

Molokai 2017 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey

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2017 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey Kawa'aloa Bay, Moloka'i

This survey was done by a group of volunteers (Molokai Turtle Trackers) on behalf of Nature Conservancy of Hawaii Molokai, under direction of George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu.

The 2017 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey was carried out March 27 to October 28.

Volunteers checked the beach in the morning up to 7 days a week, depending on expected activity, weather, and road conditions.

On April 7 all seasonal location markers were refreshed. The procedures for identifying and recording the last excavation of each nesting trip on shore was done by using landmarks and measurements to a stake marking the center of the body pit.

There were 91 trips on shore, 84 false crawls and 7 that produced excavations.

Of the 7 nesting trips 6 hatches were observed. After at least 3 days after the last hatchling had been observed to emerge those 6 nests were dug up.

The contents of these nests were as follows:

	Nest	Successful Hatches	Undeveloped	Hatchlings Dead / Live	Total Eggs Laid
Hatch 1	2	75		4	75
Hatch 2	3	58	9		67
Hatch 3	4	66	1		67
Hatch 4	5	70	4		74
Hatch 5	6	69	3		72
Hatch 6	7	66	8		74
		404	25	4	429

The 1 live hatchling found in Nest 2 was released to the ocean.

24 undeveloped eggs recovered from the nests were frozen and given to George Balazs November 14.

Two of the 84 false crawls crawled high up onto the beach and 82 stayed below the high tide line. The 82 that were below the high tide line were found at the western end of the beach and most likely resulted from turtles basking.

Nesting activity was mainly concentrated in the area east of the river between location markers H and M.

Green sea turtle nesting activity was also found on the Beaches to the West of Kawa'aloa in two locations.

East of Kalani Point mainly at the base of the trail down from the archeological site.

West of Kalani Point on the beach between the point and the cliffs at the West end of the Preserve.

There were 31 nesting trips recorded, 12 east of Kalani Point and 19 west of Kalani Point. Of these, 2 hatches were observed in the area East of Kalani Point, and 8 were observed to the West.

These nests were dug and the contents were as follows:

East Kalani

	Nest	Successful Hatches	Undeveloped	Dead	Live	Total Eggs Laid
Hatch 1	E4	50	2	1	0	53
Hatch 2	E5	65	3	0	0	68
		115	5	1	0	121

West Kalani

	Nest	Successful Hatches	Undeveloped	Dead	Live	Total Eggs Laid
Hatch 1	W2	94	1	1	0	96
Hatch 2	W3	84	3	0	0	87
Hatch 3	W9	54	0	1	0	55
Hatch 4	W10					
Hatch 5	W12	95	2	0	0	97
Hatch 6	W14	65	3	0	0	68
Hatch 7	W17	58	7	0	0	65
Hatch 8	W18	61	1	0	0	62
		511	17	2	0	530

W10 was dug, but the nest was not found.

The 22 undeveloped eggs and the 3 dead hatchlings, were frozen and given to George Balazs November 14.

1 nesting trip was reported at the North end of Papohaku Beach. No hatch was observed.

Submitted by:

