

April 23, 1980

Mr. Hans Weishaupt
General Manager
Kahala Hilton Hotel
5000 Kahala Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Mr. Weishaupt:

I was, of course, disappointed to read your letter of April 9, 1980 denying my request to measure the Kahala Hilton's five Green Turtles once or twice a year to record growth rates in captivity. As I previously described, both Sea Life Park and the Waikiki Aquarium have willingly cooperated with the University of Hawaii in such a program since 1973. I must confess that I was especially surprised by your letter, in that during my telephone conversation on March 14th with your Public Relations Manager, Ms. Kay Ahearn, I sensed a genuine interest in this research as well as some mild enthusiasm.

Most institutions and businesses now recognize that the holding of endangered wildlife in captivity for extended periods carries with it some responsibility for the enhancement of the species, either through conservation education, captive breeding, or management-oriented research. The Green Turtles at the Kahala Hilton have considerable potential for contributing to all three of these areas. I hope that at some point in the future the Hilton chain will take steps to allow at least part of this potential to be realized.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Taylor, Waikiki Aquarium
Dr. Shallenberger, Sea Life Park