allows our visitors to learn more about a honu that they see on a beach. It is a great way to educate visitors after the fact. You should familiarize yourself with it and when you are asked about how often they bask, you can explain how to find this information on our website. Not to mention all the wonderful pictures, which come in handy when we don't have honu on the beach!

You will notice new volunteers have a small logo on their shirts that is not on previous shirts. These shirts were donated in part by DLNR's Division of Boating Ocean Recreation. A special thank you goes to Clifford G.P. Inn, their Boating Safety Education Specialist. This is an important partnership when you think about how many of our honu have been struck by a boat.

The Board is always looking at possible sources of funding. With Erika joining the board this year we will utilize her skills with wildlife grants and Don's sales background to look at other funding options. If you have any suggestions please let Erika, Don, or a board member know.

Debbie rounded out the end of the school year with lots of outreach. With public schools all doing ocean education at the end of the year, we even had to turn down schools. Since January Debbie has educated more than 3200 kids about our honu!! We cannot thank her enough for the effort in helping our keiki understand the importance of what we do and hopefully grow up to be our next volunteer!

The annual International Sea Turtle Symposium was February 2-8 in Charleston, SC. This was a great event that not only allowed us to learn about what is going on with sea turtles around the world, but also allowed us to teach about our honu and challenges. We were lucky to have Joe, Bev, and Debbie attend this year with a special Malama na Honu exhibit. Viewers of the exhibit were particularly interested in our data and statistics. Our documentation of green sea turtle behavior at Laniakea Beach is very relevant and useful.

We have a NEW website!

by Joe Murphy

We're sorry it was such a long time in coming, (and even longer to tell you about it) but Malama na Honu finally has a new website!

A couple years ago, our former webmaster (and website creator) "retired" and refused to share with us, the administrative passwords that would have permitted us to change any content other than the descriptions under "Meet the Honu." While this denied us the ability to keep the site up to date, the basic information on our turtles was still there and the adoption "store" continued to work so there was no real urgency to get the site back under our complete control.

That led us to seriously embark on the use of Facebook and Instagram to offer information to the public (Thank you, Debbie!). Obviously, social media sites are not meant to serve the same purpose as an informational website, so we have now re-entered that sector...using the same address as the old site (because it's already on ALL our literature!).

The new version is much brighter, has many updated features and has a color scheme that matches our green and blue logo.

On the "Home" page, we've added unlabeled pictures (drag your cursor over the picture to reveal the turtle's name and the number of appearances that month) of either the "top three" baskers for the prior month (or all the honu that basked more than 10 times during that month if more than 3 did).

The "About Us" page updates the Board Membership for the first time in years and adds a listing of the top twelve volunteers in beach hours service both in lifetime hours and hours in the current year.

The next section is "Meet the Honu" which, on one scrolling page, has small

pictures and number designations of all of our turtles, both past and present. If you click on the turtle's number, its biography pops up and a click on the picture pops up a much larger version.

"Information" is the title of the next page and it provides info about turtles in the Islands, a "Did You Know?" list of info about the Honu, wildlife viewing instructions with appropriate guidance on distance of approach minimums, details on turtle nesting migrations to French Frigate Shoals and a section with links to external sites with Sea Turtle Conservation News. We currently have the NOAA Fertile Turtle piece up.

Next is a totally new section titled "Basking Data." You can guess what's there! First is the Basking Narrative for the previous month, then comes a new piece on the History of Basking at Laniakea (which can also be found elsewhere in this edition of the Whisperer), the "Top Ten" baskers for the past year and finally all the charts you were used to getting every month (now you have to go to the website to get them). Those are separated into 3 separate sections.

"Help the Honu" includes all the info you would expect related to that title: information on how to become a guardian, what a guardian's responsibilities are and the statewide number for reporting emergencies involving Honu, Monk Seals, Humpback Whales and Dolphins. Then comes the really important stuff: how to make DONATIONS to Malama na Honu and finally, a link to "Teespring," where people can order Malama na Honu merchandise (on which we get a portion of the profits).

