



1980s-1990s
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

November 19, 1985

F/SWC2

Mr. Charles Park
General Manager
Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
P. O. Box 4000
Kawaihae, HI 96743

G.H. BALAZS
MAUNA LANI
EARLY YEARS LETTERS
AND ARTICLES

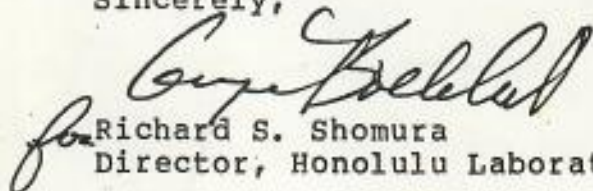
Dear Mr. Park:

By this letter I am authorizing Mauna Lani Bay Hotel to maintain a second juvenile green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) identifiable by tag numbers 8689 (right) and 5683 (left) and approximately 56 cm straight carapace length. This turtle will be kept only in the seawater pond on the northeast end of the pond system associated with the hotel building. This appears to be the only pond with depth sufficient for this turtle. If problems develop in maintenance of two turtles in this pond, please advise us immediately.

As the turtle we placed in your care in 1984, this turtle has a "living-tag" graft in its carapace and plastron and we intend to keep it in captivity until these marks are no longer visible. The animal will occasionally be checked by the staff of this Laboratory's Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. Should you or your staff decide that you can no longer maintain these turtles or if you have reason to suspect they may have health problems please contact Bill Gilmartin or George Balazs at 943-1221.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintenance of these animals for our research program.

Sincerely,


for Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: WPP0



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Summary of data for three immature green turtles (Chelonia mydas)
tagged at Mauna Lani Resort, Hawaii on June 30, 1988

Compiled by G. H. Balazs

Tag No. applied	10551, 10552 10553	*10554, 10555 10556	**10557 10558 10559
Straight carapace, cm			
Length	66.6	67.2	55.7
Width	52.9	54.2	42.9
Curved carapace, cm			
Length	71.0	73.5	61.0
Width	65.5	67.0	53.0
Plastron length, cm	55.6	54.7	44.9
Head width, cm	9.6	10.0	8.2
Tail length, cm	19.5 (likely male)	12.5	10.8
Weight			
lb	104	88	55 1/2
kg	47.3	40.0	25.2

*Three tag scars on front flipper indicative of previously applied tags.

**One tag scar on front flipper indicative of previously applied tag.

NOTE: Resort personnel were unable to capture a fourth turtle present in one of the ponds.



7/2/86 AT WAIKIKI AQUARIUM S-27.3
TAG 6913
+ N395
N396



MAUNA LANI BAY HOTEL

Emerald of Kohala

September 19, 1986



Dr. Gilmartin
National Marine Fisheries
2570 Aole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Gilmartin,

I have enclosed five photographs. Numbers 1 and 2 show the small turtle from the Waikiki Aquarium in the upper waterfall pond. The turtle is eating well and is quiet lively. Photos 3 and 4 show two views of Waipuhi Iki pond where the two other turtles are now located. The last photo is of the large turtle in Waipuhi Iki.

We are all pleased with the two large turtles in a big pond as they have the ability to swim freely. As soon as we receive the program definition from you, we will make a sign to post.

Thanks again for your help and coordination.

Yours truly,

MAUNA LANI BAY HOTEL

Alan L. Brown
Alan L. Brown
Assistant Engineer

ALB:skk

Encl. Pictures

Post Office Box 4000, Kapaeha, Hawaii 96733 (808) 885-0022 Cable Maunalani Telex ITT 7431804



2



For you George

May 28, 1987

F/SAC2

Mr. Allen Brown
Maunalani Hotel
P. O. Box 4000
Kawaihae, HI 96743

Dear Mr. Brown:

As per our telephone conversation today, I am sending on the pathology report which confirms my diagnosis of steatitis in the two turtles who died last March. The root of the disease, as we discussed before, is a vitamin E/selenium deficiency caused by an all fish diet where the fish is long frozen or sits in the pond and grows rancid before it is eaten.

I will let you know about the Purina turtle chow as I am able to gather the information. Meanwhile I feel that as the limu in the pond is far closer to a natural diet for a green sea turtle it will keep her fairly healthy. It might not be a bad idea, if fish is being fed as an occasional treat to put a vitamin E capsule in the fish. The strength of the capsules to use should be around 100 i.u. If you have any questions/problems call me at 943-1254.

Sincerely,

Linda Banish, D.V.M.

LDB:11

bc: Banish
HL

-this
no
more
than
one/wk



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

November 19, 1985

F/SWC2

Mr. Charles Park
General Manager
Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
P. O. Box 4000
Kawaihae, HI 96743

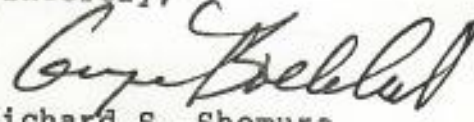
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As the turtle we placed in your care in 1984, this turtle has a "living-tag" graft in its carapace and plastron and we intend to keep it in captivity until these marks are no longer visible. The animal will occasionally be checked by the staff of this Laboratory's Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. Should you or your staff decide that you can no longer maintain these turtles or if you have reason to suspect they may have health problems please contact Bill Gilmartin or George Balazs at 943-1221.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintenance of these animals for our research program.

Sincerely,


for Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: WPPO

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HONOLULU LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812

September 17, 1984

F/SWC2

Mr. Manfred Braig
Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
P. O. Box 4000
Kawaihae, HI 96743

Dear Mr. Braig:

By this letter I am authorizing Mauna Lani Bay Hotel to maintain one young green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) identifiable by tag numbers 5659 (right) and 3688 (left) and approximately 61 cm straight carapace length. This turtle will be kept only in the sea-water pond on the northeast end of the pond system associated with the hotel building. This appears to be the only pond with depth sufficient for this turtle.

This turtle has a "living-tag" graft in its carapace and plastron and we intend to keep it in captivity until these marks are no longer visible. The animal will occasionally be checked by the staff of this Laboratory's Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. Should you or your staff decide that you can no longer maintain this turtle or if you have reason to suspect it may have health problems please contact Bill Gilmartin or George Balazs at 943-1221.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: WPPO
Gilmartin
DO
HL



MAUNA LANI BAY HOTEL
Emerald of Kohala

Manfred H. Braig
General Manager

September 19, 1984 - 82° and Sunny!

Mr. Richard S. Shomura, Director, Honolulu Laboratory
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
Post Office Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear Mr. Shomura:

Thank you for your letter of September 17, 1984, authorizing us to keep one young green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) identified by tag numbers 5659 (right) and 3688 (left) in our sea water pond on the northeast end of the pond system.


We are very appreciative to the National Marine Fisheries Service for being so kind and supportive in letting us have the turtle on loan. The turtle is doing fine in his location and our guests enjoy watching the turtle. It really has added a great deal of excitement to our ponds.

Rest assured that we are committed to looking after the turtle day in and day out to ensure its welfare. Should we have any problems, we will contact Mr. Gilmartin or George Balass at 943-1221 at once.

Again, Mr. Shomura, thank you for being so kind in sending us the turtle.

Sending you a warm aloha from the beautiful Kohala Coast,

Sincerely,


Manfred H. Braig
GENERAL MANAGER

MHB:dp

cc: O. Thompson

Post Office Box 4000, Kawahae, Hawaii 96743 (808)885-0022 Cable Maunalani Telex ITT 7431864

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P.O. Box 10242-Honolulu, Hawaii
PHONE: 734-8124
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

WEST HAWAII TODAY
FEB. 19 1987

New green sea turtle in Mauna Lani bay

KOHALA COAST — Makana Kai (Gift of the Sea) is the newest Hawaiian green sea turtle in residence in Mauna Lani Bay. There are now three such turtles at Mauna Lani on long term loan from the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu. These exotic animals are classified as endangered species and are protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act as well as the laws of the State of Hawaii.

The turtles were initially brought to Mauna Lani because the hotel's ponds are large enough to accommodate the turtles once they mature. They are currently part of a study being conducted by the Fisheries Service to compare growth differences between turtles in the wild and those raised in captivity.

Zoologist George Balazs, leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, pointed out that, "this is the first time a federal agency and a private corporation have joined forces on a long term study that will promote better understanding and survival of the species." Balazs went on to say that the study has shown turtles raised in captivity can eventually be released and survive in their natural habitat.

All aquatic animals at Mauna Lani are under the care of groundsman and historian Danny Akaka. Daily fish feeding tours for guests at the hotel are conducted at 10 a.m. There are ten feeding areas at

the hotel, each with a multitude of species. On the tour, Akaka discusses the ponds and sea life in each area. He also shares ancient stories about the fish, giving insights to Hawaiian history and legends. Both Children and adults enjoy learning of the rich history that exists at the hotel. The ponds are home to black and white tipped reef sharks and a large variety of Hawaiian reef fish such as parrot fish (uhu); milkfish (awa); mullet; file fish; and yellow tangs.

More than 50 acres of prehistoric ponds can be found on the hotel grounds. Interspersed with the natural pools are ten man made ponds that recreate this natural environment. They are home to many reef fish that guests can see close-up when snorkeling just a few yards off shore in the coves along Mauna Lani's coastline.

The 351-room Mauna Lani Bay opened in February 1983. Catering to the carriage trade of Europe, Canada, the United States, and the Far East, the hotel establishes the standard of excellence for the Mauna Lani Resort which encompasses 3,200 acres and a three-mile coast line of bays, beaches, and pre-historic fishponds. Mauna Lani Bay is operated by Emerald Hotels Corporation which operates the Hawaiian Regent at Waikiki Beach and Emerald of Anaheim next to Disneyland.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
300 South Ferry Street
Terminal Island, CA 90731

December 9, 1987 F/SWR1:ETN

*12/14
JRS
Watts
JHW
SGP*

Dr. Charles Daxboeck
Aquatic Resources Manager
Mauna Lani Resort, Inc.
P.O. Box 4959
Kohala, HI 96743

Dear Dr. Daxboeck: *Chas*

We have reviewed your proposal to initiate a green sea turtle head-start program at Mauna Lani Resort, Inc., and find that although the intent of the project is worthy, many substantial questions remain, and that with current Federal budget constraints funding such a project will not be possible.

20

Head-starting is not a proven technique, and there are no assurances that head-starting hatchlings will add measurably to the breeding population of green sea turtles. Head-starting has both merits and problems and should be considered in the context of an experimental procedure with a program for monitoring and evaluating the results.

Specific issues that require further elaboration include:

1) Release sites.

Once the hatchlings are of sufficient size and vigor to be considered for release, what criteria are to be used for selecting a release site? Should the turtles be released from a known nesting beach that is not at carrying capacity, a historic nesting beach with no nesting activity, released at sea without imprinting on a nesting beach, and/or released into foraging habitat? It is not known at what stage turtles receive or pick up their imprinting cues for navigation and/or migration or even what these cues might be.

2) Habituation to humans.

Tank reared and hand fed green sea turtles may exhibit a loss of wariness when released into the wild and fail to avoid predators such as sharks and large jacks or humans.



3) Long maturation period.

The long maturation period of Hawaiian green sea turtles (~5 to 50 years to sexual maturity) necessitates a long-term commitment by the instituting organization for continuing the head-start program and maintaining the monitoring program for decades rather than years. This in turn requires a stable and long-term funding source.

4) Cost/Benefit.

The costs of head-starting are high, both in resources and commitment of time. From NMFS' perspective scarce resources should be used for higher priority items under consideration by the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery team.

5) Source of hatchlings.

We have no objection to the use of hatchlings from captive pre-Act animals for head-starting purposes provided that all applicable legal and biological issues are addressed. To the best of our knowledge Sea Life Park, Inc., has not received any formal request to supply hatchlings or participate in such a project.

We would not authorize the use of hatchlings recovered from the wild. At the present time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitors nests on Tern Island at French Frigate Shoals to determine emergence success, predation, and hatching success. Individual hatchlings which did not, or could not, emerge naturally from the observed nests are assisted out of the nests and released. This simple, low cost procedure is preferred over committing and expending resources for the collection of hatchlings from the wild.

6) Scope of the project.

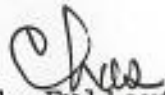
The proposal does not specifically state the number of hatchlings to be involved over the course of the project, nor is there any acknowledgement that head-starting is a very long-term commitment. Other issues that need to be addressed are the potential for accelerating recovery of the population and the effect of head-starting on the genetic fitness of the stock.

7) Alternatives.

As an alternative to hatchlings, consideration should be given to rearing 3-4 month old green sea turtles to about a year of age for release. The hatchlings could be reared at Sea Life Park through the more critical early stages where years of experience are already available.

As a public education program and long-term experimental project the proposal appears to have potential for long-term benefit to the Hawaiian population of green sea turtles. However, I must reiterate that we do not have funds available for this request.

Sincerely,



E.C. Fullerton
Regional Director

cc: F/SWC2

September 15, 1986 F/SWR1:ETN

Dr. Charles Daxboeck
P.O. Box 442
Holualoa, Hawaii 96725

Dear Dr. Daxboeck:

As Doyle Gates mentioned in his letter to you of August 14, 1986 I am providing the following information concerning the importation of green sea turtles, Chelonia mydas, from the Cayman Islands under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

At the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on April 22-May 3, 1985 in Buenos Aires, Argentina a proposal to amend the listing of the captive population in the Cayman Islands (Cayman Turtle Farms) from Appendix I to Appendix II was not approved by the Conference of the Parties. Thus, any turtles originating from the Cayman Turtle Farms remain subject to the restrictions of Appendix I of CITES as well as the ESA.

Species listed in Appendix I of CITES are limited to import and export for noncommercial purposes (i.e. scientific, propagation, etc.). The permit application procedures for both CITES and the ESA are enclosed for your information. You should be forewarned, however, that importation of green turtle hatchlings from the Cayman Islands for head-starting and eventual release in Hawaiian waters may not be approved by the the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the agencies responsible for issuing the appropriate permits, because of the potential genetic and behavioral differences between Cayman Island green turtles and Hawaiian green turtles.

