

viewers voices

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prepping for tourists headed to Turtle Beach

For nearly 50 years I've studied Hawaii's sea turtles to sustainably promote their conservation. Never once during all that time did I ever dream that turtles would be a factor in transmitting a deadly disease between people. But that's exactly what can and likely will happen at the tiny cove of Turtle Beach at Laniakea on Oahu's North Shore.

When tourism reopens, many hundreds of people a day will again crowd and mix there close together from all over the U.S. to see turtles sleeping on the sand — and in the process, once again create the traffic jams and pedestrian jaywalking nightmares so familiar to residents of the region.

The time is now to prep for the prevention of chaos and to ensure social distancing. Turtle Beach should be closed, at least for a six-month trial period. Provide a marked right-of-way path to and from the sea for surfers and other ocean users. But keep the rest of the beach a turtles-only zone.

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Kai