Our adoption store is next and is actually titled "Adoptions" so people don't have to figure out that "store" is

where to go to adopt a Honu (You'd be surprised how many people blanked out on that!). All the adoptable turtles are on 2 scroll down pages. A picture of the contents of the adoption package has been included on each turtle's adoption page and a sample activity chart and adoption certificate are also there. Three new individual turtles (JP, Sapphire and Maka Nui) have been already been added to the adoption list and a fourth (Makana) will be added in coming months. Also added, is an adoption of the entire 'ohana which includes a small picture of all 20 active Honu on the certificate and an 8x10 glossy picture the same picture that's on the certificate as an extra enclosure. We also "technically" raised the price of a single adoption from @25 to \$30 (but we now do "free" shipping to US addresses instead of adding a \$5 shipping fee—keeps us from losing money on multiple adoptions on one order).

The Gallery page right now has pictures of multiple turtles on the beach (all labeled) and a section on Honu on Hiatus. In the future we intend to offer volunteers the opportunity (credited of course) to display some of their pictures here on the site. More information on that will be forthcoming later.

"Our Friends" lists organizations that help us with grants or in other ways and "Contact" provides a form for people to email Malama na Honu to offer to volunteer or ask other questions.

We think the new form and format works well. If you haven't been there, check it out. We think you'll like it!

The History of Basking at Laniakea

by Joe Murphy

On the Ides of March, 1999, a solitary male green sea turtle hauled himself out of the ocean at Laniakea Beach to bask in the sun. Later named Brutus by Malama na Honu, he is part of the vanguard of a relatively small number of sea turtles that, for reasons yet to positively be determined, come out onto dry land to rest and get warm.

Individuals from no other species of sea turtle or any of the other 10 “discrete population segments” of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), engage in this activity in the same way it happens in Hawaii. These turtles crawl out of the water of their own volition. Turtles in a couple other places sometimes find themselves washed up onto shore by wave action and stay on dry land for a period of time before returning to the water, but apparently nowhere else do male and female adults, as well as subadult and juvenile turtles purposely exit the water because they themselves have decided to do so. The sight is incredible!

Over the ensuing years, more green turtles (Honu in Hawaiian) have found their way to this and many other beaches in Hawaii. Their presence on these beaches has become a legitimate tourist attraction. At Laniakea alone, over a half million people come to the beach to view these turtles basking each year. This puts the turtles in jeopardy of being harassed and tormented by unthinking humans.

Subsequent to Brutus’ initial foray onto the beach, by 2003 there was a total of 9 honu venturing onto land (besides Brutus (m) there was Hiwahiwa (f), Sapphire (f), Olivia-Dawn (f), Isabella (f), Oakley (m), Wooley-Bully (m), Mahina (f) and Squirt (m)). By 2005, the Laniakea family (‘ohana in Hawaiian) had added 7 more (Genbu (m), Missy (f), Mana (f), Pukalani (f), Scallop

(m), Honey Girl (f) and Tripod (m)). At that point there were 16 in all coming out.

Malama na Honu came into existence in late 2007 as a successor to a George Balazs initiative at NOAA called “Show Turtles Aloha” and “officially” took charge of recording, monitoring and protecting a total of 19 basking honu. (Punahale (f), Nohea Kamakana (m) and Kuhina (m) had joined the group by then.)

For 9 years, the ‘ohana at Laniakea had grown steadily but 2008 saw tragedy strike. Pukalani was apparently taken by a tiger shark at the nesting grounds at the French Frigate Shoals in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and humans maliciously butchered Honey Girl as she peacefully basked overnight on the beach. Although Laniakea lost 2 turtles in 2008, Kaheka, a subadult, was added to the rolls to bring the basking total to 18.

2009 saw one new turtle choose the rocky shelf area at the southwest portion of the beach to begin basking. It was large enough to be an adult female so it was named “Clawdette” for the claw shaped bite apparently taken out of the left rear flipper by a tiger shark. Clawdette though, was large for “her” age and a late “bloomer.” After disappearing from the beach for over a year at the end of 2012, this turtle returned in March of 2014 with a long thick tail! The honu was quickly renamed Keoki (George in Hawaiian).

In 2010, 3 new turtles began their tenure at Laniakea, Kekoa (sub), Kulihi (m) and Hao ‘okanaka (sub). Hao ‘okanaka was originally named “Ironman” for famous surfer Andy Irons who tragically died that year. When it was discovered that the turtle was a female, the name was

shortened to “Hao” or “iron” to preserve the honoring but make it gender neutral. At the end of 2010, the ‘ohana was at its most populous point with 22 actively basking honu.