Should you have any further questions I can be reached at 955-8831 in Honolulu.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene T. Nitta
Protected Species Coordinator

Enclosures

bc: F/SWR43 - Witham
F/SWC2 - G. Balazs ✓
FWS - K. Wright



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

July 6, 1988

F/SWC2

Dr. Chuck Daxboeck
Aquatic Resources Manager
Mauna Lani Resort
P. O. Box 4959
Kohala Coast, HI 96743-4959

Dear Chuck,

Enclosed is the summary of data collected on the turtles captured from your ponds at the Mauna Lani Resort. All three of the turtles appeared to be in good shape, with no evidence of disease or emaciation. It will be interesting to remeasure them in about a year to determine rates of growth under these pond conditions.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: F/SWR1 - Gene Nitta
F/EN333 - Gene Witham





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Summary of data for three immature green turtles (Chelonia mydas)
tagged at Mauna Lani Resort, Hawaii on June 30, 1988

Compiled by G. H. Balazs

Tag No. applied	10551, 10552 10553	*10554, 10555 10556	**10557 10558 10559
Straight carapace, cm			
Length	66.6	67.2	55.7
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Weight			
lb	104	88	55 1/2
kg	47.3	40.0	25.2

*Three tag scars on front flipper indicative of previously applied tags.

**One tag scar on front flipper indicative of previously applied tag.

NOTE: Resort personnel were unable to capture a fourth turtle present in one of the ponds.



Sea turtles strike out for freedom on Fourth of July



HAWAII

By Dave Donnelly

JULY 4, Independence Day, was the perfect selection by the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel folks for the time to release turtles into the ocean. As part of the "save the green sea turtle" program in conjunction with Sea Life Park, this will be the second turtle release. The hotel staff nurtures baby turtles in atrium ponds until they're young adults and no longer perfect pupu for sharks, and then releases them into the sea where they have a good chance of surviving. Four turtles were let go last Fourth of July and 10 more will be released this year . . .

THEN there's beer distributor Bob Bulkley and his fiancée, Sherri Rienzi of Hawaiian Trust. In a classic case of getting things backward, the two are losing their independence on July 4 when they get

married. As James Thurber once wrote, "He gets everything backward — he'll probably honeymoon in the Virgin Islands." That's vergin' on the ridiculous in the case of Bulkley and Rienzi — they're heading for Denver. Bulkley grew up there and is a ski buff. Of course it will be July and there will be no snow — there he goes again . . .

THE entire staff of Gib Black Advertising Group dropped everything at 10 a.m. yesterday and broke out the bubbly. The 2,500 mile TransPac race was just getting underway in San Pedro, Calif., and while honcho Gib Black was jockeying at the starting line aboard his boat, Perestroika, the staff all raised their glasses in a toast of good luck . . . Just back from a somewhat more sedate ocean crossing is local

Mauna Lani to release 10 turtles

Star-Bulletin staff

Ten tagged, young green sea turtles will celebrate the Fourth of July with their own independence when they are released on the beach fronting the Big Island's Mauna Lani Bay Hotel.

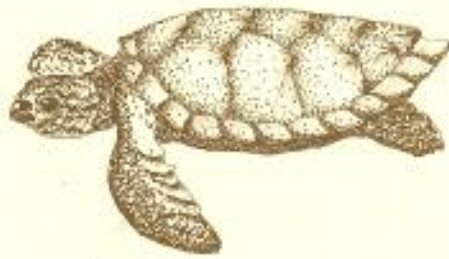
The 10 a.m. event, Turtle Independence Day, marks the second year sea turtles, or honu, have been released here in a cooperative effort between Mauna Lani Resort and Oahu's Sea Life Park.

The turtles will be released by Steve Kaiser, director of facilities development for Sea Life Park. At the same time park officials will be bringing in five new turtles that will make Mauna Lani Bay their home for the next year.

Sea Life Park in October 1989 developed an experimental foster home program with Mauna Lani Resort. The program allows a number of threatened young green sea turtles to be raised in the hotel's saltwater atrium ponds, then tagged and released into the ocean.

Hawaii's green sea turtle is a threatened species. Only 100 to 350 females nest each year, primarily at French Frigate Shoals.

7/11/91 HSB A4



*The Honu (green turtle) is entirely aquatic but will leave the water to bask in the sun or lay its eggs in the sand.
* Protected by law in Hawaiian waters, it is also a living treasure in our salt water ponds.*

It is our pleasure to present you with a special memento of the marine life of our island.

At Mauna Lani Bay, we are dedicated to caring for the environment and its sea creatures. Our prehistoric fishponds and hotel ponds thrive with tropical life.

We have chosen Koa, Hawaii's most precious wood to create our makana, our gift from the land and sea to you.

Me Ke Aloha



Photo caption:

Young guests of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel get a closer look at another 'young guest' of the hotel -- a juvenile Hawaiian Green sea turtle. Turtle caretaker Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka, Jr. lets the kids get a closer look at this member of the Mauna Lani/Sea Life Park headstart program.

In October, 1989 Sea Life Park began an experimental headstart program with Mauna Lani which allows a small number of *honu* -- endangered young Green sea turtles -- to be tagged and raised in the atrium ponds of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and then released into the wild. The *honu*, therefore, are given the advantage of being released to the ocean as much larger, less likely prey for predators than they would be as hatchlings.

For more information: Diana Reutter
Sheila Donnelly & Assoc.
(808) 949-4131

Lellani Hino
Mauna Lani Resort
(808) 885-6677

Photo caption:

The atrium ponds at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel are home to eight *honu* -- endangered young Green sea turtles. The young *honu* are fed lettuce and smelt daily at 10:00 a.m. by caretaker Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka, Jr.

In October, 1989 Sea Life Park began an experimental headstart program with Mauna Lani which allows a small number of *honu* -- endangered young Green sea turtles -- to be tagged and raised in the atrium ponds of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and then released into the wild. The *honu*, therefore, are given the advantage of being released to the ocean as much larger, less likely prey for predators than they would be as hatchlings.

For more information: Diana Reutter
Sheila Donnelly & Assoc.
(808) 949-4131

Lellani Hino
Mauna Lani Resort
(808) 885-6677





MAUNA LANI RESORT

On the Kohala Coast/Big Island of Hawaii

DATE: JULY 2, 1990

CONTACT: DIANA REUTTER
SHEILA DONNELLY & ASSOC.
(808) 949-4131

or

LEILANI HINO
MAUNA LANI RESORT
(808) 885-6677

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TITLE: YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES RELEASED AT MAUNA LANI

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII -- This July 4 is truly Independence Day for our juvenile *honu* -- endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles -- who will leave the sheltered atrium ponds at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and start life on their own in the wild.

After almost ten months at Mauna Lani Bay, the four will traverse the short distance across the hotel's beachfront at 10:00 a.m. on July 4 to begin their aquatic journey under the watchful eyes of resort staff, guests, and visitors.

The youngsters are part of an experimental headstart program designed to enable a few of the threatened species -- *Chelonia Mydas* -- to enter the sea at adolescence rather than as helpless hatchlings. How they will fare independently when faced with the hazards of the open ocean is uncertain, but the program, developed by Oahu's famed Sea Life Park Hawaii, gives them the advantage of being much larger and thus less likely prey for predators.

By providing a temporary foster home where young sea turtles can get a good head start on life, Mauna Lani is raising public awareness about the hazards faced by these engaging sea creatures, as well as the efforts being made toward preservation and restoration of the species. Besides tiger sharks, one major threat to sea turtles is the pollution and marine debris created by man. And because of their tendency to stay close to the shoreline, sea turtles are sadly at risk from hunters who prize them as a delicacy.

- more -

YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES RELEASED AT MAUNA LANI

Add One

In recognition of its excellent record as a caring foster parent, Mauna Lani Resort will host four more young turtles later this summer. Resort guests and visitors can continue to enjoy watching them in the atrium ponds of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel.

The four omnivorous turtles, who share a fondness for smelt and lettuce, will follow instinct toward the water. Their guardian at Mauna Lani, Daniel Akaka, Jr. who is also the caretaker of the resort's prehistoric royal fishponds, notes that the insatiable creatures vie for hotel guests' attention in the hopes of an edible reward.

Once released to the ocean, however, the juvenile *honu* can feed on an unlimited supply of *limu* or seaweed, found in the ocean fronting Mauna Lani Resort. The waters around the resort are inhabited by an existing colony of these delightful denizens.

Mauna Lani Resort's turtles won't necessarily stick close to their foster home. As adults, Hawaii's green turtles migrate up to 800 miles from their feeding areas to nesting beaches in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Although females often come ashore to nest several times in season, they wait two to three years before nesting again. In fact, only 100 to 350 females nest each year in the Hawaiian Islands.

The ungainly hatchlings spend the first part of their lives at the whim of ocean currents which carry them toward deep ocean. The high attrition rate, coupled with the low annual number of nesting females, prompted Sea Life Park Hawaii to develop the headstart program. This is the first time that Sea Life Park has allowed a resort or hotel to participate in their efforts toward restoration of the wild green sea turtle population.

Sea Life Park's green turtle breeding stock is grandfathered in under the U.S. Endangered Species Act which prohibits the capture of animals from the wild and is therefore exempt. While most of the hatchlings are released by the marine wildlife park within 24 hours of their birth, a small number are retained for the headstart experiment.

YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES RELEASED AT MAUNA LANI

Add Two

Mauna Lani Resort is committed to providing a most caring and protective environment for the tiny headstart pioneers. The hope is that every visitor to Mauna Lani will reflect upon and give meaning to the drama unfolding beyond its shores, where the young turtles of Mauna Lani are making their way toward a future for generations of *honu* to come.

#

**Q & A:
SEA LIFE PARK / MAUNA LANI RESORT
TURTLE PROGRAM**

THE PROGRAM

Question: What is the Sea Life Park / Mauna Lani turtle program?

Answer: Sea Life Park has a breeding herd of pre-endangered species act green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Turtle Lagoon at the Makapuu facility. Each summer, most of the hatchlings are released into the wild within 24 hours of hatching. The attrition rate is thought to be very high, just as it is in the wild.

Sea Life Park has developed an experimental program to give some of their hatchlings a head start in life. A portion of each season's hatchlings are sent to Vancouver Aquarium to be raised during the first year of life. (Raising hatchlings is a labor-intensive process that Vancouver Aquarium is equipped to handle.)

When the turtles are about a year old they are shipped back to Sea Life Park and on to Mauna Lani for the next phase of their life.

Question: Where do the turtles live at Mauna Lani?

Answer: The young turtles live in the salt water ponds of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, where they are cared for until they grow to a size and weight that Sea Life Park deems appropriate for their release into the wild. Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka, Jr. is the caretaker of the turtles at Mauna Lani.

Question: Has Sea Life Park ever conducted a program like this before?

Answer: This is the first time Sea Life Park has allowed a resort or hotel to participate in their efforts to restore the wild green sea turtle population.

There is a similar program in the Caribbean for Kemp's (Atlantic) ridley turtles which has been conducted for the past twenty years. Because turtles are long-lived, even that program is considered experimental.

Question: If green sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act, how is it they can be kept at Sea Life Park and Mauna Lani?

Answer: Sea Life Park's breeding stock are pre-act turtles. Both pre-act animals and progeny of pre-act turtles are exempt. This allows an excellent opportunity to keep careful tagging and biographic data on the animals released to the wild, which will add to the database that is now in its nascent stages.

Q & A: TURTLE PROGRAM
PAGE TWO

Question: Won't it be dangerous for captive animals to be released into the wild? They'll be used to man and might even approach them looking for food.

Answer: It is felt that the risks encountered by the released animals will be far less than the dangers they would have faced if they had been released as hatchlings.

Question: What are some of the dangers these young *honu* face?

Answer: Most tiny hatchlings are released into the wild within 24 hours of their hatching. They prove easy prey for hungry predators such as birds, dogs, crabs and lizards as they make their way towards the deep ocean. Once in the ocean, the young turtles are easy prey for many kinds of carnivorous fish such as groupers, snappers and baracudas. Adult sea turtles are very fast and heavily armored, although sharks can do great damage to them.

One of the major threats to sea turtles, indeed to all marine wildlife, is man. Pollution and marine debris are just two threatening human byproducts that can be conscientiously reduced on an individual level.

Question: What do Sea Life Park and Mauna Lani hope to accomplish with their turtle program?

Answer: By giving the young turtles a head start to adulthood, Sea Life Park and Mauna Lani hope to better the turtles' chance of survival. Simply being bigger than hatchling size eliminates the turtles as a food source for many smaller predators.

Education is a key to reducing the threat man poses to the turtles. Sea Life Park and Mauna Lani Resort, along with the media, schools, conservationists and government all have a common goal of raising consciousness, through educational efforts, of the threatened species' plight, thereby lessening the threat man places on the turtles. Hundreds of school children visit Mauna Lani every year, and turtle talks are part of caretaker Danny Akaka's tours of the fishponds.

THE TURTLES

Question: How many recognized species of sea turtles are alive today?

Answer: Seven:

- The leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- The loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- The flatback (*Chelonia depressa*)
- The hawksbill (*eretmochelys imbricata*)
- The olive (Pacific) ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- Kemp's (Atlantic) ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Q & A: TURTLE PROGRAM
PAGE THREE

Question: How many species of sea turtles are native to Hawaii?

Answer: Three: the green, the hawksbill and the leatherback. Of these three, the green turtle, or *honu*, is the most common. Mauna Lani currently cares for ten *honu* in their ponds.

Question: How did the green sea turtle get its name? (They're not green.)

Answer: The *honu* – green sea turtle is called "green" because of its flesh and body fluids which are green as a result of a seaweed diet. Shell colors span a broad range of browns and olives, with many variations in pattern.

