

1980s-1990s

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HAWAIIAN HONU  
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES  
G.H. BALAZS FILE

1980s-1990s

## What's Happening

by Walter Ritte, Jr.

### Turtles

What's hapening...to our turtles? **Tumors Continue to Spread in Hawaiian Green Turtles** was the headline in the Hawaii Wildlife Newsletter. George Balazs of NOAA Fisheries, writes...“the incidents of fibroapapellomas, a life threatening tumor, has substantially increased in an important aggregation of the Hawaiian Green Trutle, which resides along the southern coast of the island of Moloka'i. Prior to 1985 there were no known cases of the tumors in this area. In the last harvest, March 1990, 38.5% of the turtles had tumors.

What can we do to help protect these turtles? Turtles were once a traditional Hawaiian food until greed wiped them out and the Federal Government stepped in to protect them under the Endangered Species

Act. Now a mysterious disease on our reefs? Call the Feds and demand an answer: 943-1221, or call the State Office at 548-6550. Only through public pressure will government get us an answer.

### Hawaiians

Homesteaders have taken a long over due stand to Pono their wai (take care of their water). They have asked the Federal Government to step in because the state, including DHHL have not acted in their best interest. Hawaiians are different from the “general public,” they have rights beyond the general public. They are having a difficult time getting government to recognize and deal with Hawaiian Rights. Their water rights over the Kualapu'u aquifer is a good example. Δ

STAR-BULLETIN



ments and are unconstitutional.

The POI Coalition will continue to oppose land use initiative and support long-term planning. We will continue to oppose raising taxes and making housing even more unaffordable via initiative.

We thank our legislators for their careful review of this issue and for deciding that planning is still our best investment in Hawaii's future.

Norman Janicki Jr.  
and Willie Nakakura  
POI Coalition co-chairmen

### Turtle egg seems to have more value than a fetus

In the Jan. 29 Ocean Watch column, Susan Scott reported a Florida man was convicted of destroying 1,088 turtle eggs. The question raised in this case was, when does a turtle egg become a turtle?

The prosecutor declared that each egg represented a "unit of marine life" and is a potential turtle. The article further stated that environmentalists agree that if you remove all the eggs from the beach, there will be no more turtles; therefore, eggs are turtles.

The man who destroyed turtle eggs was sent to jail for 60 days and fined a total of \$100,300.

What kind of society allows a doctor to legally destroy a living human being in its mother's womb while at the same time jails and fines a man for destroying turtle eggs? God have mercy on us.

Marilyn M. Gilbert  
Kailua

### Ask Doris, animals are more humane than humans

On the March 8 Star-Bulletin letters page, I noticed a missive from O. Hightower who was puzzled and indignant over why folks anxiously save dogs while ignoring the lives of abortion victims.

I can easily answer the question why: Because "animals are better than people," as Doris Day says.

Herbert Ah Kwong Yuen  
Waipahu

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WEST HAWAII TODAY

FEB 8 1990

## HPA students get 'hands-on' experience studying turtles

HPA has a mission unique in the high school world: to aid National Marine Fisheries Service scientists in their search for information about the Hawaiian green sea turtle, which could increase the population of this threatened species.

"Students helping scientists" is the brainchild of Dave Gulko, former HPA science teacher who is now working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. Gulko got the idea while assisting George Balazs, NMFS zoologist and turtle expert, during a joint research project between NMFS and college students in the University of Hawaii's Marine Option Program.

Balazs was interested in the idea: the site would be Kiholo Bay, an important feeding and sleeping area for green turtles, which was monitored only sporadically because of budget constraints. HPA students would provide the manpower and a generous donation from the late Robert L. Hind Jr., of Kailua-Kona provided the necessary funds for the first year of research. More recently, access to Kiholo and support of the program has been provided by the Kiholo Landowners Association, whose members acquired much of the property from the Hind family in 1988.

Such an opportunity is rare even for college students, much less high school students, according to Balazs and Gulko. "To learn about the biology of an endangered species up-close is a unique opportunity," Gulko said. "Most people have never seen a green sea turtle, but our students are gaining the hands-on experience of assisting a real scientist in real field conditions."

