

# Holomua na Honu

## Share with Maui Ocean Center in saying Aloha to the Honu

Five juvenile green sea turtles will soon meet the open ocean. For two years the Honu have served as ambassadors of their species, helping to educate the public on the Hawaiian green sea turtle under the care of the staff at Maui Ocean Center through Sea Life Park Hawaii's hatch-and-release program. The program is administered by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Service Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the authorization of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Now, they are ready to *holomua* (progress) and continue life in the wild.

This event is complimentary and open to the public.  
Special event parking rate available at Grand Wailea with validation.

Thursday, August 23, 2012  
South Shore fronting Grand Wailea  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Presentations by prominent local marine biologists, researchers and community members, informational booths, a close-up Honu encounter and traditional Hawaiian blessing of the Honu to precede the release. Live music and hula to follow.

More info: 808-270-7000 | [www.mauiocceancenter.com](http://www.mauiocceancenter.com)

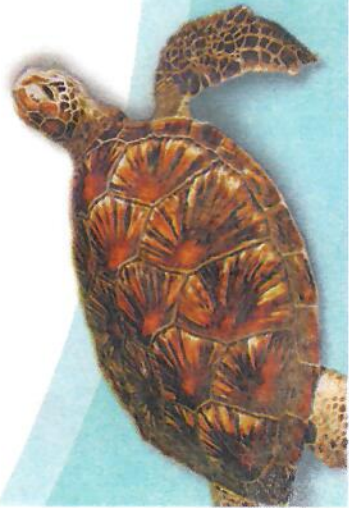


LARISSA TREESE photo

  
**MAUI OCEAN CENTER**  
The Hawaiian Aquarium

MOI BOOK

# Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program



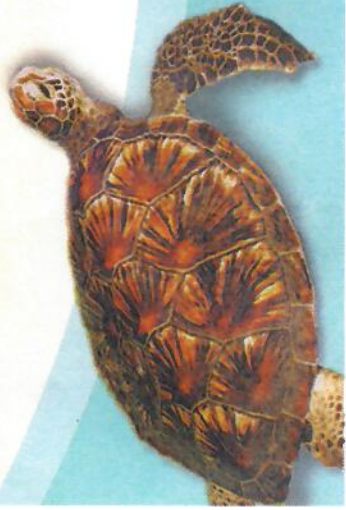
 MAUI OCEAN CENTER®  
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# Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program

The sea turtles at Maui Ocean Center are part of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program, conducted under the supervision of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This program is specifically designed as an educational outreach program geared towards education, conservation, and the enhancement of the public's awareness of the ocean and its inhabitants.

The turtles are hatched at Sea Life Park Hawaii on Oahu then brought to Maui Ocean Center where they live until they are ready to be released. Sea Life Park Hawaii is home to a colony of adult Hawaiian green sea turtles which has produced approximately 200 to 800 hatchlings each year, all of which are released into the wild. Some of these turtles, like the ones at Maui Ocean Center, and those kept at Sea Life Park Hawaii or other collaborating institutions, are released at a later age to provide an educational learning opportunity for those that visit these institutions, as part of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program.

When the hatchlings reach the ages of two to three years, under the authority and approval of NMFS, they are released into Hawaiian waters at a location approved by the agency. Sea Life Park Hawaii replaces those turtles released with new hatchlings in order to maintain each facility's educational display program.



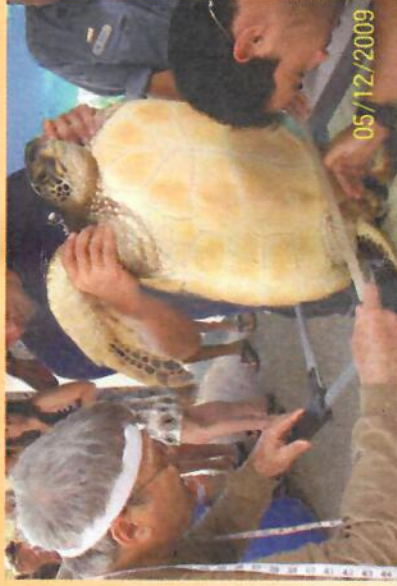
# Pre-Release Checkup

Before the turtles can be released to the ocean, they must receive a clean bill of health from a Sea Life Park Hawaii staff veterinarian. This includes a final weigh-in, checking for oral lesions and tumors, measurements, and a blood sample. The turtles are also re-dremeled and re-numbered for identification.

Below are photos taken at the pre-release checkup in May 2009.



Dr. Gregg Levine checking for oral lesions and tumors.



Marine scientist George Balazs taking width measurement.



Turtle 3M being re-dremeled.



# Tracking the Turtles

All of the turtles released by Maui Ocean Center are outfitted with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags implanted in both rear flippers. The tags contain an electro-magnetic code. Using hand-held scanners, researchers are able to identify PIT-tagged turtles. When the turtles return to land, the PIT tags will allow National Marine Fisheries Service and researchers to identify them as the turtles released from Maui Ocean Center. In addition, the turtles are marked with white letters and/or numbers on their shells.

Maui residents and visitors are urged to keep an eye out for these turtles.

If you encounter one, please note the time and location, and contact Maui Ocean Center at (808) 270-7000 to help with tracking the turtles.



Dr. Beth Doescher implanting a PIT tag into a turtle's rear flipper.



PIT tags are small microchips about the size of a grain of rice.



# Satellite Tracking

Another way to track the sea turtles after they are released to the open ocean is by satellite transmitter. In past years, marine scientist George Balazs with the National Marine Fisheries Service, has outfitted several turtles released by Maui Ocean Center with satellite transmitters, allowing scientists to track their movements.

In August 2006, turtles #4, Maile, and #7, Kimo, were outfitted with satellite transmitters. One previous turtle, Nakine, was released in March 2003 with a satellite transmitter attached to its shell. Nakine was tracked swimming south of the southernmost point of the Big Island of Hawaii and up to the North Shore of Oahu, where the transmitter continued to send signals from for several months.

The following maps track the movements of four turtles released by Maui Ocean Center from 2003 to 2006.

