

5-9-83

Dr. Emmett Aluli  
P.O. Box H  
Kauakakai, Molokai 96748

Dear Dr. Aluli:

Please consider what I have written in the enclosed article.

As Walter will verify, for over 10 years now I have been working to learn more about Hawaiian sea turtles. When I first started, I was virtually the only one to speak out on behalf of this native resource in an effort to protect it from being exterminated by commercial turtle fishermen. Now, some of these very same fishermen are calling for their "subsistence" rights to take turtles again. The turtle population needs more time to recover from its previous abuse. Enforcement is already a problem as it is.

(over)

Hawaiian sea turtles are a cultural, aesthetic and scientific resource of these Hawaiian Islands. Some day, when the population recovers sufficiently, they will also be a viable nutritional resource for people. But short-sighted resumption of legal hunting at present will turn everyone into losers - both the turtles and the people.

Best regards,

George Balazs  
Box 1346  
KANEHOE, HAWAII 96744

As of June 1 I will formally be an employee of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Consequently, I will not be able to publicly speak out for Hawaiian sea turtles the way I have done so often over the past decade.