Since October 1987, Upper School students, science teachers, and Balazs have made three expeditions each year at Kiholo Bay. During each two night, three day field study, the student investigators assist Dr. Balazs as he gathers information about turtle growth rates, feeding behavior, and parasite infestation.

During each expedition, now led by Marine Biology instructor Monica Traub, students work day and night in well-defined jobs that test their research skills and tax their endurance. Most night work is done by students designated as water researchers. The turtle tenders help with on-shore work, which includes tagging, recording data, and care of the captured turtles through the night. Other students serve as camp facilitators, cooks, and photographers (both above and under water). All students are rotated so everyone gets a chance at each job.

Taking four-hour shifts through the night, the student-scientists watch the capture area and scan the large mesh tangle nets for signs of the elusive reptile. Once a turtle is snagged in the net, the dive team on duty swings into action to

See TURTLES  
Page 31A



**READY FOR RELEASE** — Chris Reynolds (left), Jay Warkentin and Neil Ozaki, all members of the Class of 1988, release a turtle into the sea after having placed an identification tag on its flipper. The turtle is being lifted from an inner tube used to safely carry it to shore for tagging.

## ...turtles

### From Page 29A

remove it rapidly to avoid any possibility of injury.

The turtle is carefully removed from the net, carried to shore in a large inner tube to await data collection. In the morning, each turtle is carefully measured and tagged on a fore-flipper with a corrosion-resistant ID tag. Stomach samples and fecal samples are taken, external parasites are noted and, in some cases, removed.

After all necessary scientific data has been gathered, the students carry the turtle back to the ocean's edge and release it. The turtle rides an ocean surge to deeper water then swims away in a burst of speed, none the worse for the experience.

Since that first trip two and a half years ago, sixty turtles have been captured, tagged and released. With each capture, valuable data helps scientists. For example, recaptures dating back to 1980 have occurred. These long-term recaptures indicate that the growth rates of turtles averaged about one-half inch per year in shell length, which is considered slow, according to Dr. Balazs. At that rate, it will take the turtle many years to reach a large enough size (about 32 inches) to be sexually mature.

"It's interesting that we don't have more recaptures," Balazs said. "That we catch 10-13 turtles indicates there's a good number of turtles depending on that site for eating, sleeping and living."

Other information provides data about injuries to sea turtles. One of the turtles had a non-functional hind flipper, the result of an injury that Dr. Balazs suspected almost amputated the flipper. Such injuries are most often caused by entanglement in a gill net or in monofilament fishing line.

### Lean and Mean

The following is from the National Wildlife Federation NWF: "Proof of genetic engineering's sometimes undesirable surprises came with a U.S. Department of Agriculture project to genetically engineer a pig with leaner meat. It unexpectedly turned out to be cross-eyed, blind and arthritic."

At the moment, said the NWF, biotechnology firms are pushing to get genetically engineered tomatoes on grocery stores, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has no program to ensure safety or nutritional quality of genetically engineered foods.

Aquaculturists are hoping to alter the growth genes in fish to create farm pond varieties that will grow faster and bigger. A trout that grows to super sizes in a few months could be a boon not only to supermarket shoppers but also to the "farm-fishing fun" variety of cane poles.

### Resort Surveys Fishermen

The Hawaiian Riviera Resort in Ka'u is tabulating the results of a survey of Big Island fishermen to determine "community input on potential impacts to the coastal waters and fishing resources near the proposed resort at Kahuku, Ka'u, Hawaii," according to a letter from Candy Babouth, Public Relations Director of the resort.

Responses to the survey "will greatly assist our efforts to make recommendations to the developers of the resort aimed at respecting local fishing areas and marine resources, not only for today but the future, as well," said a notice from a Marine Resources Advisory Committee established by the resort.

Plans for the resort propose a marina, intended to be a recreational facility. The survey asked questions about the advisability of including slips for commercial fishing boats, amenities and support services for fishermen, and a boat launching ramp.

