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Green sea turtle is part of Hawaii

Inspiration to write this letter comes from reading Kenneth W. Ordenstein's timely and thoughtful message recounting the survival of the Hawaiian people and their cultural rebirth ("Hawaiian have more to offer world than TMT," Star-Advertiser, Letters, Aug. 8).

Caring for the land and sea, speaking Hawaiian, ocean voyaging and the quest for justice all easily come to mind.

The Hawaiian green sea turtle, or honu, is embedded in the Hawaiian culture. It is genetically, geographically and ecologically bonded to Hawaii.

In the early 1970s, the honu's survival was in serious jeopardy, until the state restored sensible management by banning all commercial harvest.

Since then the turtle, like the Hawaiian culture itself, has flourished and expanded beyond all expectation.

The time has now come to return stewardship of the honu home to Hawaii, where it rightfully belongs.

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Kai

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR