

Satellite Tracking of Hawksbill Sea Turtle – Maui - 2020 PTT# 178534

A rare Maui hawksbill sea turtle (honu'ea) was outfitted with a satellite transmitter, and after laying her fifth nest of the summer, has headed out to her foraging grounds off Northwest Maui. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) collaborated to equip the hawksbill turtle with a satellite tag after she finished nesting. Seasoned sea turtle researchers, Hannah Bernard and Cheryl King, conducted the tagging process under the terms of state DLNR and USFWS endangered species permits issued to HWF by the two agencies. This is the 12th hawksbill turtle that HWF has monitored and tagged on Maui since 1996, and the 8th hawksbill turtle that HWF has tagged with a satellite transmitter in partnership with the PIFSC.

Dr. Alexander Gaos, a Marine Research Ecologist for NOAA PIFSC, sent the transmitter to the team once he learned that a hawksbill was nesting on Maui. Usually, only one or two hawksbills nest on Maui in a given year, and the HWF team and volunteers have monitored this species for the past 24 years, tagging and protecting the hawksbill mothers and their hatchlings from disturbance. This long-term tagging project has revealed that Hawai'i's hawksbill turtles primarily remain within the main Hawaiian Islands for their adult lives and do not migrate away from the archipelago, but they do migrate between neighboring islands after nesting. The most recent hawksbill mother to be equipped with a satellite tag was dubbed, "Mama Hua" (egg-shaped moon) and we invite you to visit the [Animal Tracking Network webpage](#) to see her updated track and learn where she migrate.

#keephawaiiwild #protectwhatyoulove #seaturtles #honu'ea #hawksbill #hawaii #maui
#wildhawaii #hawaiiwildlife

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