Resort information materials say the advisory committee is composed of Wayne Kawachi, Roy Koi, Junior Molillo, Vern Yamazaki, Willie Kaupiko, George Hus Sr. and Eddie Kauhwinut.

The survey questionnaire was available through Big Island tackle shops only until October 20.

For more information, contact the resort headquarters at 220 South King Street, Suite 1201, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or call 536-2210.

### Trouble Elsewhere

A Honolulu reader wrote "to call attention to illegal activities by Vietnamese immigrant commercial fishermen in other areas of the United States."

A report in the October issue of Salt Water Sportsman described the boarding of a commercial gill net boat fishing illegally in "a closed area in the Paradise Cove-Malibu region."

The boat CAM RANH, skippered by Nhieu Van Nguyen, was using a mile-long gill net with mesh only half the legal size. The net was catching and killing kelp bass, commercial possession of which is forbidden by California law.

In other words, the skipper was fishing with illegal gear in a restricted area and killing a protected species.

Boarding officer Jorge Gross of the Division of Fish and Game said the carnage was considerable. In one 300-fathom section of the net, Gross estimated a half ton of discarded kelp bass.

That's deplorable. The perpetrator should be punished to the fullest extent of the law—both to make sure he's never tempted to do it again and to get the word to anyone who thinks regulations only exist for other people.

The reader, however, had a second message. He seemed to take special delight in the fact that the villain was Vietnamese. His tone and attitude indicated that one can't trust those people.

Criminal acts, whether at sea or ashore, aren't limited to persons of any one race, creed or national origin. I grew up watching crime shows in which all the gangsters had Italian last names. It was easy for my contemporaries to make the illogical leap from "all crooks are Italian" to "all Italians are crooks." The legacy was a school yard full of bruised knuckles, bent noses, chipped teeth and entrenched attitudes. And that was just a few years after we watched 120,000 Americans incarcerated only because they had Japanese ancestors.

Wrongdoers should get their due, regardless of their ancestry. Race should not excuse a person for his acts or damn a whole group for the acts of one person.

## Splash!

by Jim Rizzuto



### Kawaihae FADs

By now, Kawaihae fishermen should be celebrating the end of a long fishing drought. The Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) expected to have replaced the Fish-Aggregation Devices (FADs) off Kawaihae sometime in mid-November. Those buoys disappeared last spring and summer (through natural causes?).

DAR spokesman Glenn Higashi, the man in charge of the FAD system, said replacement operations depend on the availability of the vessel KILA. The KILA is the boat normally assigned by the state for FAD maintenance but is also involved in a wide range of other projects.

Glenn said the DAR hoped to barge the buoys to Kawaihae so they'd be available on site whenever the schedule of the KILA permitted deployment. Having the buoys, lines and anchors nearby could speed the process, said Glenn, because otherwise the KILA would have to return to Honolulu between jobs to get the gear.

The KILA is involved in an interisland cable-laying operation.

With the buoys replaced, Kawaihae boats should have three to choose from—OPEC, XX and ZZ. The DAR does not plan to replace YY because it was only an intermittent producer and rarely gathered fish.

### Trading Priorities

On an October weekend, a sea turtle research team working in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) discovered an illegal gill net stretched point to point across Kiholo Bay. The mesh, said one member of the team, was clearly less than the 2-inch minimum stipulated by law.

During the team's two-day, overnight stay, the net was untended. It had been set out before the researchers arrived, remained untended while they were there and was still there after they left.

The NMFS has no jurisdiction in state waters, so an official of the party contacted the state's enforcement division to report the violation and seek assistance. The caller was told that no enforcement officers were available. All had been assigned to the state's marjuna eradication program.

### A Hopeful Hawksbill

Sea turtles are endangered species. The NMFS and its volunteer assistants are capturing turtles at places like Kiholo, tagging them and releasing them to study age, growth, and other aspects of their natural history and biology.

Kiholo is an especially important site because the sheltered waters and sandy beach attract sea turtles. The researchers have been able to capture and tag well over a hundred Kiholo turtles over the past two years.

On a recent excursion, the researchers were delighted to find a rare Hawksbill turtle—among the most endangered of the many kinds of sea turtles now threatened by loss of habitat and predation.