Beginning in 2011 the population began to thin out. This year saw 2 turtles leave Laniakea to bask elsewhere (Nohea Kamakana and Squirt... though Squirt stopped by for 20 minutes, we assume by mistake, in January 2014). Mahina appeared for the last time in July 2012, Scallop in November 2013 (after being treated by a NOAA veterinarian for severe injuries from a boat strike), Brutus in April 2014 (which really affected our overall basking numbers because he had basked with extraordinary frequency—sometimes 24-25 days a month), Genbu in June 2014, Kuhina in March 2015 and Kaheha in June 2015. Those losses would have left the group with only 14 active baskers, less than the number that were gracing Laniakea with their presence 10 years before.

Fortunately, 2015 also began a resurgence in new baskers. That year 4 new turtles, all sub-adults or juveniles, began coming ashore between March and June. JP, named for Joanne Pettigrew, the founder of Malama na Honu, first appeared in March, Hila-hila in April, Kaimana in May and Kaipua in June. Two years later in 2017, Makana (juv) joined the group and Maka Nui (juv), Big Eyes in English for its demeanor when it first appeared on the beach, began hauling out at Laniakea in August 2018.

As of the beginning of 2019, there are 20 turtles actively basking at Laniakea, 5 adult males, 8 adult females, 5 sub-adults and 2 juveniles. Overall basking totals for 2018 for the Honu ‘Ohana were the highest since 2014, the last year our champion basker Brutus was still in residence.

Malama na Honu Ohana

Kobain's Journey

Hi, my name is Kobain (yes, named after Kurt Cobain) and I am from northern California. I am graduating high school in a week, and as seniors my school requires us students to go out of our community and volunteer for two weeks. I've grown up visiting the north shore because my grandparents live here, but I had never been to Laniakea Beach. The beach my grandparents live on has frequent basking turtles so my family never felt the need to go to the tourist trap we always thought "Turtle Beach" was. But boy were we wrong! Once I started volunteering at Malama na Honu I realized that this beach was so much more. Laniakea is the home of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles, it's the home of cheerful volunteers that sit in the burning sun for hours purely because they love their honu ohana, and it was my home for two weeks. I learned so much in such a short time because I was so happy to be out there holding a space for these ancient beings. Did you know that they can drink salt water and then expel the salt from their bodies through ducts behind their eyes? I didn't. "No they aren't nesting...yes its alive...they eat the green stuff you see, the seaweed."

These were all answers I would give to curious tourists on the daily. I am flying home as I write this and as I reminisce over the past two weeks its crazy how much knowledge I have learned about the turtles!

Something interesting that struck me is that almost all of those turtles are older than me and they commanded such respect. Everyone that I had the joy of working with each day had so much to teach me about these turtles and I ate it up. The first turtle I identified by myself was Kaipua. He/She (this sub adult has yet to reach sexual maturity I learned) had hauled itself out on the shelf and

their personalities, what they like, what they don't like, and where they feel most comfortable hauling out. I learned a lot of people skills too! How to handle excited tourists and those kids that just so desperately want to touch the turtle, and who can blame them! These turtles draw you in; they seem to whisper "aloha, welcome to my home, you are going to like it here!"

Over the past two weeks I've spent more than 40 hours learning the language of Hawaiian turtles. I spent hours sitting, observing, listening, sweating, and teaching. For the lessons these turtles quietly taught me I could not be more grateful. To Malama na Honu, Debbie, and every other volunteer, I thank you for inviting me into your family with open arms and open hearts. To the kind beachgoers who helped me legacy set up the ropes and reminded their family to stay "ten feet or three meters" away, I am so grateful for people like you! As I look out the window of the plane, all I can see is ocean for miles, but in those turquoise waves I know there are turtles swimming, and I know I will always have a family with them.



seemed perfectly happy to sleep on the rocks. While I was running to Kaipua with a red rope, signs, and the identification book, a sense of authority and determination fell over me. All this turtle has to protect itself is me, my sole purpose in that moment was to guard Kaipua. I went home with the biggest smile that day. It's so cool when you start recognizing these animals for more than just being animals. You start to notice



Fiction from Life

by: Luanna Meyer

I've been a Honu guardian for nearly six years now, following retirement after being a university professor my entire life—in Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, and in the beautiful country of New Zealand. After returning to the place where we raised our children and which feels most like home to us, I've been privileged to volunteer some of my time watching over our magnificent Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles at Laniakea Beach on the North Shore.