Question: How large is the *honu*, and what is their diet?

Answer: The *honu* are primarily vegetarians and can weigh up to 400 pounds. They eat algae or *limu* growing underwater on coral reefs and on rocks close to shore. Green turtles prefer to live near "pastures" of *limu* that are located in nearshore waters around the Hawaiian Islands. The ocean area fronting Mauna Lani is one of the best grazing areas for *honu*.

Question: How much research has actually been done on the green turtle?

Answer: Green turtle research is in its early stages. Turtles are long-lived, and it may take up to 40 or 50 years for them to reach sexual maturity. Establishing a database on long-lived turtles may take decades.

Because sea turtles are essentially marine creatures, the problem of assembling hard research is compounded data. Most of the research conducted to date has been on animals which have "hailed out" on nesting beaches in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (only a small part of a turtle's life), or on dead and injured animals that are reported to authorities.

Very little is known about the wild green turtle's first year of life. After hatching, they quickly make their way to the ocean (many are eaten along the way by crabs and birds), and are carried out to sea where they are apparently at the whim of open ocean currents. They are probably carnivorous at that stage.

Tagging methods satisfactory for long-term tracking have yet to be developed, though many methods are being tried. "Makana Kai," the adult green turtle at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, is part of a tagging experiment being investigated for long-term use.

Question: Where do most of the Hawaiian green turtles live?

Answer: Most Hawaiian green turtles from juveniles to mature adults reside in the nearshore habitat of the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau.

Factors responsible for this distribution include the greater amount of available habitat, an abundance of certain marine vegetation (algae and seagrass) preferred for food, and oceanic currents that appear favorable in transporting young turtles to the main islands for recruitment into coastal habitat.

Question: Where do the adult Hawaiian green turtles nest?

Answer: At least 90% of all reproduction by green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands occurs at French Frigate Shoals, mainly on East Island. Due to their small size, nesting occurs throughout the interior of these islets, not just along the shoreline beaches. The remaining 10% of nesting takes place at Laysan, Lisianski, and Pearl and Hermes Reef. In recent years, a low level of nesting (approximately 100 to 350 females) has also occurred in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Question: At what age does a Hawaiian green turtle reach sexual maturity?

Answer: Immature Hawaiian green turtles living in the wild have been found to grow at a slow rate, and the actual longevity of sea turtles is unknown. From ten to 60 years (mean 25) may be needed to reach sexual maturity. Based on ten years of tagging data, the total number of adult females nesting at French Frigate Shoals has been estimated at approximately 750.

The breeding season at French Frigate Shoals lasts about four months (May-August), although many turtles, especially males, depart for their resident pastures after only a month or two. Copulation (which precedes nesting) occurs in shallow waters close to the islet where the female comes ashore to deposit her eggs. Females lay from one to six egg clutches at 11- to 18-day intervals (mean 13) within each season.

Question: What is the length of gestation for a Hawaiian green turtle?

Answer: Hatchling Hawaiian green turtles emerge from nests and enter the sea between July and October, making a two month gestation period. The hatchlings swim immediately away from shore into pelagic habitat where they reside for at least two years. During this oceanic phase they are rarely seen, and therefore are not accessible for ecological investigation.

Q & A: TURTLE PROGRAM
PAGE FIVE

Question: What is currently being done to effectively research the Hawaiian sea turtle?

Answer: Legally acquired green turtles currently in privately owned ponds, commercial display facilities, and other captive environments are being inventoried and tagged to discourage the illegal take of live turtles from the wild and to assist in the study of a recovery plan for the endangered green turtle.

There is an existing problem with tagging, however, due to the high attrition rate of the tags currently in use. Long term tags are being researched and developed at this time.

July 16 1990 Turtles get head start at Mauna Lani

By James Gonser

In the saltwater atrium ponds at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows on the Big Island, hotel guests and school children can see rare green sea turtles getting a head start on life.

A special program developed by Sea Life Park allows the hotel to participate in the park's efforts to restore the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) population in Hawaiian waters.

Four of the eight endangered turtles, called "hono" in Hawaiian, that are raised at the hotel were released into the ocean off the Kohala Coast earlier this month after having lived in the ponds almost one year.

Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka Jr., the hotel's Hawaiian specialist and historian, said the program not only may help the turtles' survival chances but is an attraction for hotel guests and an educational tool for students.

"About 2,000 school children from around the state have visited our ponds to see the turtles and other sea life," Akaka said. "It is a plus for the hotel to have the turtles in the ponds for our visitors, and it is also a plus for the turtles to have a safe place to live."

The population of green sea turtles is estimated by Rutgers University biology professor David Ehrenfeld to have once been in the tens of millions.

The number has dwindled because of human consumption, pollution and natural predators, and now is down to fewer than 500,000.

The sale of any product from any sea turtle species is prohibited by federal law. Violators face civil penalties of up to six months in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Steve Kaiser, director of facilities development at Sea Life Park, said according to the National Marine Fisheries there are only about 300 nesting green sea turtles left in the Hawaiian Island chain.

Under the program, begun in 1978, the park so far has released 1,300 hatchling turtles.

Kaiser said many of the hatchlings, which are about the



Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka Jr. shows a green sea turtle to children visiting the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows on the Big Island.

size of a silver dollar, do not live long after being released because of natural predators, but the "head start" program at the Mauna Lani allows them to grow to a less vulnerable size.

"We entered into the program with the Mauna Lani with the idea that this is an educational program," Kaiser said. "We are exposing the turtles to more people and letting them know about their endangered status. The added benefit for the turtles is more are allowed to reach a larger size and have a better chance of survival."

"The Kohala Coast off the Mauna Lani is a natural habitat for the turtle, so we are hoping they will remain and live in that area," he said.

Kaiser said since Sea Life Park only has facilities for 15 to 20 turtles, the saltwater ponds at the Mauna Lani may allow more of the species to survive.

Next month, five more turtles will be sent to the hotel from Vancouver, British Columbia, where they have been living for one year, to replenish the stock of turtles at the hotel and to continue with the program.

The Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows is located next to a historic reserve and ancient Hawaiian fishponds.



At Sea Life Park in Waimanalo, Steve Kaiser holds a young green sea turtle being raised at the facility.

—PBN Photo by James Gonser

Experts to study turtle disease

Animal disease experts later this year will discuss a life-threatening disease afflicting green sea turtles that has reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii, according to the Southwest Fisheries Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The working group meeting, to take place at the service's Honolulu Laboratory at a yet unspecified time, is intended to help scientists share information about the disease known as fibropapilloma, and develop a research strategy.

The disease, which causes tumors and eventually leads to the turtles' deaths, baffles scientists since they do not know what causes it, how it is spread and how it will affect the recovery of the Hawaiian green sea turtle.

JUL 5 1990

Turtles get resort hotel head start

By Jim Borg
Advertiser Science Writer

Four green sea turtles raised in captivity yesterday swam into the wild blue sea off the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel on the Big Island.

Independence Day for the youngsters marked the end of a first-of-its-kind program in which the turtles were raised at the hotel rather than at their birth place, Sea Life Park.

"They are offspring of our captive turtles here at Sea Life Park," said Steve Kaiser, the park's curator of fishes. "This is the first time a hotel has participated in a head-start program."

The turtles or honu, a threatened species, are three years old and spent the last 10 months in the hotel's salt-water atrium ponds, eating lettuce and smelt, a type of fish, said Kaiser.

As hatchlings, the turtles have the diameter of a silver jollar — "pupu" proportions — or sharks and other large fish, Kaiser said. The head-start program allows them to grow to a less vulnerable size.

"We lend the turtles to the resort and when they get big enough, when they have a better chance of survival in the wild, we let them go," he said. "More important is the education aspect and the awareness of their endangered status those turtles bring to the guests. It lets people know there are not as



Mauna Lani Resort photo

As onlookers line the beach yesterday, a young green sea turtle contemplates freedom. Many turtles as there used to be and they shouldn't throw plastic into the ocean, for instance.

Turtles, and other marine life, often mistake clear plastic bags for jellyfish and asphyxiate when they try to eat them. Plastic six-pack holders and lost fishing line are other menaces because they can strangle birds and turtles.

Kaiser credited Mauna Lani turtle caretaker Daniel Akaka Jr. with an "excellent

job" of raising the charges, hatched from eggs laid by some of Sea Life Park's 26 resident honu.

The turtles, 20 to 24 inches long, were tagged so that they can be identified later.

All four swam out of sight yesterday, but Kaiser said he hopes they will join the resident turtle population offshore near the hotel.

Since 1978, the park has released 1,300 hatchlings to the wild, Kaiser said. "We farmed them out before, but

usually to other oceanariums and aquariums, never a resort," he said.

As yet no other hotels have expressed interest in the program, which sets specific requirements for turtle nurture.

The Mauna Lani has four other Sea Life Park turtles, three of which will be turned loose when they're old enough. The fourth is being used to study what kind of ID tag works best.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

August 8, 1990 F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Leilani S. Hino
Director of Community Affairs
Mauna Lani Resort
P.O. Box 4959
Kohala Coast, Hawaii 96743-4959

Dear Leilani,

A belated "many thanks" for the complete package of publicity materials you forwarded to me through Steve Kaiser regarding release of the headstarted "independence day" turtles from the Mauna Lani. I appreciated being able to read through this information. As we discussed, the key point here is that headstarting of sea turtles is an experiment that presently lacks proven value as a long-term (or even short-term) management technique for restocking and recovering wild populations. This issue has been debated back and forth by scientists and conservationists for decades, but the conclusion, as I have stated it, remains the same. Given the worthiness of doing such an experiment, it is my opinion that headstarting can do no harm to a wild population of sea turtles provided: 1) it does not draw upon wild stocks (eggs or hatchlings), 2) it does not inadvertently mislead the public into thinking that the action has proven conservation value that can somehow compensate for problems of habitat degradation and intentional or accidental human-induced mortality and 3) there are safeguards to prevent the spread or introduction of disease into the wild.

I hope this clarifies my views on the headstarting issue, so no confusion will exist now or in the future. A recent issue of *Marine Turtle Newsletter* carried a guest editorial on headstarting authored by the National Sea Turtle Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A copy has been enclosed for your consideration. I am sure you will find it of interest.

Sometime in October I will be contacting you to arrange for the release of the graft-marked turtle we have had on loan at the Mauna Lani for several years. I will need to carefully photograph the graft, take standard body measurements, and retag as necessary. We are certainly appreciative of the cooperative assistance provided by the Mauna Lani in caring for this turtle.

Possibly by October, you will have made a decision on releasing the four wild-captured turtles (three of which are tagged) being held in the fishponds. A copy of the tagging and measurement data for those turtles has been enclosed.



Again, I appreciate your fine efforts in keeping me updated on the Mauni Lani Resort's activities with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist and Leader
Marine Turtle Research

Enclosure

cc: Steve Kaiser, Sea Life Park

JUL 5 1990

Turtles get resort hotel head start

By Jim Borg
Advertiser Science Writer

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Press Release

5001 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 800
Honolulu, HI 96814
Telephone 808-949-4131
Fax 808-946-5607

DATE: June 17, 1991

CLIENT: MAUNA LANI RESORT

**CONTACT: DIANA REUTTER
SHEILA DONNELLY & ASSOC.
(808) 949-4131**

or

**LEILANI HINO
MAUNA LANI RESORT
(808) 885-6677**

Sheila Donnelly
& Associates

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES THRIVE AT MAUNA LANI -- Resort Prepares for Second "Turtle Independence Day"

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII -- Mauna Lani Resort's second annual "Turtle Independence Day" will be celebrated July 4 as up to ten juvenile *honu* -- endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles -- leave the sheltered atrium ponds at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel to start life on their own in the wild. Last July 4, four young turtles were released.

On July 3, Sea Life Park's Director of Facilities Development, Steve Kaiser, will be at Mauna Lani Bay to weigh, measure and tag the young turtles to ready them for their July 4 release.

After almost a year at Mauna Lani Bay, the young turtles will traverse the short distance across the hotel's beachfront at 10:00 a.m. on July 4 and began their open ocean life under the watchful eyes of resort staff, guests, and visitors. Children from Camp Mauna Lani Bay and the Mauna Lani School will be decked out in colorful turtle hats and buttons and waving turtle flags to bid a fond aloha to their

- more -

YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES THRIVE AT MAUNA LANI

Page Two

little friends. At the same time, Sea Life Park will be bringing in five new turtles who will make Mauna Lani Bay their home for the next year.

The youngsters are part of an experimental program designed to enable a few of the threatened species -- *Chelonia mydas* -- to enter the sea at adolescence rather than as helpless hatchlings. How they will fare independently when faced with the hazards of the open ocean is uncertain, but the program, developed by Oahu's famed Sea Life Park Hawaii, gives them the advantage of being much larger and thus less likely prey for predators.

By providing a temporary foster home where young sea turtles can get a good head start on life, Mauna Lani is raising public awareness about the hazards faced by these engaging sea creatures, as well as the efforts being made toward preservation and restoration of the species. Besides tiger sharks, one major threat to sea turtles is the pollution and marine debris created by man. And because of their tendency to stay close to the shoreline, sea turtles are sadly at risk from hunters who prize them as a delicacy.

In recognition of its excellent record as a caring foster parent, Mauna Lani Resort will host five more young turtles on July 4. Resort guests and visitors can continue to enjoy watching them in the atrium ponds of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel.

The omnivorous turtles, who share a fondness for smelt and lettuce, will follow their instincts toward the water.

Once released to the ocean, the juvenile *honu* can feed on an unlimited supply of *limu* or seaweed, found in the ocean fronting Mauna Lani Resort. The waters around the resort are inhabited by an existing colony of these delightful denizens.

- more -

YOUNG GREEN SEA TURTLES THRIVE AT MAUNA LANI

Page Three

As mature adults, Hawaii's green turtles migrate up to 800 miles from their feeding areas to nesting beaches in the northwestern Hawaiian islands. Although females often come ashore to nest several times in season, they wait two to three years before nesting again. In fact, only 100 to 350 females nest each year in the Hawaiian Islands.

