

KAHALA  
HILTON

December 22, 1977

Ms. Kay Ahearn  
Public Relations  
Kahala Hilton Hotel  
5000 Kahala Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Ms. Ahearn:

Thank you for your letter of 12 November 1977 relating to our telephone conversation of 9 November, as well as to my earlier letter to Mr. William Weinberg dated 14 September.

As I briefly outlined over the telephone, my specific interest at this time in the Kahala Hilton's captive green turtles would be to record body measures and permanently identify each animal. The objective of these activities would be to gather information on rates of growth and longevity under captive conditions. Individual identification would be achieved by affixing a small corrosion-resistant tag to the trailing edge of the front flippers. The entire procedure, including recording measurements, would probably not take over two hours. Thereafter it would be desirable to remeasure the animals at approximately six month intervals. It would also be beneficial if I could look over any records which exist for the animals on the lengths of time in captivity, locations of original capture, or other significant information.

It would be of value to my research program, and I would be most appreciative to the Kahala Hilton, if the tagging and measuring I have described would be permitted. However, the conduction of these activities would not be representative of an endorsement or approval of the Hotel's display facility by either myself or the University of Hawaii. I am sure you can understand the need for such a condition.

Thank you in advance for your continuing consideration of this matter.

Best regards for the Holidays.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec