

February 25, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hind
P. O. Box 1149
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hind:

I am writing to tell you that on Tuesday, March 3, and Wednesday, March 4, I will be presenting slide lectures in Hilo and Kona on the topic of "The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands." Following these talks, from March 5-8, I would like to carry out some field work on green turtles at Kiholo. I hope that this will meet with your approval. On March 4 I will telephone your house to talk to you about obtaining the gate key.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

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March 17, 1981

Mr. Fred Duerr
General Manager
Kona Village Resort
Kaupulehu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Duerr:

On March 5th, following my lecture series in Hilo and Kona, I had the pleasure of speaking in person with your fine staff members Byron Ayoso and Jackie Robinson about their sightings of sea turtles off the Kona Village Resort. As a researcher of Hawaiian turtles, I had previously corresponded with Byron and requested that he send me information on turtle observations made during the course of his ocean-related activities. I was pleased to learn that turtles are regularly seen along your coastline, both foraging in shallow waters and sleeping in offshore coral formations.

A major part of my current research program involves the capturing and tagging of turtles around our main Hawaiian Islands. The objective of this work is to document growth rates, movements, population numbers and food sources. While considerable progress has been made at several sampling areas, it is essential that additional sites be carefully investigated. Based on the information currently in hand, it is my feeling that the coastal area of the Kona Village Resort offers excellent opportunities for the careful conduction of tagging research. I of course realize that such work would have to be consistent and harmonious with the quality character of your facility. I am certain that this is entirely possible and, indeed, such research activities could be expected to attract the interest and enthusiasm of many of your guests.

Having stated the above, I would like to propose, or at least explore with you, a pilot study visit to your area involving myself and my field technician, Mr. Alan K. H. Kam. Our specific activities would consist of daytime and nighttime dives (both skin and scuba) to locate, capture, tag and release as many turtles as possible over a 3-4 day period. During the course of this visit, I would be delighted to explain various aspects of sea turtle biology, conservation and research to interested guests. With your approval, it might even be desirable to present natural history lectures with illustrative color slides brought with me from Honolulu. In addition, guests

March 24, 1981

Mr. Milton Hakada
Director
Department of Parks & Recreation
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Hakada:

I am writing to inquire about any present or future plans that you may be aware of to develop a park or other public facility in the area of Kiholo Bay, North Kona. Since 1972 I have been periodically studying a unique aggregation of immature green sea turtles that resides at this location. The adjacent Wainanalii Pond has been found to constitute critical resting habitat for the assemblage. Any plans for development near this unique ecosystem would therefore be of interest to me with respect to evaluating potential impacts on the turtles.

Thank you in advance for any information that you can provide on this important subject.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md