Sea Life Park's green turtle breeding stock is grandfathered in under the U.S. Endangered Species Act which prohibits the capture of animals from the wild and is therefore exempt. While most of the hatchlings are released by the marine wildlife park within 24 hours of their birth, a small number are retained for the experimental restoration program.

The ungainly hatchlings spend the first part of their lives at the whim of ocean currents which carry them toward deep ocean. The high attrition rate, coupled with the low annual number of nesting females, prompted Sea Life Park Hawaii to develop the program.

This is the first time that Sea Life Park has allowed a resort or hotel to participate in their efforts toward restoration of the wild green sea turtle population. "We're very pleased with the results noted so far in our program with Mauna Lani. The young turtles seem to thrive in the hotel's well-tended ponds and on the attention they receive from their caretakers. With the successful results we've seen so far, Sea Life Park plans to continue their program with Mauna Lani," says Kaiser.

Mauna Lani Resort is committed to providing a most caring and protective environment for the tiny headstart pioneers. The hope is that every visitor to Mauna Lani will reflect upon and give meaning to the drama unfolding beyond its shores, where the young turtles of Mauna Lani are making their way toward a future for generations of *honu* to come.

#

July 5, 1991

To: George Balazs
Gene Nitta

From: Steve Kaiser
Sea Life Park Hawaii

Subject: Turtle release Mauna Lani Bay Hotel

A total of nine turtles were released from Mauna Lani this year. Eight were released on July 4th and the ninth on July 11th. Numbers and lengths are as follows

RELEASED TURTLES

Numbers	Straight Carapace	Curved Carapace
RFL 10638, LFL 10598	32.8	33.8
RFL 9914, LFL 9918	40.2	43.3
RFL 9913, LFL 9917	37.8	40.7 RH $\frac{2}{3}$ chewed off
RFL 10642, LFL 10641	35.7	37.7
RFL C031/11008*, LFL 11009*	36.1	38.4
RFL 9912, LFL 9921/11011*	43.0	46.4
RFL 10373, LFL 10372	32.4	33.8
RFL C032/11017*, LFL 11018*	34.3	36.4
RFL C027/11013*, LFL 11014*	28.5	30.0

TURTLES THAT WERE FROM LAST YEAR AND NOT RELEASED

RFL C030/11015*	22.7	25.5 high domed soft shell
RFL C029/11016*	21.9	23.0
RFL C028/11012*	30.7	31.6 "too skinny"
RFL 10640, LFL 10639	27.3	29.2 "a little skinny"
RFL C033/11010*	25.5	27.0

NEW TURTLES FROM SEA LIFE PARK HAWAII

RFL 11002*	22.2
RFL 11003*	21.4
RFL 11004*	26.7
RFL 11005*	38.2
RFL 1043, LFL 1044	47.9
RFL 11007*	23.9

* indicates a new tag. Currently 12 turtles at Mauna Lani.

Sea Life program hopes to save turtles

Green sea turtles are set free near Mauna Lani resort

By **JAMES GONSER**
Managing Editor

MAKAPUU — About 500 people were on hand July 4 to watch as 12 Hawaii green sea turtles left captivity for the first time and swam away into the open ocean.

Steve Kaiser, director of facilities development at Sea Life Park, hopes the young turtles and others raised by the park will become living ambassadors for their species, educating people not to hunt, kill or buy turtle products so the reptile will not become extinct.

"We are trying to do a similar thing to what has been done in the ivory trade, educate people that if you buy ivory, there won't be a lot of elephants around," Kaiser said. "We want to use the little turtles to educate people. You would be surprised how many people don't know that it is illegal to bring those products into the United States. We want to get rid of the market for turtle products."

This was the third annual release of endangered green sea turtles that so far has placed 26 two-year-old turtles into the waters off the Mauna Lani Resort on the Kohala coast of the Big Island.

Sea Life Park has a breeding herd of pre-endangered species sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the turtle

lagoon at its Makapu'u facility. The turtles, called hono by the Hawaiians, are grandfathered in as exempt from the U.S. Endangered Species Act, which prohibits keeping a threatened species in captivity.

"We are not taking them out of

the wild, they are being produced in captivity and then sent out," Kaiser said. "They are cute and cuddly and have the sweetest little faces. By sending them to aquariums and to the Mauna Lani, we hope to educate people about the protection of their species."

Each summer, hatchlings born at Sea Life Park are released into the wild within 24 hours of hatching, but the attrition rate is very high because the tiny turtles are easy prey for birds and fish as they make their way toward deep water. The

See **TURTLES** on A-6



TURTLE TAG: Steve Kaiser of Sea Life Park (left) and Daniel Akaka Jr. of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel measure and tag a young green sea turtle before releasing it into the ocean.

Sun Press

Education key to turtles' survival

TURTLES from A-1

turtles spend their first year of life floating along with the ocean currents, Kaiser said.

Sea Life Park's experimental program gives some of the hatchlings a better chance at survival. A portion of each season's hatchlings are sent to the Vancouver Aquarium when 2 to 3 months old to be raised for about a year. The turtles are flown back to the park and then on to the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows to be raised and released.

"The turtles we released are about 2 years old and at the age where they would return to the near-shore water as part of their natural cycle," Kaiser said. "We are not trying to confuse them.

"We don't claim to head start the turtles. The program has not really been shown to increase the numbers of turtles in the wild. It may be too early to have had an impact, or we may just not be putting enough out. What we are trying to do with our turtles is an education thing. We want our turtles to get out to as many different oceanariums and aquariums and zoos as possible."

Green sea turtles are primarily vegetarians and can weigh up to 400 pounds. They eat algae or limu that grows underwater on coral reefs and on rocks close to shore. Green turtles prefer to live near "pastures" of limu that are in near-shore waters around the Hawaiian Islands. The area fronting the Mauna Lani is one of the grazing areas for the hono.

Kaiser said the National Marine Fisheries Service gets 20 to 60 reported cases of turtle poaching a year in Hawaii.

"That's too many," Kaiser

said. "Enforcement won't solve the problem; education is the answer."

Kaiser said he recently sent five more turtles to the Mauna Lani and the hotel now has 13 turtles living in its lagoons.

"It is a lot of work for them to feed and check on the turtles," he said. "But they do a really good job. They have an extensive array of ponds with fish and algae in the ponds. They really care about and for the turtles.

"It is not just hotel guests that watch the release, a lot of local

people come down. Hopefully it will make a big imprint on those younger kids and when they grow up they will say 'I'm not going to poach a turtle or kill a turtle.'"

Mauna Lani's turtles check out on holiday

By Jan TenBruggencate

Advertiser Kauai Bureau

A group of young Hawaiian green sea turtles, hatched at Sea Life Park and raised at the Mauna Lani Resort ponds, take to the open sea at the resort on Thursday, Independence Day.

The animals, age 1 to 4 years, range in size up to more than two feet long. The resort project with Sea Life Park aims to get the young turtles to a size large enough to increase their chances in the wild.

It is also an educational program, said Steve Kaiser, Sea Life Park's curator of fish and reptiles.

Hawaiian turtles born at Sea Life Park are in zoos across the nation and in Canada, helping to teach people about the threatened species. When they get too big for their zoo homes, the turtles are shipped back to Hawaii, tagged and released into the ocean.

There's evidence they do well on release since several have been spotted months or years after release, Kaiser said. The only real problem is that the captive-raised animals don't fear humans and can be easy prey for poachers.

Sea Life Park has 10 mature female turtles that lay eggs on its man-made beach. The facility releases most hatchlings from its captive stock within 24 hours of hatching, but retains a few under the program with Mauna Lani.

The program, which began two years ago, now has 17 turtles in the resort's complex of salt-water ponds. Depending on their size and health, between 10 and 12 will be released July 4 in front of the resort at 10 a.m.

The hotel released four turtles last July 4.

"We're very pleased with the results noted so far in our program with Mauna Lani," Kaiser



Young Hawaiian green sea turtles were raised in Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's ponds before they were set free last year.

said. "They do a real good job of raising them."

Sea Life Park implemented its turtle program before passage of a federal act that makes it illegal to kill or harass Hawaiian green sea turtles.

It has been allowed to continue its education, captive propagation and release program. Kaiser said about 1,500 Sea Life Park-hatched turtles have been released into the wild.

7-1-91 THA D3

Mauna Lani celebrates 'Turtle Independence Day'



Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows general manager Charles Park, left, and Steve Kaiser, director of facilities development at Sea Life Park Hawaii. Photo by Bob Fewell

By Chuck Davis

Hawaii's visitor industry and its environmental movement joined forces July 4 when 10 green sea turtles celebrated Independence Day by being reintroduced to the ocean in waters fronting the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows.

The Big Island resort, in cooperation with Sea Life Park Hawaii, reared the turtles to adolescence in its saltwater atrium ponds.

The third annual event brought to 24 the number of turtles released at the Kohala Coast hotel. Each turtle has been tagged for research as part of Sea Life Park's experimental species-restoration program.

"It seems like the Big Island is a good place to get our turtles going," said Steve Kaiser, facilities director at Sea Life Park.

"The National Marine Fisheries Service has captured a couple of the Mauna Lani juveniles we released there, so apparently

they're sticking around," he said.

Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka Jr., Mauna Lani's Hawaiian specialist and historian, and son of the U.S. senator, said the program not only helps the turtles' survival chances but is an attraction for hotel guests and an educational tool for school children.

Sen. Daniel Akaka participated in this year's release, along with Mauna Lani Resort president Max Yuki and general manager Charles Park.

The release program at Mauna Lani is designed to nurture a small number of the young to adolescence so they can be safely released into the ocean. As larger animals, juveniles are less likely prey than hatchlings.

The turtles are 12 to 24 months old when they arrive at Mauna Lani's ponds, and are nurtured for about a year before release. Caring for the turtles costs about \$6,000 per year plus approximately 4,000 man-hours.

SHELL GAME



MAX YUKI, president of Mauna Lani Resort Inc., liberates a green sea turtle. **See story page 7.**

PBN Photo by Chuck Davis

July 6, 1992

To: George Balazs

NMFS

From: Steve Kaiser

SLPH

Subject: Mauna Lani Turtle Release

Twelve turtles were released on July 4th numbers and lengths are listed below.

RFL	LFL	SCL	CCL
10640	10639	35.1	37.3
11028	11470	40.3	43.4
11031/C051	11469	40.1	42.8
11002	11025	34.6	36.6 ← 10/8/92 Kenmanui
11029	11024	40.6	43.8
11026	10999	38.9	41.5
11012 - C028	10998 -	38.2	39.9 → Reported excessive buoyant by D.A. 6/15/92
11005	10997	41.3	43.5
11030	10996	42.2	45.3
11027	10995	42.2	45.8
11010	10994	35.9	37.4
11021	11023	35.7	37.4

The eight remaining turtles at Mauna Lani are as follows:

11003	33.7	35.1
11010	35.5	37.0
11022	34.6	36.4
11006	33.4	35.3
11004	33.8	35.6
11020	32.1	38.2
11007	34.7	36.6
11016/C029	27.9	28.7

I'll be sending six more turtles up this week and I will send tags and measurements as soon as I know.

Aloha

Steve

cc: Gene Nitta



MAUNA LANI RESORT

On the Kohala Coast/Big Island of Hawaii

July 10, 1992

Mr. George Balazs
NMFS
2570 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear George:

RE: TURTLE RELEASE - JULY 4, 1992
TURTLE RECEIPT - July 9, 1992

For your information and records, twelve of Sea Life Park Hawaii's juvenile *Chelonia mydas* were released from the shoreline fronting the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows (Kohala Coast, Big Island) on Saturday, July 4, 1992. "Turtle Independence Day" was attended by more than 500 visitors and residents. As you probably know, education and raising public awareness about sea turtles are a primary objective of the cooperative program.

Listed below are the tag numbers of the twelve turtles released this year.

Right Flipper

CO28/11012
10640
11002
11005
11026
11027
11028
11029
11030
CO51/11031
11019
11021

Left Flipper

10998 — *Reported excessive buoyant 6/15/92*
10639
11025 — *Recap 10/8/92 off KEMANUI*
10997
10999
10995
11470
11024
10996
11469
10994
11023



Recycled Paper

Five animals were received at Mauna Lani from Sea Life Park July 9, 1992.
Each tagged right flipper only as follows:

- 11471
- 11472
- 11473
- 11474
- 11475

According to our records, confirmed by a physical inventory taken July 9, 1992 after this year's release, we have thirteen animals. The five numbers noted above plus:

- C029/11016
- C033/11010
- 11004
- 11007
- 11006
- 11003
- 11020
- 11022


Was very exciting to hear from Steve that you recently captured one of SLP's hatchlings from a couple of years ago. I think he said it was down at Kiholo Bay on one of your HPA expeditions.

One of these years I'm going to get unbusy enough to go out on another field trip with you. I really enjoyed the one I went on at Puako.

Thought you might like the enclosed signed, limited edition commemorative poster for this year's Turtle Independence Day. The artist, Craig Higaki, used to work for the MLBayHotel in the Beach & Pool Dept. He recently resigned to concentrate fulltime on his art. The honu is the first of a series on threatened/endangered species he's working on.

When are you coming out this way again? Seems like a long time since I've seen you. Hope you're doing wonderful, exciting things.

Warmest Aloha,



Leilani S. Hino
Mauna Lani Resort



PETER FRENCH

Above: Hawaiian traditions are perpetuated at the Royal Waikoloan Hotel.

Facing page: A field of ancient Hawaiian rock carvings, with stylized stick figures, is an impressive sight at Puakō Petroglyph Archaeological Park on the grounds of the Mauna Lani Resort.

1993

On the North Kona-Kohala Coast of the Big Island, the resorts are renowned for extraordinary cuisine and accommodations, friendly and gracious staff, revitalizing sunshine and surf.