In my “real” life, I'm a mom, a grandmother, a wife, and a researcher and writer! After publishing 13 non-fiction books professionally in my field, on topics such as disabilities, restorative discipline, and achievement assessment, I published my debut novel *Bella's Legacy* several months ago.

This latest project of mine did not begin as fiction! At the start, I spent months doing family history, prompted by finally sending off for those DNA tests, my father's personal autobiography (telling his version of family history), and re-connecting with distant cousins with whom I shared ancestors none of us knew much about. The research took me to archives, libraries, museums, and courthouses in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. I learned that not just one grandfather, but a grandmother as well had graduated from high school—the first generation in my family to do so. Most of my ancestors were immigrants from Belgium and what is now Germany in the mid-1800s, but one was born in Bucks County in Pennsylvania early in the 1700s. She was a Mennonite, a sect not unlike the Amish who were abolitionists (there is probably a story there!). I discovered railroad work at the turn of the 20th century was deadly, and my father was named after a young uncle of his killed in his early twenties on the tracks. I unearthed story after story with

the potential to become fiction, and so it began.

At first, I wrote a couple of short stories—one very short story based on Halloween costumes from years ago that I would never wear today and the other based on a true incident about sex abuse by a priest that I had known about but never discussed with anyone. I then



began with stories about each of my women ancestors—10 of them in all, counting the widow of that young man killed as a railroad worker. No one in the family knew what became of her—she made one last visit to my father's family a year later and then drove away. This was in the 1920s, and she sounded interesting: I found their wedding announcement in their local newspaper and she planned to continue working at a dry goods store after marriage. She became Bella, of *Bella's Legacy*. And the individual stories were joined together into a family saga across four generations of 20th century America to become a novel.

The point of my little essay is not really to talk only about my writing and my work, but to plant an idea in the minds of others. Truth is truer than fiction, it is possibly even much better than fiction. The novel I wrote became an opportunity to tell about the choices made by women about their own lives—sometimes voluntarily but often forced upon them by circumstances. Women are so often challenged to put themselves second—to their spouses, their parents, and their children. Their careers are put on hold or even abandoned altogether to support their husbands, and they postpone finishing that degree—sometimes forever—until the needs of others are met. We women are socialized to support others: a lovely value and one that does not deserve to be undermined by ambition or greed. But sometimes, we women must also be who we can be—not settle for what others want from us.

Bella's Legacy is available from Amazon, both in paperback and on kindle. If you enjoy it enough to do so, please post a review! There are already a dozen reviews on Amazon for more about my novel, but anyone who reads this in Honu Whisperer knows the inside story. While everything in the novel is not fact and did not really happen to the (fictionalized) people in the stories, almost everything is true and did happen to someone.

My main purpose in writing this is, however, to encourage all of you to write your own stories. There are stories in our lives not only worth telling, they will give others enjoyment and let them into worlds they did not know—starting with our children, grandchildren, friends, and colleagues.

For more, please check out my website at <http://luannameyer.com> or find me on twitter @LuBonLez.

Did You Know...?

Loggerheads

by Dana Brue

Anyone who has spent time in or around the tropical waters of the Hawaiian Islands has likely encountered one of the five species of sea turtles that inhabit the island chain. Scientists believe these marine reptiles have roamed the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean for more than 100 million years, long before many species of dinosaurs. Sea turtles are a vital component of a balanced marine ecosystem and are often used as indicators of the overall health of a marine environment. Unfortunately, many factors including human exploitation of adults and eggs, habitat destruction, bycatch, loss of nesting sites, disease, and climate changes have caused alarming sea turtle population declines globally for decades. The declining numbers worldwide have forced all five species of sea turtles that call Hawaii home to be classified as endangered or threatened.

