

# Turtle Fishing (Lawai'a Honu)

By Rev. Henry B. Nalimu, Hilo.  
BORN 1835

The net had openings (hakahaka), with the meshes (ka maka) perhaps a foot wide (hookahi kapusi (foot) paha (perhaps), and forty (kanakā) 40' fathoms (-anana) the length (ka loa). There were two canoes (elua waa). Unite (hohui) the heads (na poo) of the nets, two nets (elua upena) ma kahi (about) eighty fathoms (kanawalu anana) long, perhaps a hundred fathoms (hookahi (one) haneli anana). There was a watchman (he kilo) above on the cliff (-iluna - a ka pali), and it was his duty (-a nana) to separate (kahikahi) and move apart (hoonee - ai) the canoes (na waa). At the time (-i ka mānawa) that the fish watchman (he kilo - ai) saw (-ua ike 'oia) the turtle (-i ka honu) he signaled with his hand (pe'ahi 'oia) to the two canoes (-i na waa elua) to move (e nee). He opened up his arms (wehe 'oia - i kona lima) at the time that he saw (-i ka mānawa - i ike - ai) that the turtles were right where the canoes ~~would go~~ <sup>went</sup> (-ua kupo na honu - i kahi - o na waa i hele - ai), When he opened his arms (-i ka wehe 'ana - o kona lima) they let down the net (hookua lakou - i ka upena). The canoe men would beat the sea with branches (me ka laau - a hoopāhū - ai - iloko - a ke kai (laau, timber, wood, tree). Then the turtle (e) would go to where the net was



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George,

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I was asked by Charles Kaaiahi of West Pac if I had any information on the use of turtles by native Hawaiians. I sent him a copy of this interview that Theodore Kelsey did with Rev. Nalimu. I pointed out that it doesn't mention what turtles were used for, only how they were caught. I thought you might like a copy for your files. Aloha,  
John