But increasingly, visitors are discovering something else. This "something else" could be the appreciation of a petroglyph, an ancient Hawaiian rock carving. Or perhaps the rudimentary steps of the hula or the strumming of the 'ukulele. Maybe it's the dexterity to fashion a lei or weave a hat using native materials. Or it could be gaining an understanding of the medicinal values of indigenous plants and trees.

It's called *mea hana Hawai'i*, or "things Hawaiian." And despite a reputation for glitter and luxury that has resulted in the area being called the "Gold Coast," the resorts here offer numerous opportunities for both guests and other visitors to explore Hawaiian history, culture and arts.

Along the Gold Coast in Kohala are the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, Ritz-Carlton, Hyatt Regency Waikoloa, Royal Waikoloan and, in neighboring North Kona, the Kona Village Resort. They have a total of 3,100 rooms between them. Each has a distinct personality, rang-

ing from the re-created Polynesian village motif of Kona Village, to the quiet sophistication of the Ritz-Carlton, Mauna Lani to the flamboyant opulence of the Hyatt.

While the resorts are different, many have historic sites and they all have special individuals who pass on their *mana'o* (thoughts) and *'ike* (knowledge and understanding) of some aspect of the roots of the Hawaiian cultural heritage that underlies modern-day Hawai'i. Some are individuals with surnames like Crowe, Kwiatkowski and Yamamoto, but they are of Hawaiian blood.

At these resorts, guests and visitors have a real interest in gaining a better idea of the "Hawaiinness" of the place. A 1991 visitor satisfaction study by the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau, for example, confirms that tourists list culture, history and heritage as among their primary reasons for coming to the Big Island.

To the first-time visitor, it can appear that the Gold Coast resorts have been plunked down on large expanses of barren lava close to the shore. But there is much more than meets the eye: This whole coast was once home to Hawaiian villages and settlements, connected by ancient shoreline and inland trails, significant portions of which have been preserved. Here the Hawaiians fished, created tools and artifacts, lived in cave shelters or grass huts, conducted aquaculture, and carried on a highly evolved Polynesian lifestyle.

One of the best places to gain an understanding of that life is, perhaps ironically, at the luxurious Mauna Lani Resort. Mauna Lani offers a wealth of Hawaiian culture and history, thanks primarily to the resort's developers who made a commitment to preserve important features of the area, which is called Kalāhuipua'a.

"In a short time, a person can get a view not only of the history of this area, but also of the Hawaiian culture as a

Islanders share
Hawaiian history,
culture and arts with
visitors at the
Big Island's
premier resorts

Resorts and ROOTS

whole," says Kaniela Akaka, the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's resident Hawaiian historian. Kaniela is "Daniel" in Hawaiian, and Akaka, 39, is the son of U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka. Originally from Honolulu, Kaniela is one of the first graduates of the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa's Hawaiian studies program.

It is Kaniela Akaka who has done much of the historical research on the area since coming here in the mid-1970s. His main focus is the historic preserve area of the resort, which encompasses fishponds, shelter caves, petroglyphs and trails. The fishponds are of particular interest because Hawaiians were the only Polynesians to develop aquaculture in this sophisticated manner. The half-dozen ponds on 15 acres here are among the best examples of functioning fishponds in the state and are on the National Register of Historic Places.

In ancient times, fishponds were controlled by the *ali'i*, the royalty and chiefs, and the fish were generally reserved for their consumption. Today, the fish in these ponds are mullet and other varieties enjoyed by the Hawaiians of old.

Ancient fishponds have also been preserved and restored at Waikoloa Beach Resort.

At Mauna Lani, a trail, which starts from a park with nearby public parking, meanders to the fishponds through an archaeological preserve. Here you can see an "underground



By
John Kitchen



PAT FITZER

HAWAIIANA FOR THE PUBLIC

Here are some of the activities offered by the North Kona-Kohala Coast hotels. Visitors should call to confirm times or make reservations.

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel (885-6622):

- ✕ Historical tours Tuesday and Saturday 9-10 a.m.; Thursday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 - ✕ Hawaiian historian Kaniela Akaka at Eva Parker Woods Cottage, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 2-4:30 p.m.; Thursday 9-10 a.m.
 - ✕ Fish feeding tours, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
 - ✕ Self-guiding walk (1.5 miles) through historical preserve, fishponds, etc., open every day.
 - ✕ Self-guiding walk (1.4 miles) through Puakō Petroglyph Archaeological Park, open daily.

Ritz-Carlton, Mauna Lani (885-2000):

- ✕ Weekly Aloha Friday events include hula, 10-11:30 a.m.; arts, crafts, music, noon-2 p.m.; canoe carving, 2-4 p.m.

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel (882-7222):

- ✕ Lū'au, including food, hula, chants, Tuesdays 6 p.m. (\$50 adults, \$30 children ages 5-12, under 5 free).
- ✕ Petroglyph and historical presentations by Ski Kwiatkowski; call hotel.

Hyatt Regency Waikoloa (885-1234):

- ✕ *Lau hala* hat and other weaving and crafts, Hawaiian language, Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ocean Tower with Auntie Elizabeth Lee.

Royal Waikoloan Hotel (885-6789):

- ✕ Historical grounds tours by Armstrong Yamamoto, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.
- ✕ Lei-making, Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings; hula and Hawaiian language, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday mornings; arts and crafts, tours of grounds, including medicinal plants, etc., daily.
- ✕ Lū'au, including food, music/hula show, Wednesday and Sunday, 6 p.m. (\$40 adults, \$20 children ages 5-11).
- ✕ Self-guiding walk through petroglyph fields, fishponds and other areas on the grounds, open every day.

Kona Village Resort (325-5555):

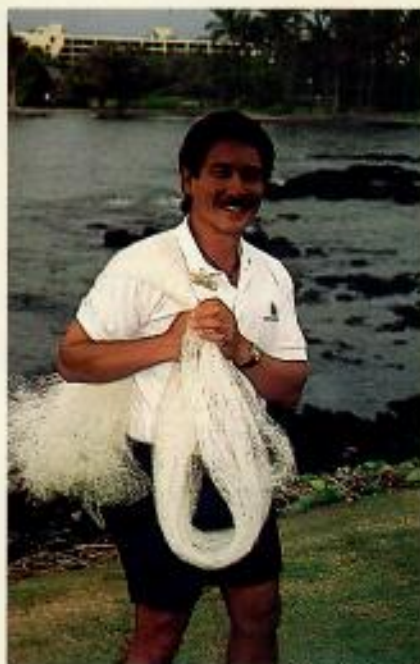
- ✕ Resort walking tour, 11 a.m. daily.
- ✕ Historical tour, Tuesdays and Saturdays; call for time.
- ✕ Lū'au including 5:30 p.m. tour, 6:30 *imu* ceremony, followed by buffet, music/hula show, Fridays (\$60 adults, \$32 children ages 6-12, \$18 for ages 2-5).

city" or shelter cave complex used in ancient times by Hawaiians for living, working, storage, burials, worship, and refuge during times of war. You can take self-guided tours of the historical park, the nearby ancient shoreline trail, and a trail leading to a major petroglyph field.

Three times a week, guests and the public can join Akaka for a one-hour historical walk around the area, which also

takes in a canoe landing that reputedly belonged to King Kamehameha I, the Kohala-born ruler who unified the Islands into a single kingdom. In addition to the historical walks, Akaka also instructs both guests and residents in Hawaiian games, playing the 'ukulele, the Hawaiian language (he speaks it at home), and the art of "throwing net" to catch fish.

Akaka describes the resort's captive breeding program for baby sea turtles. In this program, endangered baby green sea turtles are given a head start in hotel ponds before being released into the ocean in an effort



JOHN KITCHEN

to help increase the declining population of the species.

The articulate and affable Akaka is also an accomplished musician. A singer and guitarist, he has performed several times in Japan, entertains regularly at the Kona Village Resort's lū'au and often joins Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's guest services director Pinkie Crowe in singing at guest weddings.

Crowe is the hotel's wedding consultant and state marriage licensing agent for the Kohala Coast. Weddings are but one facet of the multitalented Crowe's contributions to the resort. With Akaka, she conducts historical walks and resort tours, and helps pass along the heritage to thousands of schoolchildren from around Hawai'i who annually visit Mauna Lani to learn about the historical sites.

Crowe teaches visitors Hawaiian arts, music and dance, bringing in local people who share in their particular skills, including Hawaiian quilting, *lau hala* (pandanus leaf) weaving, lei-making, and hula. She also arranges special events for Hawaiian holidays such as Lei Day, Kamehameha Day and Aloha Week.



PAT FITZGER

The Hawaiian arts and crafts programs are popular with visitors. Crowe, who grew up on O'ahu, says, "We want them to go home with something—they're jazzed because they made it." Adds Akaka, "Often the things they take back with them turn out to be the highlight of their trip."

The neighboring Ritz-Carlton, Mauna Lani, which opened in late 1990, two years ago formed a unique employee-management group called the Hawai'i Committee to create ways of sharing Hawaiiana with guests and the public.

One of the group's first projects was to construct a canoe *hālau* or longhouse in the traditional Hawaiian method, with thatched roof, all natural materials and no nails. Led by a Hawaiian resident of Kohala, Arthur Kepo'o, an expert in traditional *hālau* construction, the six-month all volunteer effort was also a way to involve employees in the cultural education process. Since then, the hotel has become a focus for Lei Day and Aloha Week activities and cultural lectures and has a regular "Aloha Friday" lineup of activities.

These include hula instruction and arts and crafts instruction. As at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, outside specialists are invited in to share their skills. At the canoe *hālau*, Kawaihae resident and paddling coach Manny Veincent is carving a Hawaiian canoe. Kaneula Kaneao teaches hula, and senior citizens from the Waimea-Kohala area teach arts and crafts—Hawaiian quilting, *lau hala* weaving and music.

"We go out to the sources," says Hawai'i Committee co-chairperson Violet Terawaki, the hotel's executive adminis-



JOHN KITCHEN

trative assistant. "We feel blessed to have them. They help us perpetuate the culture for both guests and employees alike."

Two other Gold Coast resorts also make use of outside experts who share their special knowledge of Hawai'i. One of these is P.F. "Ski" Kwiatkowski, who informally "talks story" with guests at the venerable Mauna Kea Beach Hotel about a variety of Hawaiian subjects.

His primary area of expertise is petroglyphs, which are pictorial carvings of images on rocks, made by Hawaiians in ancient times. Kwiatkowski is the author of a book on Hawaiian petroglyphs, *Nā Ki'i Pōhaku* (The Stone Images). He has researched the subject for 25 years and conducts small group tours to nearby petroglyph fields.

The Puakō Petroglyph Archaeological Park, on the grounds of the Mauna Lani Resort, has one of the largest concentrations of petroglyphs in Hawai'i. Another important petroglyph field is at 'Anaeho'omalū, on the grounds of the Waikoloa Beach Resort. Both fields are accessible by short hikes for self-guided tours.



JOHN KITCHEN

Facing page, above: Kaniela Akaka, pictured with his throw net, is Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's resident Hawaiian historian.

Facing page, below: At Kona Village Resort's authentic *lū'au*, the pig is unearthed from the *imu* the traditional way, removing the hot rocks with bare hands.

Above: Sharing Hawaiian culture and history with visitors at the Kona Village Resort are (l-r) Lani Oponui Ancheta, Josey Ku'ulpo Morales, Eleanor Kell'inalonanoo Makida and Leina'ala Koakoalani Lightner.

Left: At the Royal Waikoloa Hotel, Armstrong Limaikaika Yamamoto shares his knowledge of Hawaiian plants, and Mabel Kaleimaele Tolentino gives tours and teaches hula, lei-making and the Hawaiian language.

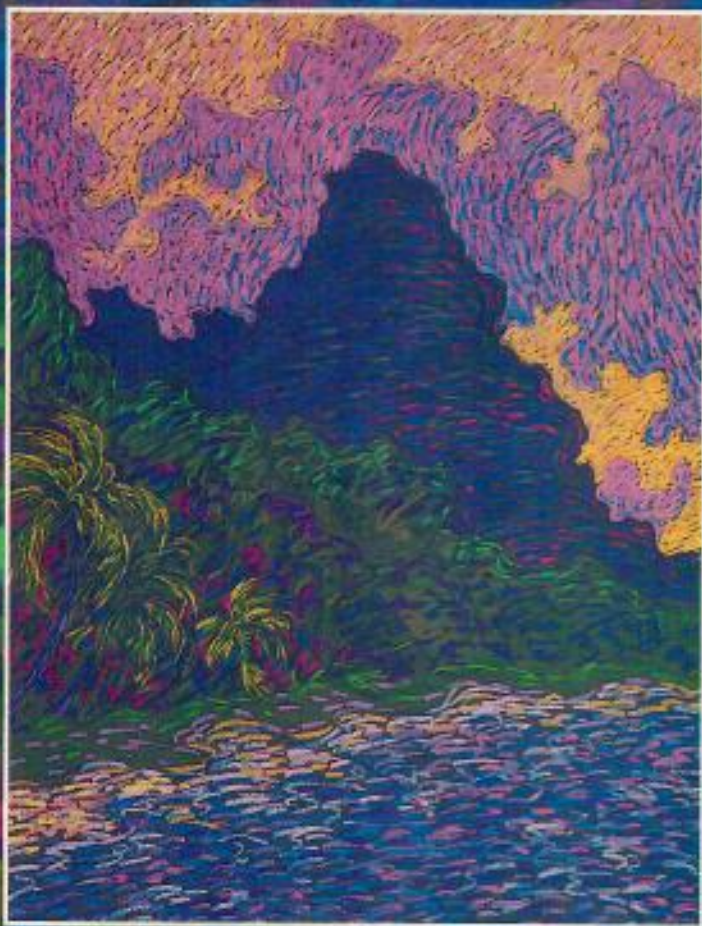
While petroglyphs have been neglected in the past, says Kwiatkowski, "Now they are gaining the status and importance and respect they deserve. The more people know about them, the more they know about the culture."

A second but equally important cultural focus for Kwiatkowski is participating in the construction of a 40-foot double-hulled Polynesian voyaging canoe made of *koa* wood. "The canoe is a centerpiece of cultural pride," he says.

Although he takes his surname from his Polish father, Hawaiian cultural pride is very important to part-Hawaiian Kwiatkowski, who was born in Honolulu. Much of what he has learned, including his facility in the Hawaiian language, was passed down to him from the elders or *kāpuna* as they are called in Hawaiian.

This oral tradition is how knowledge was historically handed down in the Hawaiian culture, and to a great extent it continues like this today. "They passed it on to me, and I hope to pass it on," adds Kwiatkowski, who regularly gives presentations on history to the public and to the schools.

Another who learned this way and shares it is Elizabeth Lee of the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa. Affectionately called "Aunty Elizabeth," Lee has been an integral part of the Hyatt's cultural education program for guests since it opened in 1988. The program has included diverse activities, but much of its focus now is on Aunty Elizabeth Lee and her renowned ability with *lau hala* (pandanus leaf) weaving, especially hats. Four days a week, for as many as six hours a day, you can find her at the megaresort's Ocean Tower instructing in the art of *lau hala*, making her trademark hats.



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PAT PITZER

An ancient shoreline trail winds past historic sites at the Mauna Lani Resort.

So popular are her hats, or *pāpale lau hala*, that guests have given them homes in countries around the world.

One of 14 children, she grew up in Kona with Hawaiian as her first language. She shares the language with guests, and she travels widely in the Islands and even to foreign countries demonstrating her weaving artistry. "It's important that we open our culture up to the world," she says.

That's exactly what two members of the staff of the neighboring Royal Waikoloan Hotel do nearly every day of the year. They are "Uncle Armstrong" Yamamoto and "Aunty Mabel" Tolentino. The gregarious pair are both well-known for their cultural contributions to guests as well as to local residents and schoolchildren who frequent the popular hotel.

The Japanese surname (his father was from Tokyo) belies the Hawaiian heritage of Kohala-born Yamamoto. His Hawaiian name, Limaikaika, means "strong arm." His particular area of knowledge involves the many uses, particularly the medicinal uses, of endemic trees and plants. These include varieties like *kukui* (candlenut), banana, *hala* (pandanus), *hau* (a tree of the hibiscus family), *hapu'u* (tree fern), coconut palms, *ti*, *noni* (Indian mulberry) and *laukahi* (plantain).

Yamamoto, who is the hotel's head groundskeeper, has introduced many of these species to the property. He gives tours, which on more than one occasion have been made up of professors or physicians interested in learning about the ancient Hawaiian ways of natural healing. Many Island schoolchildren have learned from his tours as well.

On the tours Yamamoto also demonstrates artful weavings for a head lei using the *hapu'u* fern or how to fashion a hula skirt or sandals from the *ti* leaf. Because of his extensive knowledge of things Hawaiian and his belief in shar-

Continued on page 62

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Resorts and Roots

Continued from page 12

ing it, Yamamoto is widely known and is among a handful of people in the Islands to be given the honored designation of "Living Hawaiian Treasure."

Mabel Kaleimaoele Tolentino, a longtime resident of Wai-mea, is a familiar face at the Royal Waikoloan activities desk. She gives tours, teaches hula, lei-making and the Hawaiian language, works with the lū'aus and shows, and also oversees the hotel's Cabana Club.

A woman with a warm and welcoming nature, Tolentino, who is half-Hawaiian, half-Italian, says, "Whatever we do, we do it from the heart. It all comes from within." Yamamoto adds, "Our idea of aloha is to pass on something to somebody that they can remember."

That sentiment is also embodied by the staff of the social activities department at the Kona Village Resort. They are under the direction of Leina'ala Keakealani Lightner, who was born at the Kona Village site before it became

a resort in the mid-1960s.

Because of her early connection with the area, known as Ka'upūlehu, Lightner and her staff believe it is important that guests get a feeling or understanding about the area and the Hawaiian settlement it was formerly. "We talk story



The Eva Parker Woods Cottage at the Mauna Lani Resort houses historical displays.

with the guests," says "Aunty Eleanor" Keli'inalonaoe Makida, a Big Island native who has been at the resort since 1972. "We tell them they really have to walk the area, feel what the area was."

Historical and resort walking tours are of interest to guests and outside

visitors. Resort guests—children and adults—also participate in *lau hala* weaving, lei-making, hula, poi-pound-ing, fishing, and a host of other arts, crafts and Hawaiian activities. Lightner and Makida are assisted by Lani Oponui Ancheta and Josey Ku'uipo Morales, who are originally from the Windward Side of O'ahu.

One of the favorite attractions for both resort guests and outside visitors is the resort's weekly Friday evening lū'au, including the ceremonial removal of the pig from the underground oven or *imu*. The cooking of the pig and its unearthing are done in the traditional Hawaiian manner. Many other Island foods are featured at the event, generally considered to be one of the most authentic lū'aus in Hawai'i.

"Things Hawaiian" are an integral part of the experience at Kona Village Resort, where many of the guests are annual visitors. "Yes, they learn a lot from us," says Aunty Eleanor Makida, "and we share a lot and learn from each other. People are the way the knowledge is passed on."

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July 10, 1992

To: George Balazs

NMFS

From: Steve Kaiser

SLPH

On July 8th I sent five turtles to Mauna Lani Hotel. Tag numbers and lengths are listed below.

RFL	SCL
11471	23.5
11472	19.8
11473	18.8
11474	44.4
11475	18.0

CC Gene Nitta



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

August 8, 1990

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Leilani S. Hino
Director of Community Affairs
Mauna Lani Resort
P.O. Box 4959
Kohala Coast, Hawaii 96743-4959

Dear Leilani,

A belated "many thanks" for the complete package of publicity materials you forwarded to me through Steve Kaiser regarding release of the headstarted "independence day" turtles from the Mauna Lani. I appreciated being able to read through this information. As we discussed, the key point here is that headstarting of sea turtles is an experiment that presently lacks proven value as a long-term (or even short-term) management technique for restocking and recovering wild populations. This issue has been debated back and forth by scientists and conservationists for decades, but the conclusion, as I have stated it, remains the same. Given the worthiness of doing such an experiment, it is my opinion that headstarting can do no harm to a wild population of sea turtles provided: 1) it does not draw upon wild stocks (eggs or hatchlings), 2) it does not inadvertently mislead the public into thinking that the action has proven conservation value that can somehow compensate for problems of habitat degradation and intentional or accidental human-induced mortality and 3) there are safeguards to prevent the spread or introduction of disease into the wild.

I hope this clarifies my views on the headstarting issue, so no confusion will exist now or in the future. A recent issue of *Marine Turtle Newsletter* carried a guest editorial on headstarting authored by the National Sea Turtle Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A copy has been enclosed for your consideration. I am sure you will find it of interest.

Sometime in October I will be contacting you to arrange for the release of the graft-marked turtle we have had on loan at the Mauna Lani for several years. I will need to carefully photograph the graft, take standard body measurements, and retag as necessary. We are certainly appreciative of the cooperative assistance provided by the Mauna Lani in caring for this turtle.

Possibly by October, you will have made a decision on releasing the four wild-captured turtles (three of which are tagged) being held in the fishponds. A copy of the tagging and measurement data for those turtles has been enclosed.

Leilani
note
also →



Again, I appreciate your fine efforts in keeping me updated on the Mauni Lani Resort's activities with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist and Leader
Marine Turtle Research

Enclosure

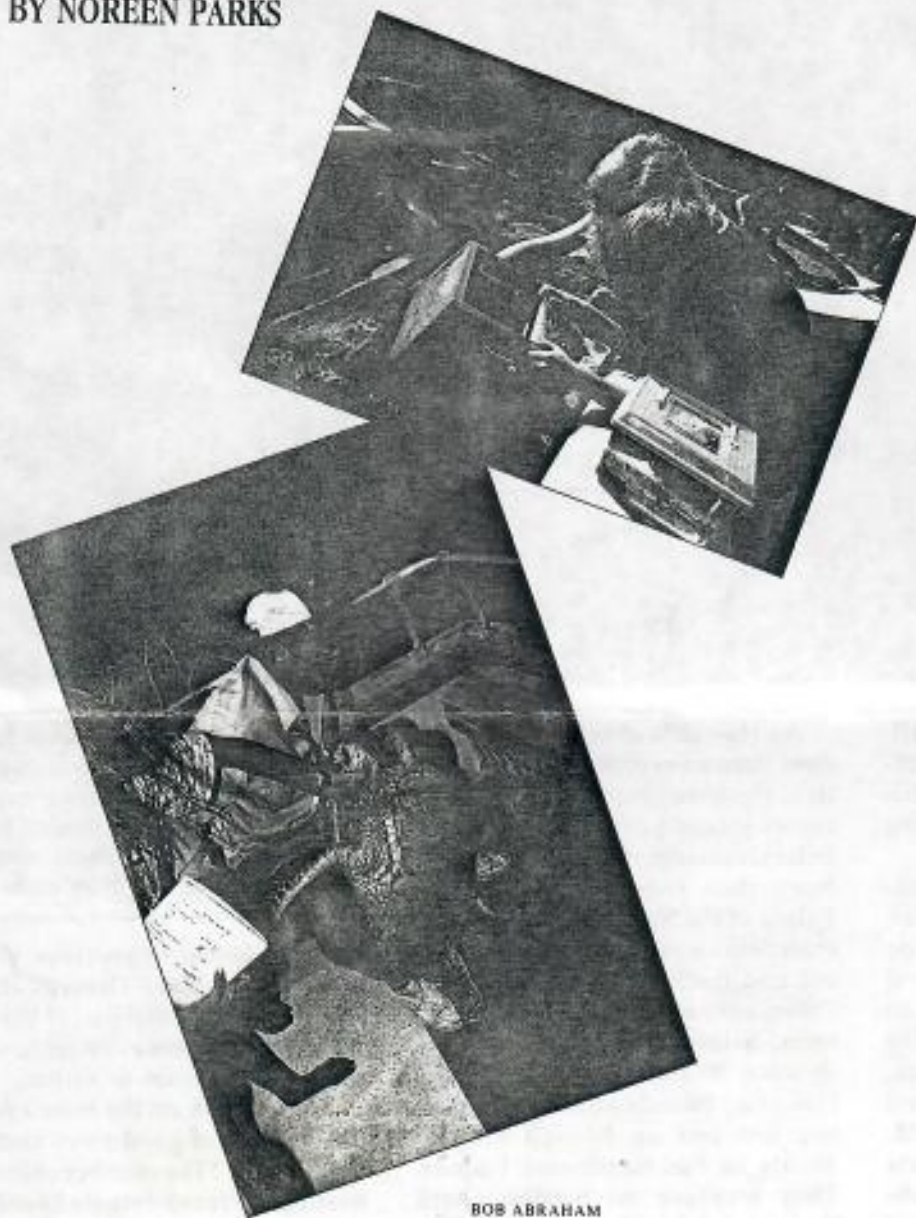
cc: Steve Kaiser, Sea Life Park

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Researchers
are finding
new ways to
protect
Hawaii's
denizens of
the deep.
Now you
can help

BY NOREEN PARKS



BOB ABRAHAM



Every Fourth of July, as fireworks light Hawaii's skies, a different kind of celebration happens at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows on the Big Island. A dozen or so young *honu* (green sea turtles) reared in nearby ponds are ushered to the edge of the sea and released during an event called Turtle Independence Day. It's done in the spirit of *malama kai*—caring for the sea and the life it holds.

The islands of Hawaii are surrounded by waters rich in marine life. Nearly two dozen kinds of whales and dolphins, about 700 types of fishes, four varieties of turtles and the shy monk seal swim in Hawaiian waters, while a vivid cast of thousands of species—from



Christmas tree worms to cauliflower corals—populates the seafloor. Opportunities to enjoy this marine wealth abound, delighting residents and visitors alike.

But even in the waters of paradise, the challenges of survival can be daunting. Fortunately, there's no shortage of folks concerned about the well-being of Hawaii's ocean environment. From Hanauma Bay to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, researchers are learning more and more about the underwater world. What's more, many of their projects are accessible to the public, for observation or even for participation on a hands-on basis. Following is a sampling of marine conservation programs across the state.

As Hawaii's oldest marine resident from an evolutionary perspective, the *honu* (green sea turtle) receives special protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. For more than two decades, George Balasz of the National Marine Fisheries Service and his staff have studied and tracked the green turtles. Often assisted by trained volunteers, Balasz's team captures *honu* at some 20 sites around the main Hawaiian Islands and at their nesting beaches on French Frigate Shoals in the Northwest Islands. They measure the turtles, check their overall health, and attach flipper tags marked with the capture location to aid in tracking their movements in island waters.

Hands-on marine life programs include Turtle Independence Day at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows (above) and outdoor classroom experiences at Sea Life Park (opposite, top). Off Waikiki, researcher George Balasz monitors a *honu* aboard Atlantis' Reef Divers' charter boat.

Balasz's group often rides aboard the Atlantis Reef Divers' charter boat to monitor turtles off Waikiki, giving passengers a chance to watch the scientific team in action.

The outlook on the *honu*'s future is a mixture of good news and bad, Balasz says: "The number of females nesting at French Frigate Shoals has gradually increased to about 1,300. But many of the immature animals are afflicted with a debilitating tumor disease." If researchers don't

LARRY KATAHIRA / HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK



pin down the cause, finding a way to help the population could crash.

Since 1976, turtle specialists at Sea Life Park on Oahu have tagged and released about 2,000 juvenile *honu* into island waters, hatched from eggs laid at the man-made beach on the Park's turtle lagoon. Besides sending hatchlings to the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows for rearing and eventual release, Sea Life Park also loans out turtle "ambassadors" for limited periods to aquaria on the mainland. Last year Balasz tested out a special transmitter on Park turtles, for use in a satellite tracking program that could unravel the mysteries of their migrations around the Islands.