### A Towering Start

As you wander around Hawai'i's harbors looking at the tuna towers on all of the super-sized big-game boats, here's a historical trivia question for you to ponder.

What Hawai'i boat was the first one with a tuna tower, when was it introduced, and who was the skipper?

For Keauhou skipper Capt. Jack Ross, that was an easy question. He brought the MARLEEN to Kona from Florida over 20 years ago.

An article by Bruce Carter in the February 4, 1968, Honolulu Star-Bulletin was bannered "Look Out Marlin! Hawai'i's First Tuna Tower." Bruce's story led off with the following: "Another first will make its bow

in Kona waters this week when a sport cruiser with a Bimini-style tuna tower completes its cross channel run from Honolulu. Long a familiar sight off Florida and the Bahamas, none of the tuna towers has been used in the Hawaiian Islands heretofore."

Atlantic Ocean fishermen seeking bluefin tuna found the high perches—twice as high as a flying bridge—useful for spotting schooling fish in the distance. Because we don't have bluefin here, local troopers had reservations about the value of these ungainly looking replicas of the Eiffel Tower.

"Whether the tuna tower will be of any assistance in spotting marlin in Kona waters remains to be seen," wrote veteran fisherman, author and captain Bruce Carter. "Veterans doubt that anything other than the conventional flying bridge is necessary off Kona where fish stay deep."

"As a result, critics will be closely watching the new cruiser to see if the tuna tower appears to be bringing better-than-average catches," Bruce stated.

The proliferation of tuna towers in the last two decades has swept away the critics—perhaps without settling the question.

Ironically, Capt. Jack's current boat (what else? the CAPT. JACK), designed by Jack, himself, has a flying bridge, but no tuna tower.

### Seafood Inspection Program to be Developed

New government interest in developing an inspection program for the U.S. seafood industry underscores concern about proper care and handling of fish, regardless of whether you catch them to sell or bring home for your own table. The U.S. Congress has ordered a study, leading to regulations for a seafood inspection program. Owners of fishing craft are being asked their opinions at a series of meetings throughout the country. (The Hawai'i sessions were held in late October.)

According to a news release from the Washington-based National Fisheries Education and Research Foundation Inc., "the objective of these workshops is to have those members of the harvesting sector who are most knowledgeable about fishing craft design and operation provide advice to the National Marine Fisheries Service on how best to proceed to design an appropriate product safety and sanitation control system."

The eventual regulations will affect all of Hawai'i's full-time commercial fishermen and much of our "recreational" fleet—a higher percentage than in most other areas of the United States. Many Hawai'i sport fishermen hold commercial fishing licenses and sell portions of their catch. Obtaining a commercial license in Hawai'i is inexpensive and uncomplicated: you fill out a paper, pay your \$25, and file a monthly catch report.

The workshops focused on the application of HACCP—the "Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point" concept.

If all that sounds too technical for you, and you didn't attend a workshop to find out what it's all about, make sure you at least know your ABC's with a DE, too. Whether you sell fish or catch them for your own table, follow the ABCDE routine of Antisepticize, Bleed, Chill, Degut and Eat.

"Antisepticize" is a high-powered word for keeping your fish-handling and storage areas free of germs, other microorganisms, contamination and pollution. And a high-powered reminder is needed here because you want those areas to be exceptionally clean—not just rinsed off once in a while with a hose. Surfaces in contact with food need to be regularly treated with germ-killing agents that, in themselves, are not harmful to consumers.

"Bleed" fish immediately to remove the fluids that degrade fastest. Skin the fish, and cut the gill arteries to drain the blood.

"Chill" by surrounding the fish with enough crushed ice to reduce the body temperature rapidly. Some agencies recommend that you carry 2 lbs of ice for every pound of fish. To maintain the vivid colors of fish sold whole, you may like the results of immersing the fish in an lead brine before transferring it to the crushed ice locker.

"Degut" by opening the body cavity and removing the entrails promptly after the fish has died. For a big fish you may have to do that after it has been chilled for a while because it is too hard to handle when you first bring it aboard. For small, easily handled fish, you can degut before chilling.

