

**From:** honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 6:16 AM  
**To:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <randall.kosaki@noaa.gov>  
**Cc:** keolohilani Lopes <keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: East Is

Randy- You copied Keo so there's every reason in the world that I should too. A lesson here for him to learn perhaps on how some things can positively impact others in way we never thought possible. Life is Good, God is Good. Aloha, George

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**From:** honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 6:14 AM  
**To:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <randall.kosaki@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: East Is

I'm speechless. Speechless but Highly Honored to know the things you wrote to me. So honored that I'm thinking that the impact I had on you by creating that calendar may end of being one of the top 5 accomplishments of my entire career life. Yes I'm serious.

I'm going to pdf your message below and put it somewhere on my web site so your words won't be lost with the passage of time. I'll also of course share personally with my wife and kids. Thanks Randy, Thank you Very much.

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**From:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <randall.kosaki@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 6:52 AM  
**To:** honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Keolohilani Lopes - NOAA Affiliate <keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: East Is

George, I'm absolutely beside myself. I cannot thank you enough for the Dillingham NWHI tide calendar (autographed, no less!). Although I know I have my original copy somewhere, it may not see light of day until I clean up my mess if we ever sell this house. And I'm sure it's not in cherry condition, as is this copy you sent me. Flipping through these pages is like turning back the clock 40 years. I can vividly remember staring at each of these images, month after month for a year, in my parents' kitchen. They are permanently imprinted upon my brain. I remember the sense of wonder (almost like a four year old) that came from realizing that these unvisited places were actually the

most ancient parts of our archipelago. Your images fired my imagination in a way that few photos have ever done. In many ways, I owe my career to these images. I'm still living the dream that your photos instilled in me as a college freshman, and today's mail delivery brought back that incredible sense of wonder, completely undiminished by the passage of time.

The remarkable thing is that if one were to repeat your photo journey today, most of those photos, taken from exactly the same angles, would look exactly the same (Whale-Skate excepted, of course). Offsetting the loss of Whale-Skate may be the amazing restoration and rebirth of Laysan Island. This legacy of conservation is on our shoulders now, to ensure that these same seascapes can be handed off equally intact to the future generations.

Thank you again for the calendar. First in 1981, and again in today's mail delivery. Funny how life comes full circle after several decades. Mahalo, George, for your lifetime of dedication to this amazing place. You are an inspiration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Randy

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**Randall Kosaki, Ph.D.**  
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On Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 5:59 PM honu world <[itsahonuworlindhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworlindhawaii@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Happy it Arrived my Honor to be able to send to you. When (not if) you get out there, let's chat beforehand there are tips I can share with you, tidbits you can check out. Aloha, gb

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**From:** Keolohilani Lopes - NOAA Affiliate <[keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov](mailto:keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 5:41:02 PM

**To:** honu world <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)>

**Cc:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <[randall.kosaki@noaa.gov](mailto:randall.kosaki@noaa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: East Is

Mahalo for the calendar. That thing is cool I might just stare at it this evening and hoping we will be able to head out there soon.

Keo

On Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 10:18 PM honu world <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Keo- This is Really Great Photo Graphics Thank You for Sharing, I'm So Pleased to be in touch with you!

I'm reminded of the mid-90s when a storm washed away Whale-Skate Islet, I hoped it would return because it was used for turtle nesting albeit poor habitat due to chunk of limestone mixed with the sand. The mother turtles could and would move it around, but when it came time for the hatchlings to come up most often they would be blocked and die. Anyway, as you know W-S never did return, at least not to dry substrate of depth that turtle eggs could incubate during the summer months. Fingers crossed that maybe there will be better 'luck' with East Island.

Here's a link I have on my web site, but I know you've seen it:

<https://georgehbalazs.com/himb-historical/northern-hawaiian-islands/> Scroll to the video at the very bottom please.

Eager for your publication! Let's stay in touch and if there's any way you think I can help that's what I live for. Aloha, George

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**From:** Keolohilani Lopes - NOAA Affiliate <[keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov](mailto:keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:08 PM

**To:** honu world <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)>

**Cc:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <[randall.kosaki@noaa.gov](mailto:randall.kosaki@noaa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: East Is

Aloha George,

Here is an earlier time series I created. As you can see from these images, East Island has grown substantially since the hurricane. I am currently working on the analysis part of this project and I will send you other graphics as I create them for the publication. FYI: Walaka rolled by Lalo on Oct 4th, 2018.

enjoy.

Keo

On Sat, Sep 5, 2020 at 4:18 PM honu world <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Hello and Aloha Keo- an Honor and Pleasure to meet you-- Deeps thanks and appreciation to Randy for the introduction.

Ha Ha- Yep-- the words ring in my aging ears over the many years "George! George! When can we do something with Turtle? So many now, you know- Too Many!". Not always exactly those words, but the meaning is nearly always the same 😊. Note I tell you that with pride because I would always (still do) respond by saying 'You're right!- now go lobby raise stink to get some control (if not all) back to Hawaii and the Hawaiian and local people!'

Thought I would start off our friendship as new colleagues telling you straight away that little story- my feelings-- in the 70s, but far more now in the 2020s. Here's the concluding paragraph of my 2017 paper (link to full paper under the excerpt:

"At this 45-year juncture of continuous research focused on the Hawaiian green turtle, the overall goal of conservation investigations should be adjusted to embrace more than the collection, archiving, and publishing of scientific findings. A new era should be initiated that encompasses cultural integration by and for the indigenous Hawaiian people that are themselves linked for millennia to their green turtles. Exactly how this will take place should be left to Hawaiians to decide."

[Balazs et al. 2017. Ocean pathways and residential foraging locations for satellite tracked green turtles breeding in Hawaii. Micronesica](#)

Ok don't want to 'push' my luck too hard with someone I'm so delighted to meet. Looking forward to whatever you can send/share- Hence make you aware (as Randy knows) I'm still alive and well and never retired from sea turtles nor Hawaii-- only retired from noaa ☺ Very Happily, George

My Web Page-- [www.GeorgeHBalazs.com](http://www.GeorgeHBalazs.com) My full time devotion in building it up-- over 25gb now of 'stuff' modern and historical. Lots of photos too-- including my times there alone tagging and counting the honu.

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**From:** Keolohilani Lopes - NOAA Affiliate <[keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov](mailto:keolohilani.lopes@noaa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 4, 2020 2:56 AM  
**To:** Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <[randall.kosaki@noaa.gov](mailto:randall.kosaki@noaa.gov)>  
**Cc:** honu world <[itsahonuworlدينhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworlدينhawaii@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: East Is

Aloha George,

Nice to meet you and I hope you are enjoying retired life and staying safe. I have read a couple of your papers on your work with sea turtles and found them to be very interesting. When I used to throw nets for fish, the turtle was not the most welcomed site but thanks to your work I have grown a bit more fond of them. I'll be working on this Lalo project over the long weekend and I'll put something together. Though satellite technology is an amazing tool I am sure the three of us will agree there is no substitute for being there.

Mahalo and be well,

Keo

On Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 3:57 PM Randall Kosaki - NOAA Federal <[randall.kosaki@noaa.gov](mailto:randall.kosaki@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Aloha Keo,

Via this email, I would like to introduce you to George Balazs (retired from NMFS). George was unable to attend HCC, but your abstract caught his eye, probably because of the many decades he invested in doing research on Honu at Lalo (and everywhere else, too).

When you have a few minutes, I'm sure George would love to hear an update on the gradual re-accretion of East Is., as well as the changes to all the other islets at Lalo. Mahalo in advance!

Randy

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