Researchers have only begun to learn about the habits of another Hawaiian turtle, the endangered hawksbill. Larry Katahira of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has worked with volunteers since 1989 to locate hawksbill nesting sites on a half-dozen southern Big Island beaches. The hawksbill has also been sighted at Kihei, Maui, and Halawa Valley on Molokai, but only 18 mature

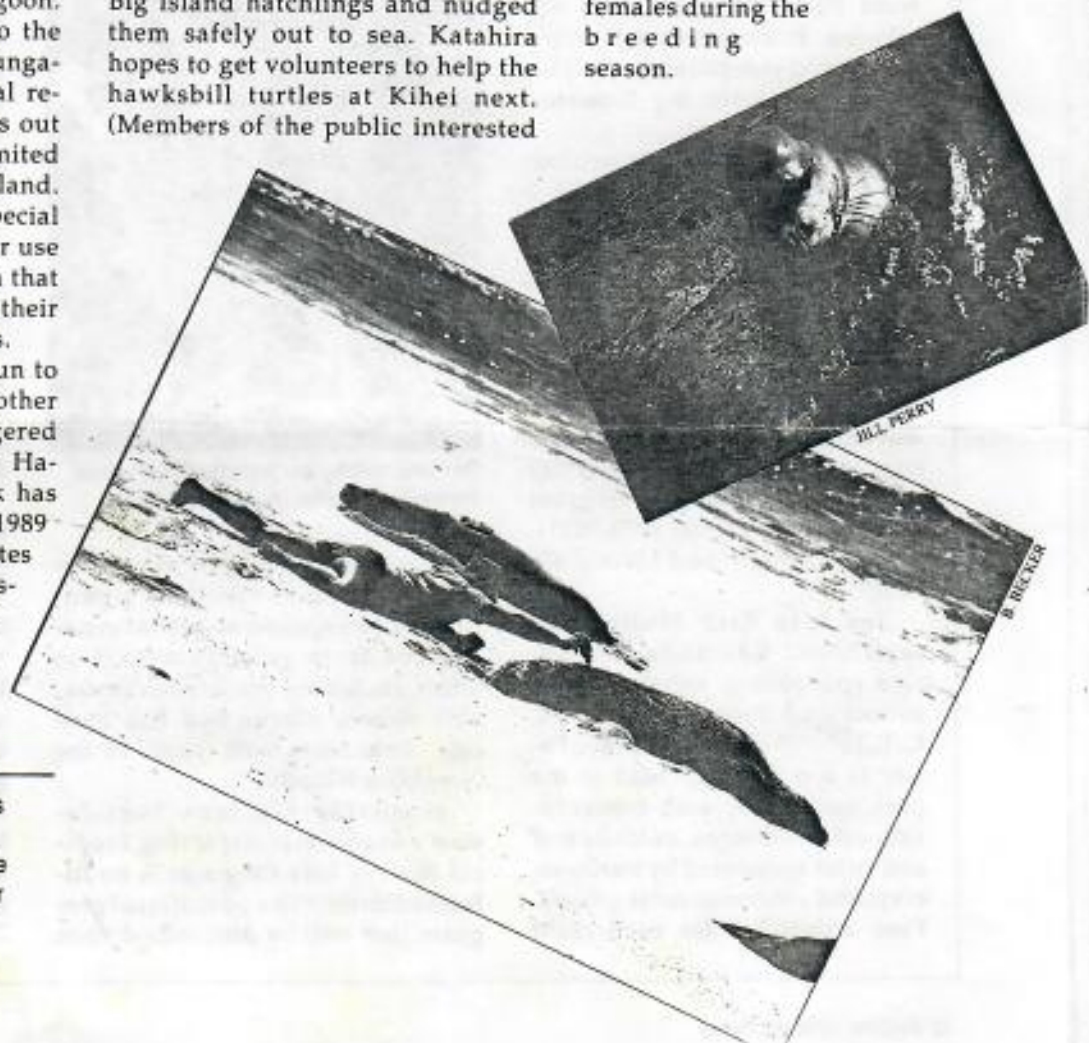
females have been tagged statewide to date—all of which paints a very dim population picture. The hawksbill's handsome shell has long been coveted for jewelry items and, despite international protection laws, the turtle's numbers have plummeted throughout the tropical Pacific.

In an effort to boost the Hawaiian hawksbill population, volunteer groups protect nests from mongooses and other predators during the June-to-December nesting season. They also rescue newly hatched turtles from a variety of hazards. "Hatchlings are attracted to light, so the most difficult thing is to protect nests where roads run along the beaches," Katahira says. Last year a record number of good Samaritans rescued more than 1,600 Big Island hatchlings and nudged them safely out to sea. Katahira hopes to get volunteers to help the hawksbill turtles at Kihei next. (Members of the public interested

in participating in hawksbill monitoring on the Big Island can reach Katahira at 967-8226.)

Rescue is also a key ingredient in the strategy to aid the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Less than 1,500 monk seals remain today, their numbers scattered around a half dozen atolls of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Their steady decline—due partly to a high sensitivity to human disturbance, especially by females rearing pups—has increased recently as food supplies diminish in some areas. Young pups, unskilled at catching meals, are most vulnerable to starvation, so each year the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the monk seal research center at Sea Life Park have taken in a small number of orphaned or weakened pups. The chocolate brown, liquid-eyed pups are fattened up until they're strong and savvy enough to be returned to their natal waters.

Hawaii residents and visitors may soon see monk seals in Neighbor Island waters. An imbalance in the number of male seals has led to mobbing of females during the breeding season.



DILL PERRY

B. RICKNER

Making like a monk seal, a researcher gets up-close and personal in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. Inset: A seal pup at the NMFS facility in Honolulu. Top: Ron Kozar and Walt Stolbie handle a hawksbill at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Often, seriously injured females fall prey to sharks. To protect the shrinking number of females, the NMFS monk seal recovery team is considering relocating some of the more aggressive males from their breeding waters in the northwest to the southeast end of the island chain.

One of Hawaii's most majestic visitors—and a singing one at that—is the featured star of the recently designated Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary. Unique among the 13 national marine sanctuaries for its focus on a single species, the humpback sanctuary will coordinate protection, education and research on the whales in their winter breeding and calving waters around Hawaii. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sanctuar-

ies and Reserves Division and the State of Hawaii have joined together to draw up a management plan with the help of citizens and local government. "We've had lots of public input to expand the boundaries to encompass all the major islands out to a depth of 100 fathoms," says Janice Sessing, NOAA project specialist. "People sometimes think that a sanctuary means restrictions and exclusion from an area. But really this is a tremendous opportunity to acknowledge the international significance of Hawaiian waters to the humpback, and to improve our understanding of the whales' habits." NOAA is planning a visitor center on Maui and interpretive signs in coastal locations bordering the sanctuary. The agency will be inviting public comment on the draft environmental

impact statement later this summer.

The mighty tiger shark—revered in Hawaiian culture, feared in recreational waters—may well be Hawaii's least understood denizen of the deep. A project led by Kim Holland of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology aims to learn more about tiger shark movements in island waters. If tiger sharks have a home range—that is, stay predominantly in one area—then fishing them could be effective in curbing shark attacks. But if they wander from area to area, such control programs make little sense. Furthermore, as top predators, tigers keep smaller, gamefish-eating sharks in check. So removing tiger sharks allows more medium-sized sharks to survive and indirectly reduces the populations of gamefish.

So far, Holland's team has caught

Get Your Feet Wet! Ocean Education Around the Islands

Atlantis Submarines' Na Hoa O Ke Kai ("Friends of the Sea") Keiki Day: July 16 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Kakaako Waterfront Park, Honolulu. Free admission. Exhibits, arts and crafts, games and entertainment, all focused on protecting Hawaii's ocean environment.

Atlantis Living Classroom: For kids of all ages (must be 3 feet tall). Begins with a school classroom presentation by an Atlantis educator, followed by a visit to the depths in an Atlantis submarine. Reduced trip rates, scholarships available. The international company recently welcomed its three millionth Living Classroom student on a cruise off Waikiki Beach. The program is offered at Waikiki (973-9811), Kona (329-6626) and Maui (667-2224).

Sea Life Park Marine Research and Education Foundation sponsors a variety of education and research activities. Call 259-7933. Conservation Today is a public fair held at the park each June, with conservation-related booths, exhibits and activities sponsored by business, civic and environmental groups. Free admission for each child



On Oahu, walking tour participants learn about the fragile ecosystem inside Hanuma Bay.

who brings in a bag of aluminum cans. SeaReach is a program of educational presentations geared to audiences from primary school to adult, including topics such as marine debris, sharks and fish biology. Presenters will travel to the Neighbor Islands.

Moanalua Gardens Foundation's Sea Search: Exploring Tropical Marine Life Program: A multifaceted, interactive educational program that will be distributed soon

to every school and public library in Hawaii. It includes a CD-ROM multi-media resource for use by grade five to adults, utilizing slides, video, sound and text to illustrate many topics; a computerized database of tropical Pacific marine organisms; and interactive student exercises that focus on solving marine conservation problems.

Malama Kai Foundation's "Hawaii Island: On Loan From Our Children." Made with financial support from the Pikake Fund, this video production focuses on the sustainable use of the Big Island's coastal resources. Soon available at schools and libraries around the Big Island.

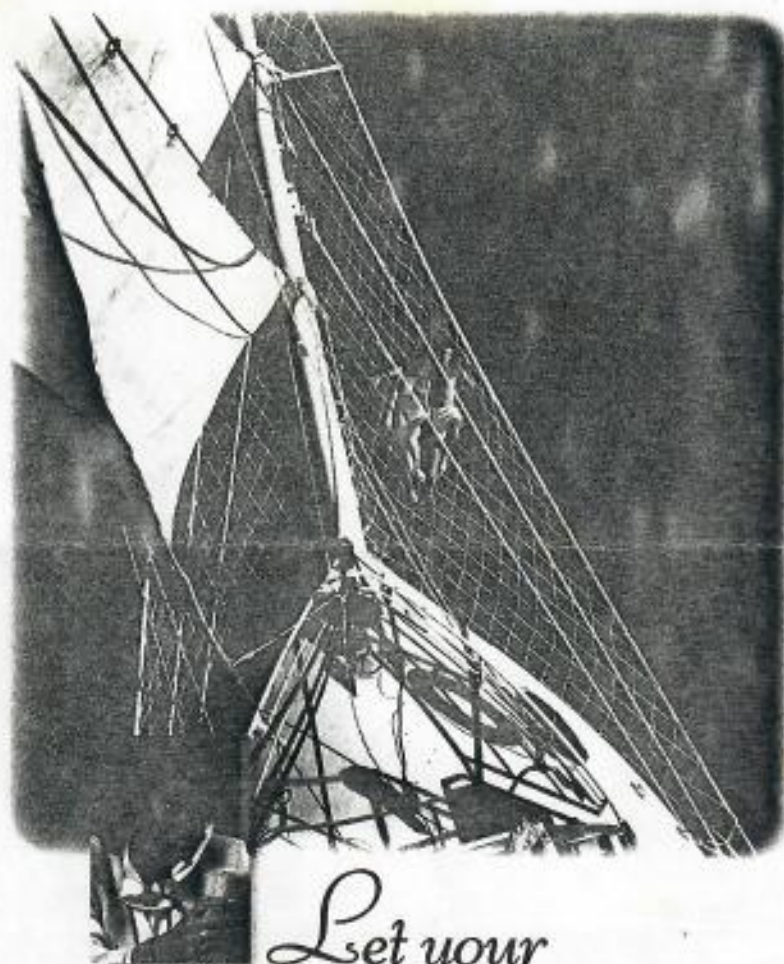
Hanauma Bay Educational Program: One of Hawaii's most popular snorkeling beaches is on the road to recovery after an excess of visitors during the last 20 years. Sea Grant and Friends of Hanauma Bay sponsor displays and daily morning walking tours to inform visitors about the fragility of the nature park and its reef animals. A new visitor center overlooking the Bay is in the works, to open possibly by next summer. Call Sea Grant at 956-2870.

and tagged only a handful of sharks with radio transmitters and tracked them for a few days, but the results were surprising. "Because of their carnivorous diet, tigers were assumed to stick close to coasts and cruise surface waters," he reports, "but we tracked these sharks swimming far offshore and diving more than 1,000 feet deep." The straight paths swum by the tagged tigers suggested that they "knew where they were headed," he says, so rather than being aimless wanderers, they might indeed have a home turf. But getting an accurate picture of the Hawaiian tiger shark's swimming behavior will require tracking more animals for longer periods—a task that's about to begin.

Much of Hawaii's marine bounty is concentrated on and around its dynamic reefs, where boat anchors can damage fragile corals. Increasing concern over this problem prompted the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Service and the Malama Kai Foundation to round up the funds for day-use boat moorings on the Big Island's Kona Coast. Divers from the Ocean Recreation Council of Hawaii (TORCH) recently installed 46 moorings, which are available for public use on a first-come, first-served basis. A map of mooring locations is available from the West Hawaii Sea Grant office (322-2044). Three hundred additional moorings will soon be installed around the Islands.

Sea Grant has also launched a water quality monitoring program in which teams of volunteers test streams and near-shore water monthly for nutrients, pollutants, acidity and microbial contamination. A pilot project already underway with community groups at Kailua and Waimanalo Bays on Oahu will soon branch out to West Hawaii. (For more on volunteer monitoring on Oahu call 956-8475; in Kona, call 322-2044.)