While Green Sea Turtles are the most common species found around the islands, Hawksbills, Olive Ridleys, Leatherbacks, and Loggerheads can also be found throughout the islands. Loggerheads are one of the least seen as they are known to dwell in deeper waters off shore and generally do not nest on the shores of the Hawaiian Islands. Although they are not frequently seen in Hawaii, they are the most common sea turtle found nesting in Florida and along the coasts of Japan.

Loggerheads are one of the larger species of hard-shelled sea turtles.

They can grow to have a carapace length of 3.5 feet and adults can weigh as much as 350 lbs. These turtles have a large head and very powerful jaws that allow them to eat crabs, conchs, and other shellfish and invertebrates. They have a heart-shaped carapace that is reddish brown in color.



Loggerheads are solitary animals and generally do not interact with one another until they are ready to mate. They do not reach sexual maturity and mate

until they are approximately 35 years old. Females will become receptive to mating every 2 to 4 years and can travel thousands of miles to reach their nesting site. Females will mate with several males each breeding season to ensure successful fertilization and genetic diversity of their offspring. They can store the male's sperm for several months and will lay 3 to 6 nests containing between 100 – 120 eggs at 12 – 14 day intervals. The eggs will incubate, on average, for 60 days.

Loggerheads are wide ranging and found across the globe in tropical and sub-tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. In the Pacific Ocean, Loggerheads have been found as far north as Alaska and as far south as Chile. They have been known to migrate thousands of miles from their foraging waters to their breeding and nesting grounds. Scientists cannot

fully explain their extraordinary navigational skills, but female Loggerheads are known to return to their natal beaches to nest, sometimes only a few hundred feet from the location where they hatched.

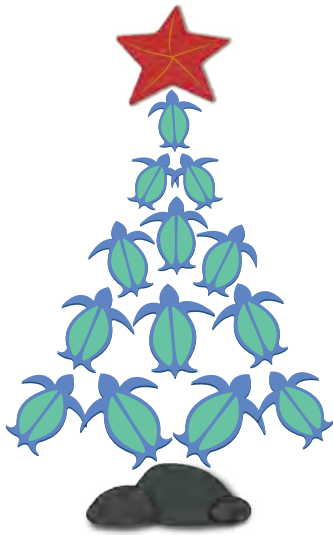
Loggerheads were listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1978 and conservation laws and policies have been in place since. Though conservation efforts to protect all species of sea turtles, including the Loggerheads and monitoring practices are ongoing, some scientists believe the outlook remains bleak. Loss of nesting beaches, pollution, injury from watercraft, disease, and hatchling disorientation from unnatural lighting are still major threats to the worldwide Loggerhead populations. Public education programs, conservation strategies, and awareness for all sea turtle species are vital for the long-term survival of these beautiful marine reptiles.



David Schrichte

About the author:

Dana holds a masters in biology and virology, specializing in the study of reptile and amphibian viruses. She is currently a physics teacher at Moanalua High School.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

What: Annual Malama na Honu Christmas Party
Where: Camp Smith's Sunset Lanai
Who: Active Volunteers with 2 beach shifts per month
When: Saturday, December 7th
Time: 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Stay tuned in October for further information via email!

Outreach Dates

September

Sea Life Park Outreach

September 21st 10:30AM-1:30PM

Waiolani Judd Nazarene School STEM

September 27th TBD

October

Sea Life Park Outreach

October 2nd 10:30AM-1:30PM

Sea Life Park Outreach

October 19th 10:30AM-1:30PM

November

Sea Life Park Outreach

November 6th 10:30AM-1:30PM

Sea Life Park Outreach

November 23rd 10:30AM-1:30PM

December

Sea Life Park Outreach

December 4th 10:30AM-1:30PM

Sea Life Park Outreach

December 21st 10:30AM-1:30PM

Contact

www.malamanahonu.org

malamanahonu1999@outlook.com

www.facebook.com/malamanahonu

Instagram: malamanahonu

Important Numbers

Stranding Line

24HR sightings/Emergencies
888-256-9840

Debbie

808-388-9778

kuuipo4kc@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Joe Murphy—President