Visit the Historic Town  
of MAUNALOA

## Jojo's Cafe

Open every day 11:30am-7:30pm

552-2803

No reservations required

Maunaloa General Store

Open 7am-8pm

Buy Your Beer & Wine

at Maunaloa General Store

## OCTOBER Bulletin Board

**OCTOBER 16, Monday**  
"OHA Blueprints for Entitlements"  
Public Hearing: 6pm, K'kai School.

**OCTOBER 17, Tuesday**  
Senior Law Fair, 8:30-11am, MPC.

**OCTOBER 18, Wednesday**  
Hoakalei's Hula Halau, 6:30pm, Free,  
Moloka'i Library.

**OCTOBER 19, Thursday**  
"Night in Napoli" Problem Pregnancy  
Center Benefit, 553-9957 for tickets \$5  
Public Meeting: "Fishing in "K'kai  
Harbor 7pm, K'kai School Cafetorium

**OCTOBER 20, Friday**  
Hawaii Museum Conference thru 22 at  
various locations call Meyer Mill &  
Museum for information & reserv.

**OCTOBER 21, Saturday**  
Republican Party meeting, 8am  
Hotel Molokai.

**OCTOBER 24, Tuesday**  
DOE Budget Hearings, 7pm, K'kai  
School Cafetorium

**OCTOBER 25, Wednesday**



Hari Kojima

Drawing by S. Flowers

## WINNERS!

by Shirley Flowers

The MUSUBI CONTEST, with host sponsor Hari Kojima, held November 12th at the Mitchell Pauole Center had ten participants: Caridad Galinato, Mildred Kodani, Adelina Mina, Primitiva Pacleb, Shirley Rawlins, Aurelia Siquian, Feliciano Tejero, Catalina Tolentino, Abennie Vicorino, and Winona Ka'awa.

Shirley Rawlins was grand prize winner with a **unique turtle musubi** and the prize-- 1,000 lbs of rice! Abennie Victorino was second place winner of a trip for two on the Maui Princess and a weekend at the Maui Westin.

Assisting Hari was assistant controller at Kaluakoi Hotel, Dave Goodman. There to film the action was Ken Walsh, director of *Let's Go Fishing*. Ann Dudoit was coordinator for the local contest.





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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

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### Consider the turtle

Our class just read an article about the \$101,000 bill to select the next state fish. We think that the state fish for Hawaii should really be a turtle. We think that we should have the green sea turtle as the state fish because it is an endangered species. This way, more people will know that it is endangered and more people will try to save it. After all, for \$101,000 we should have more than just a pretty fish.

Maybe we should have a vote.

ROOM D-6 THIRD GRADERS  
Kalihi-Waena Elementary School

Teen-age mutant ninja turtles they're not

SSB&A

2/25/90



Advertiser photo by Charles Okamura

These four sea turtles are on the endangered species list, having to watch out for the rising tide and drying sun, not to mention the footsteps of curious onlookers. The turtles and other creations—great and small—were part of the University of Hawaii School of Architecture's 13th annual Sandcastle Contest held yesterday at Kailua Beach. Page A3.

# Officials fear Kualoa pollution is dangerous, keep beach closed

By Barbara Hastings

Advertiser Science Writer

Kualoa Regional Park on Oahu's Windward coast remained closed yesterday as feces — apparently from animals — continued to wash up on the

sand.

Health officials, who posted warning signs about the fecal contamination Aug. 11, said they are now concerned that contact with the wastes could make humans sick. At the time of the warning 1½ weeks ago, officials said the contamination probably posed no health risk.

The feces, pellets of various sizes that could be mistaken for human excrement, have been washing up at the Windward Oahu beach for about six weeks, according to health officials.

The beach has been posted and tape has been stretched across the area to keep people from the water and beach near the surf.

The Health Department plans to keep the beach closed on the chance that humans could

## Contaminated water



Advertiser graphic by Rick Padden

See Kualoa, Page A-4

The Honolulu Advertiser

Wednesday, August 23, 1989

# Kualoa pollution feared dangerous

From Page One

be susceptible to parasites found in the waste.

