



University of Hawaii at Hilo

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Division of Natural Sciences

July 21, 1987

Mr. Mufi Kannemann
Vice President, Corporate Development
C. Brewer and Company, Limited
Punalu'u Resort
P. O. Box 85
Pahala, Hawai'i 96777

Dear Mr. Hannemann,

Since 1983, the UH-Hilo Marine Option Program has participated in yearly projects to monitor green turtle populations, their feeding habits and growth rates, at Punalu'u in Ka'u. Growth rates among green turtles along the Ka'u coast appear to be more rapid than among turtles elsewhere in the main Hawaiian islands. Because of this faster rate, the Ka'u green turtle population may make up a large proportion of the breeding colony from French Frigate Shoals where it is believed that all Hawaiian green turtles go to breed. We are gratified to note C. Brewer's acknowledgement of the importance of Punalu'u's coastline as a concentrated resident foraging site for the threatened green turtle, Chelonia mydas, and as a principal nesting site for the endangered hawksbill turtle, Eretmochelys imbricata, in your EIS published earlier this year.

We are also pleased to see that C. Brewer plans to "conduct surveillance programs to...monitor marine organisms in the coastal ponds, shoreline, coastal waters or wetlands," and to "conduct, assist, facilitate, schedule or coordinate scientific or educational activities in the Management Area and Management Area Buffer Zone," as well as to "monitor water quality and faunal assemblages" within these areas "on a periodic basis to assess the ecological viability and conditions of the ecosystems and wetland habitat." The significance of the Ka'u coastal waters for these registered endangered species may prove to be greater than previously thought.

523 W. LANIKAULA STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-4091 • TEL: (808) 961-9383

An Equal Opportunity Employer

It is because of this significance that we plan to continue our population, feeding and growth rate studies at Punalu'u in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, high school groups and community volunteers. Our work involves three days of capturing, measuring, weighing, blood-sampling, counting, tagging, and releasing as many turtles as we can. Fence nets are hung by floats and anchored in the bay and over the next two nights 4 groups work 3-hour shifts throughout the night to locate, capture and carry ashore any turtles weighing less than 200 pounds for measuring and tagging at day-break, after which the turtles are then released. At least 15 University MOP and high school students, not including almost as many scientists, faculty, and community volunteers, work exhaustingly over this 72-hour period to collect as much data as possible not only for the accumulation of information but for comparison purposes with previous years' and future studies. We also plan to videotape our next year's operations both on shore and underwater. And as we have stressed in the past, safety, both of student and volunteer participation as well as that of the turtles are paramount concerns.

In the past, various governmental agencies' and community donations have allowed us to adequately conduct our project down at Punalu'u. Nets, floats, anchors, wet suits, camping equipment, stoves, coolers, first aid kits, lights, tents, tables and chairs, tagging, measuring and blood-sampling equipment, tools, emergency equipment, videotape and editing equipment and as well as some transportation vehicles are provided by the University, NMFS and individual donations. But even with the generosity of many people, our students have had to beg funds for supplies like gasoline, food and leader stipends, as well as to rent extra vans for transporting equipment and people from as far away as Waimea. Out of pocket expenses have become somewhat of a barrier for some students' participation.

We are requesting the following amount from C. Brewer and Company, Ltd., to continue our turtle studies during the Spring Break next year March, 1988:

2 (15-passenger) rental vans for 3 days	\$ 450
Gasoline	50
Food, paper goods, cooking fuel, ice first aid supplies, tapes, etc. \$12/day x 3 days for 15 students	540
Stipends	
1 Project Coordinator: @ \$100/month for 2 months	200
2 student assistants for logistics: @ \$50/month for 2 months	200
<u>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED.</u>	<u>\$1,440</u>

The Project Coordinator (an upper division MOP student) and the student assistants will complete written reports and finalize an edited videotape of the work done at Punalu'u during the remainder of the semester under the supervision of MOP faculty at UH-Hilo. These reports and videotape will be made available to C. Brewer and Company, Ltd.

We hope that C. Brewer and Company, Ltd. will wish to show their active support for this project and the research and educational benefits it represents by helping fund our work. Please contact either myself or Mr. George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu so that we may discuss the project further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter C. Dudley
Coordinator, UH-Hilo
Marine Option Program