Lil Macmillan

TNC Molokai Turtle Trackers

West Kalani

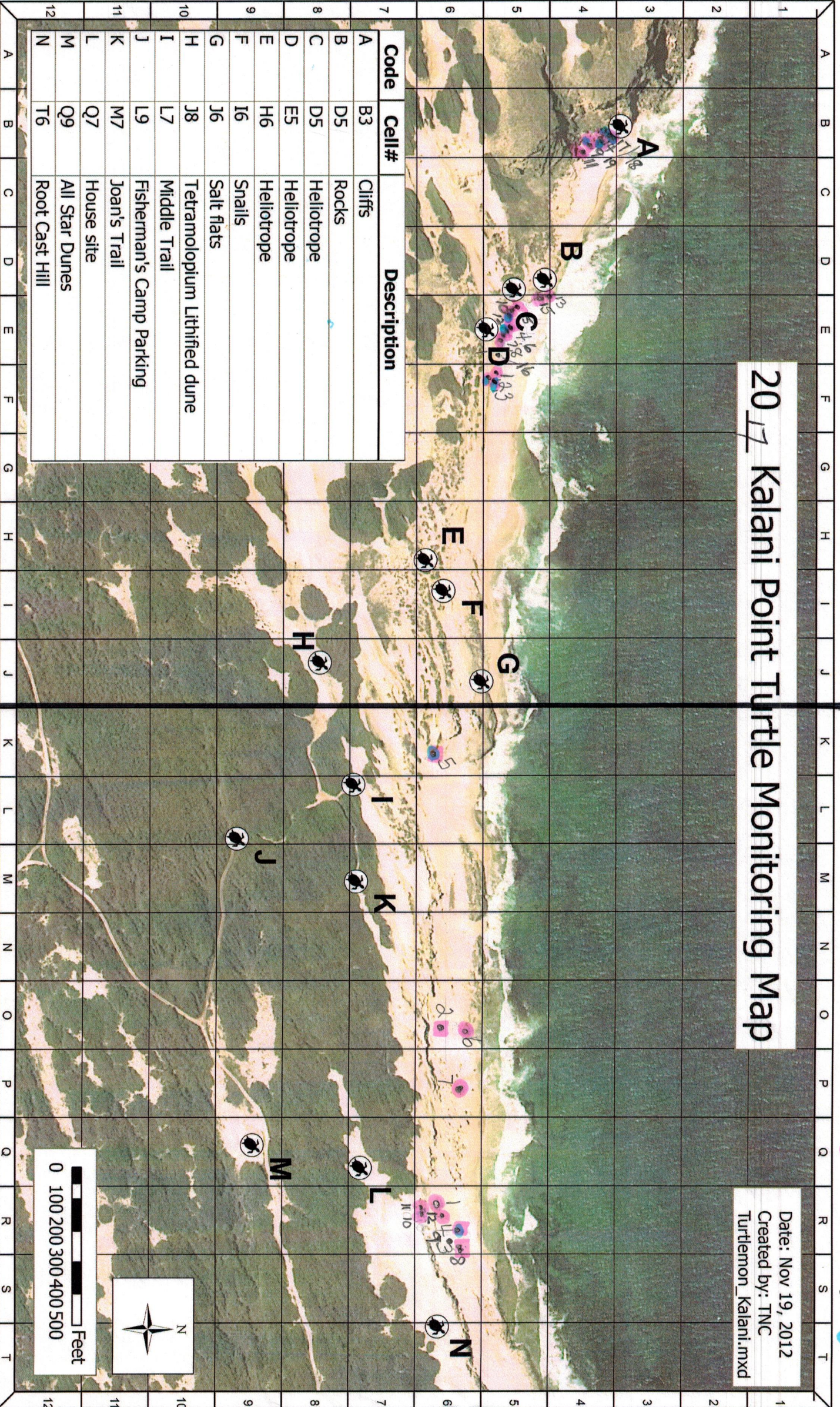
East Kalani

Excavations

Hatches

2017 Kalani Point Turtle Monitoring Map

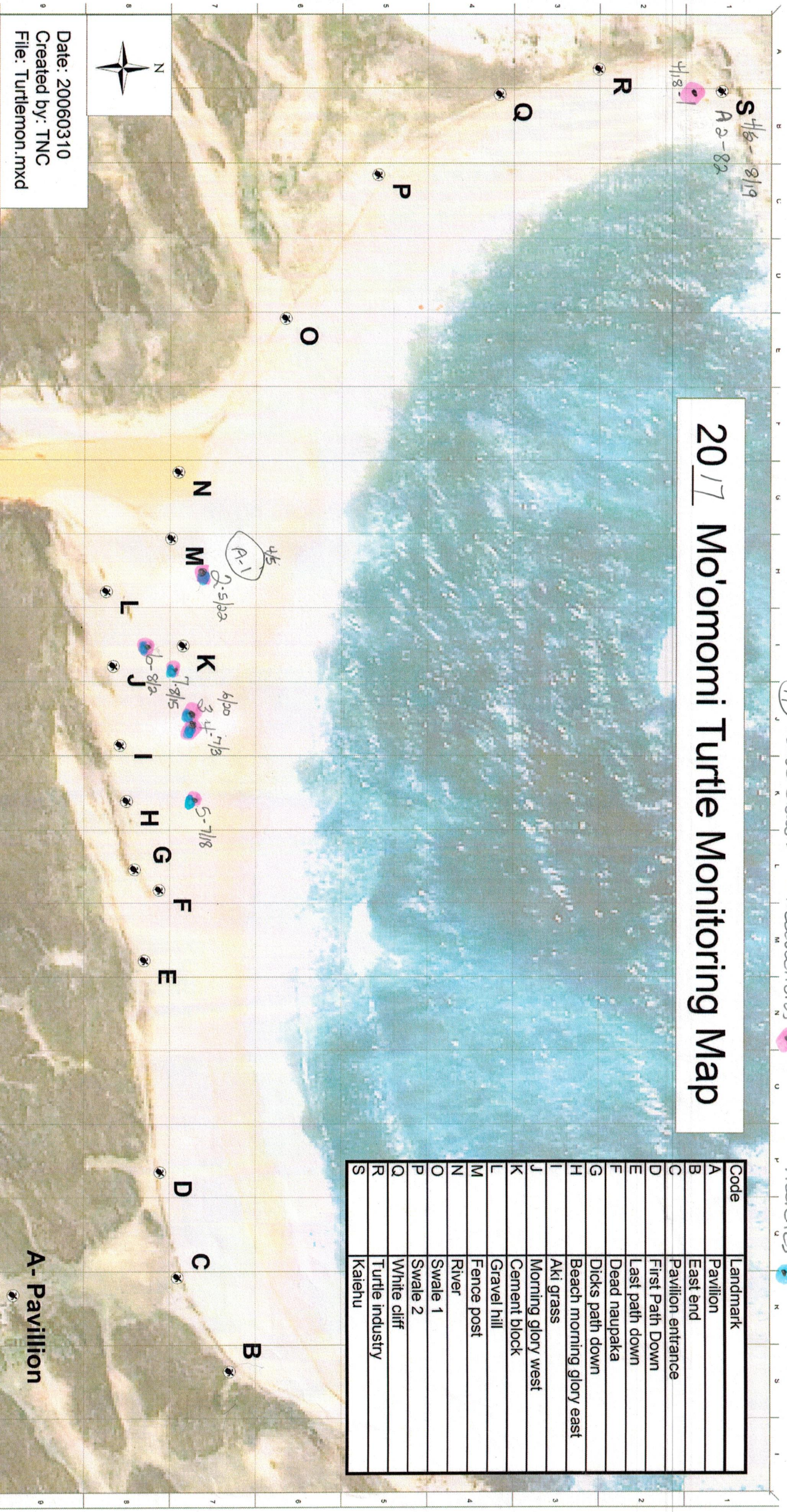
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(H) False Crawls Excavations
 Hatches

2017 Mo'omomi Turtle Monitoring Map

Code	Landmark
A	Pavillion
B	East end
C	Pavillion entrance
D	First Path Down
E	Last path down
F	Dead naupaka
G	Dicks path down
H	Beach morning glory east
I	Aki grass
J	Morning glory west
K	Cement block
L	Gravel hill
M	Fence post
N	River
O	Swale 1
P	Swale 2
Q	White cliff
R	Turtle industry
S	Kaiehu



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