Don Porter—Vice President

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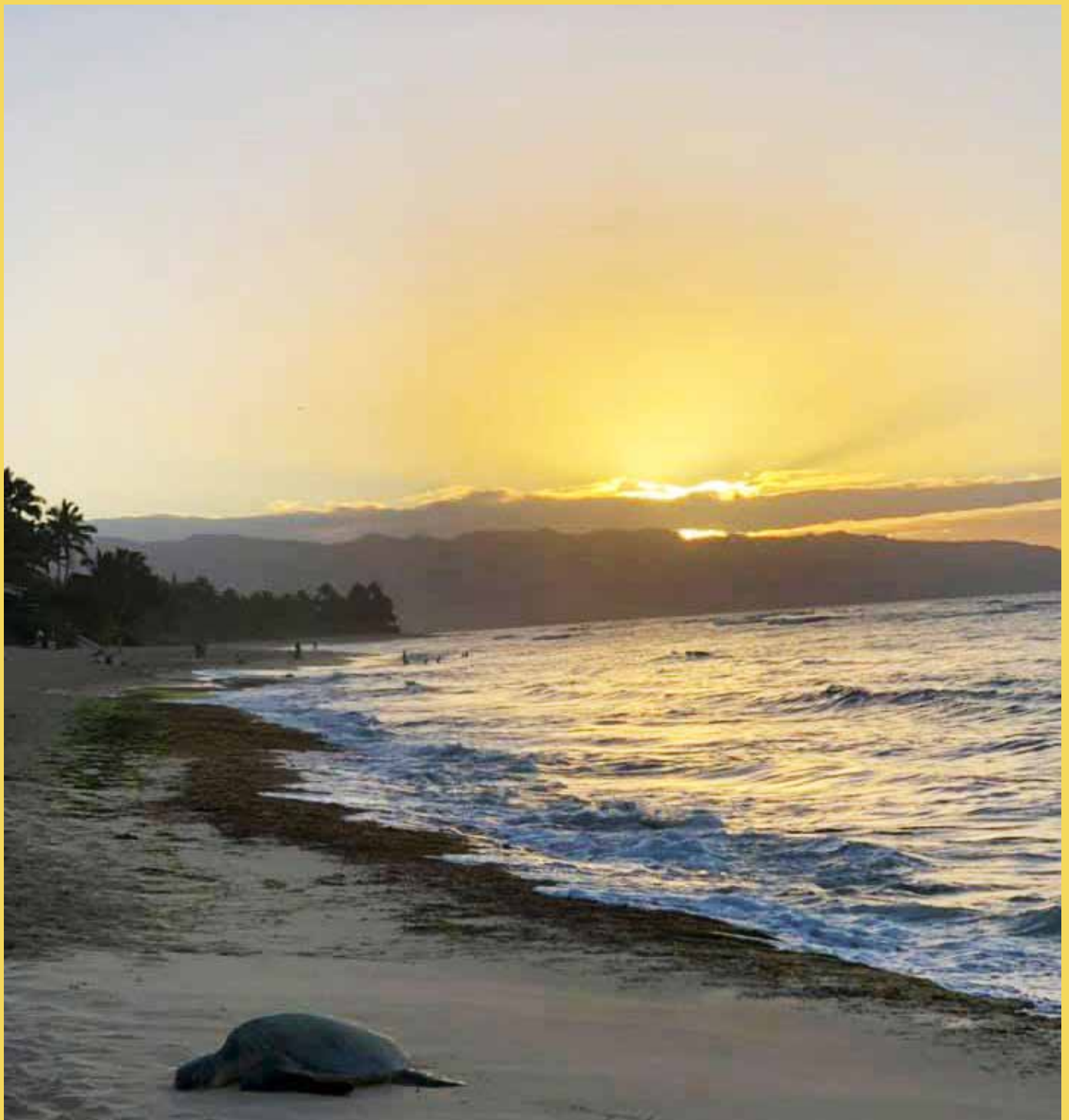
Debbie Herrera—Board Member and VEC

Candy Peach—Board Member

Kelly Hardy—Board Member

Erika Dittmar—Board Member

Watch the calendar and email for additional dates to be added in 2019.



Do you have suggestions for our newsletter? Maybe you have a great picture from the beach or a fun story. If so, please contact Debbie Herrera by email at **kuipo4kc@yahoo.com**.

Reference Honu Whisperer.

Thanks for reading and we'll see you at the beach!

Editing & Design: Candy Peach

Contributors: Debbie Herrera, Bev Murphy

Any uncredited photo provided by Editor

Image courtesy of Debbie Hererra