With a growing concern for and understanding of Hawaii's marine environment—and with the new cooperation among citizens, business and government—the spirit of *malama kai* is thriving. To get involved or to learn more, check out the projects and events listed in the box at left. □



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A MESSAGE FROM THE AIRLINES REPORTING CORPORATION

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JULY 1994

THE MAGAZINE OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

July 94
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TURTLE LOG
Honu - *Chelonia mydas*
MAUNA LANI RESORT - SEA LIFE PARK PROGRAM

1995

3	Date Rec'd.	Date Released	Right Flipper Tag	Left Flipper Tag	Comment
33	4.14.92	7.4.92	11019	10994	
34	4.14.92	7.4.93	11020	515 6.15.93 PIT 7F7F5E016A	Stay 92 Flattened shell
35	4.14.92	7.4.92	11021	11023	
36	4.14.92	7.4.93	11022	516 6.15.93 PIT 7F7F55435D	92-Stay
37	7.9.92	7.4.94	11471	510 6.15.93 PIT 7F7F51677F	93-Stay
38	7.9.92	7.4.93	11472	5125 6.15.93 PIT 7F7F5B1746	
39	7.9.92	7.4.94	11473/ 11037	6.15.93 PIT 7F7D104727 6.20.94 K972	93-Stay 6/20/94 also noted in NMFS data as 11037
40	7.9.92	7.4.93	11474	5124 6.15.93-PIT 7F7D10345A	
41	7.9.92	7.4.93	11475	511 6.15.93 PIT 7F7D230330	
42	10.6.92	Returned to SLP - sickly 12.29.92	11001		
43	10.6.92	7.4.93	11526 (tag lost) 7.4.93 New tag 11038	513, 514 6.15.93 PIT- 7F7F5E0203	
44	6.30.93	7.4.94	11032	6/20/94 NMFS PIT: 27373251 K973, K974	6.30.93 Bigger than rest of batch - yr older?
45	6.30.93		11506	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A655200 K959	
46	6.30.93		11507	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A6E6168 K956, K957	Died 12/1/94
47	6.30.93	7.4.94	11508 Last tag	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 27350104 K960, K961	
48	6.30.93	7.4.94	11509 Last tag	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A601D3A K970, K971	

TURTLE LOG
 Honu - *Chelonia mydas*
 MAUNA LANI RESORT - SEA LIFE PARK PROGRAM

4	Date Rec'd.	Date Released	Right Flipper Tag	Left Flipper Tag	Comment
49	7.21.93	7.4.94	11478	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A597D61 K966	
50	7.21.93		11033	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2748432C K958	
51	7.21.93		11477	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2648046F K962	
52	7.21.93	7.4.94	11476	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 27302466 K965	
53	10. .93	7.4.94	11039	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 27464F25 K967	
54	10. 93	7.4.94	11040	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A606A6D K968	
55	10. .93		Host lost tag	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2B26040C K963, K964	
56	10. .93	7.4.94	11042	6/20/94 NMFS PIT 2A587966 K969	
57	10.11.94		111565		Read as "big"
58	10.11.94		111566		Read as "Big"
59	10.11.94		111567		Read as "big"
60	10.11.94		111045		
61	10.11.94		111050		
62	1.24.95		11571		
63	1.24.95		11572		
64	1.24.95		11573		



MAUNA LANI RESORT

P.O. Box 4959, HCR 2 • Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii • 96743-4959
Telephone: (808) 885-6677 • Fax: (808) 885-6375 / 885-6376

Memorandum

April 4, 1995

TO: GEORGE BALAZS

FR: Leilani Hino

RE: CURRENT MAUNA LANI TURTLE INVENTORY

Hi George:

Was great to talk with you this morning. Thanks for your input. As promised, following is info on the 16 Sea Life Park juvenile turtles we currently have in Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's ponds (highlighted). I presume Sea Life Park has measurement and weight records on them. Steve used to record that data each year just prior to release on July 4. You may be able to guess at Steve's reasons for retaining an individual by the comment column, but then again, maybe not!

As you can see, we've had 68 turtles stay with us since the start of the program in October, 1989.

We are just beginning to plan Turtle Independence Day activities now, so the arrival of your "Year of the Sea Turtle" info couldn't have been better timed.

I am working out an outline of Turtle Independence Day activities/program for Michelle and will send you a copy.

FLASH: I just spoke to Laura Sasaki who gave me some great ideas. Thanks for the connection.



MAUNA LANI RESORT

P.O. Box 4959, HCR 2 • Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii • 96743-4959
Telephone: (808) 885-6677 • Fax: (808) 885-6375 / 885-6376

Memorandum

June 15, 1995

TO: George Balazs

FR: Leilani Hino *Leilani*

RE: AIR COUPONS
TURTLE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Hi George: Enclosed is a set of Aloha coupons to cover your round trip for Turtle Independence Day.

Received the Samoan Turtle coloring book yesterday. Thanks much! Perhaps we can do something similar sometime.

Also enclosing a schedule of events leading up to the release. Please review and comment. Do you want to say a few words on the Year of the Turtle on behalf of SPREP during the program? I included it in the tentative program schedule. If so, should be short, short, short.

After MLBH (Mon, 7/3) demo/presentation (Michelle will do the data work and selection, during which your support will be appreciated. Mark will talk and/or answer questions), I'll take you guys to dinner.

Would you like to do the run on Tues. morning? We'll waive entry fee for you. Please advise.

I have a room reserved for you night of Monday July 3. Let me know your arrival, departure so I can arrange for early check-in, late check out if necessary.

Call me if any questions. (808) 885-6677 or at home 882-7024.
FAX: (808) 885-6376

TURTLE INDEPENDENCE DAY
 Tuesday, July 4, 1995
 Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows
PRE-EVENT and EVENT SCHEDULE

<u>date</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>what</u>	<u>where</u>	<u>who</u>
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995				
	• 8 p.m.	RCML Lecture	Ritz	Mark
MONDAY, July 3, 1995				
	• ___ a.m.	Mauna Lani School presentation	ML Schl	Mark
	• ___ a.m.	Mauna Lani School presentation	ML Schl	Mark
	• 5 p.m.	Weighing, measuring, selection & talk	MLBH	Mark (talk) Michelle (do) George B.
TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1995				
	• 7:00 a.m.	Registration -- Turtle Run & Walk	MLBH	Crawford
	• 8:00 a.m.	10 lm Turtle Run & Keiki Walk		
	• 9 a.m.	Display and children's activities	MLB beach	Mark Moki
	• 9:15 a.m.	Collecting of turtles	MLBH	Danny Michelle
	• 9:45 a.m.	Procession to beach		Danny
	• 10 a.m.	Program	beach	Leilani
		<i>Welcome</i> - Leilani (MLRI, MLBH, RCML)		
		<i>Words</i> - _____ who? _____	SLPH (3 mins)	
		<i>Words</i> - George B. for SPREP? (3 mins)		
		<i>Key words</i> - Sen. Akaka (7 mins)		
	• 10:20 a.m.	Release	beach	Leilani Danny Michelle
	• 10:30 a.m.	Refreshments	beach	Pinkie

*Michelle, et all will select turtles and do bulk of weighing, measuring Monday afternoon. George B. will stand by for assist and support.

TURTLE INDEPENDENCE DAY
 Tuesday, July 4, 1995
 Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows
PRE-EVENT and EVENT SCHEDULE

(Revised 6/26/95)

Contact: Leilani Hino 885-6677

For Run: Crawford Sherman 885-6622

date	time	what	where	who
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995				
	•8 p.m.	RCML Lecture: "Hawaii's Endangered Species - Gone Forever?" RCML Contact: Barry Christian	Ritz Aud.	Mark
MONDAY, July 3, 1995				
	•9:15 a.m.	Mauna Lani School PreSchool	MLBH	Mark
	•10 a.m.	Mauna Lani School Elem. Program	MLBH	Mark
	•5 p.m.	Weighing, measuring, selection & talk	MLBH	Mark (talk) Michelle (do) GeorgeB (do)
TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1995				
	•7:00 a.m.	Registration -- Turtle Run & Walk	MLBH	Crawford
	8:00 a.m.	10 km Turtle Run & Keiki Walk		
	•9 a.m.	Display and children's activities	MLB beach	Mark Moki Volunteers
	•9:15 a.m.	Collecting of turtles	MLBH	Danny Michelle
	•9:45 a.m.	Procession to beach		Danny
	•10 a.m.	Program <i>Welcome</i> - Leilani (MLRI, MLBH, RCML) <i>Words</i> - Michelle Sattler - SLPH (3 mins) <i>Keynote</i> -- Sen. Daniel Akaka, Sr. (7 mins)	beach	Leilani
	•10:20 a.m.	Release	beach	Leilani Danny Michelle
	•10:30 a.m.	Refreshments	beach	Pinkie

DISTRIBUTION:

MLRI: D. Moody, S. Ishimine, S. Murano, Security • MLBH&B: D. Dickhens, C. Sherman, G. Buna, D. Akaka, P. Crowe • RCML: L. Zilz, B. Christian, E. DeMotte • SLPH: M. Sattler, M. Rausch • G. Balazs



Return to
GHB

July 5, 1995

MAUNA LANI RESORT

On the Kohala Coast/Big Island of Hawaii

TO: Mr. Richard Sixberry
Div. of Aquatic Resources
DLNR, State of Hawaii
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

FR: Leilani Hino
Mauna Lani Resort

RE: MAUNA LANI TURTLE RELEASE -- JULY 4, 1995

For your records, fourteen of Sea Life Park Hawaii's juvenile *Chelonia mydas* were released from the shoreline fronting the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows (Kohala Coast, Big Island) on Tuesday, July 4, 1995. This year's released turtles all carry PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags implanted by NMFS.

Turtle Independence Day was attended by 350 - 400 visitors and residents. This year, with the help of Sea Life Park Hawaii's education director Mark Rausch, we added educational children's activities. We also staged a 10 km "Turtle Run." Education and raising public awareness about sea turtles are primary objectives of the cooperative program.

Listed below are the tag numbers of the fourteen turtles released at yesterday's *Turtle Independence Day* celebration.

<u>CONVENTIONAL TAG NOS.</u>	<u>PIT tag</u>
1. 11506; K959	1F2A655200
2. 11566; 11518	1F6D644050
3. K964; K963	1F2B26040C
4. K958; 11033	1F274B432C
5. 11573; 11519	1F6F21123F
6. 11575; 11520	1F724A594C
7. 11567; 11521	1F6C5E4B4C
8. 11565; 11522	1F710B2C39
9. 11574; 11523	1F6D691873
10. 11572; 11524	20080E5674
→ 11. K962; 11477	1F742A360D
12. 11505; 11525	2010072029
13. 11504; 11049	1F69555F44
14. 11571; 11479	1F715E3D55

George: In my inventory log I have a PIT tag recorded for this turtle as installed 6/20/94 #1F2648/46F

6/20/94

- more -



Hino - Mauna Lani Resort, Inc.
7-5-95 Page two

Five Sea Life Park Hawaii turtles (received in October 1994 and June 1995) remain in our inventory. They are:

As of 7/1/95 moved from SLP to MAUNA LANI HOTEL

Conventional Tag No.s

PIT tag

- | <u>Conventional Tag No.s</u> | <u>PIT tag</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. 11512; YE62 | none |
| 2. 11516; YE57 | none |
| 3. 11511; YE58 | none |
| 4. 11045 | none |
| 5. 11050 | none |

10/94

6/95

size 1's

StHaw -

need

to TDPS

enter. If questions, see me.

Sincerely,
MAUNA LANI RESORT, INC.

Leilani S. Hino

Leilani S. Hino
Director of Community Affairs

cc: George Balazs, National Marine Fisheries Service
Michelle Sattler, Sea Life Park Hawaii
Gil Buna, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows

[Handwritten signature]

Date: Thu, 4 Jan 1996 16:09:56 -1000
From: Marc Rice <mrice@hpa.edu>
To: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>
Subject: Re: Forwarded mail....

George,

Don't know if you will get this or not but I will try.

I went down to Mauna Lani and caught the turtle at around 1300 today. 1/4/96

It was in the harbor there right up against the edge northeast (rocks) sort of washing back and forth in the surge. Francis said that it has been in the harbor for 5 days behaving similarly (even at night). He threw a couple leaves of lettuce down into the water and the animal immediately ate them. He stepped down into the water right next to it and picked it up and handed it to me. It didn't struggle much and when I put it on the grass to measure it tried to crawl away but not vigorously. A towel on the head quieted it down and it just laid there for the next 10-15 minutes. (1330 hrs to 1345 hrs).

Old Tags: RPL = 11471
LPL = J-10
New Tag: LH = V662

7-4-92	Mauna Lani, Capt.	SL=23.5			
6-15-93	" " "	SL=36.1, CL=38.5			
7-4-93	" " "				
6-20-94	" " "	SL=44.7, CL=47.5, SW=36.8, CW=42.5, Wt=34#			
7-4-94	Mauna Lani	SL=44.4, PL=35.9, Head=35.9			

MEASUREMENTS:

CURVE LENGTH 48.8 CM.
CURVED WIDTH 43.6
STRAIGHT LENGTH 45.4
NOTCH 45.2
STRAIGHT WIDTH 37.1

The animal is robust (appearing well fed) and there were no apparent injuries anywhere on the external surface or in the mouth (it was somewhat difficult to see in the mouth because of all the lettuce inside!) The eyes seemed to be "dull" and unusual but it seems that it can see fine because it picked lettuce out of the water easily. No tumors evident. All in all, a very docil creature.

When I put the animal back into the water it swam off vigorously and actually submerged itself for a short period of time- 20 seconds - then it returned to the surface and floated over near the southwest breakwater of the harbor. It floats rather oddly with the posterior half of the carapace sticking up out of the water (you actually see the back edge of the shell out of the water).

The little fellow is definately not acting "normally," but it doesn't seem to be in dire straights either. I spoke with Danny and he said that he would be able to accomodate it in an isolated pond if you wanted him to. Seems he has another one (a Mauna Lani release/returnee) in there now and would set it free if necessary because he thinks it is ok now. I will call the boat house tomorrow and see what is happening. I'll let you know what is happening as soon as I hear something.

Anything else that might be done?

Danny said to say hello-

Best,
Marc