Where the feces come from remains "a total mystery," but Eugene Akazawa of the water quality monitoring branch of the Health Department said researchers believe it is animal rather than human waste. Investigation so far has centered around pigs.

However, a researcher from the federal NOAA Fisheries believes the pellets may come from green sea turtles, which live in offshore water.

The wash-up reached a peak last week, when in a single day more than 400 pellets were collected, Akazawa said. This week, there have been considerably fewer.

City and county workers are monitoring the beach daily, Akazawa said, and state health officials are testing water quality twice a week. Despite the fecal pellets on the beach, he said, the bacteria levels, which are used to determine pollution, remain low in the water.

Analysis of the feces has found five parasites, Akazawa said.

"There are some very peculiar parasites in there," said Dr. Robert Desowitz, a human parasitologist at the University of Hawaii's Leahi Hospital branch. One, he said, is very similar to a parasite that causes amoebic dysentery in humans. "But they just resemble them," Desowitz said. "I don't know if they are the same species or not."

Desowitz doesn't think the feces come from domestic animals. "It's very strange, whatever it is," he said. "It has a large number of parasites."

Health officials say cesspools



Advertiser photo by Gregory Yamamoto

The water and beach near the surf at Kualoa is closed to public.

are not responsible.

They've also looked for pig farms because early indications were the feces might be from pigs. However, the only piggeries in the area are small-scale operations that wouldn't have enough swine to be responsible for the fecal pellets on the beach, researchers said.

The animals producing the feces all apparently eat the

same kind of food.

Samples have been sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture labs on the Mainland to determine what kind of animal is involved.

But George Balazs, a green sea turtle specialist with the federal NOAA Fisheries, said he's fairly certain they are sea turtle wastes. He collected some for analysis, he said.

when he went to the beach recently to study a dead sea turtle that had washed up there.

Balazs said he "can make high-degree reliable conclusions (the wastes) are from a green sea turtle."

"To the untrained eye, they could look like dog or even human feces," he said, "and they can be smelly."

"We do know that green turtles have a lot of parasites," Balazs said.

If the wastes are from green sea turtles, why is there so much, so suddenly?

Balazs said nearby Kaneohe Bay is a preferred habitat for the green sea turtles. Right now, a disease is spreading rampant through the turtle population. One explanation for the fecal wash-up could be that the tumor disease is causing the animals to move a bit north of Kualoa.

Currents tend to pull floating material into Kualoa Bay, several researchers said.

About half of the green turtles in the Kaneohe Bay area have tumors, Balazs estimated. He said he couldn't even guess at the total numbers, but when pressed, said there are hundreds.

The "hideous" tumors obstruct the turtles' vision and their ability to swim properly, Balazs said, "so they could affect their behavior and their foraging patterns."

So far, marine researchers don't know what's causing the tumors, although it might be a circulatory parasite or a virus.

The tumors are showing up on sea turtles off Florida and Hawaii, Balazs said, and haven't been reported anywhere else. That leads some researchers to wonder if some pollutant in near-shore water is affecting the turtles' immune systems, Balazs said.

# Kualoa pellets: What's a poor turtle to do?

Isle scientists think they've solved the droppings mystery

By Peter Wagner  
Star-Bulletin

Hundreds of pint-sized pellets continue to wash ashore at Kualoa Regional Park, closed to swimmers for the past two weeks because of possible contamination.

But while health officials have yet to find out what the material is, one marine biologist thinks the sea has coughed up a harmless collection of turtle droppings.

"It certainly looks to me to be consistent with the sea turtle pellets I've

picked up at other places," said George Balazs, a sea turtle specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who recently examined some of the smelly flotsam. Balazs found codium, a type of algae common in turtles' diets, in the fecal matter.

If he is right, the public hazards appear slight.

Roger Fujioka of the University of Hawaii Water Resource Research Center said the feces of sea turtles, which are vegetable-eating reptiles, contain lower concentrations of bacteria than humans or warm-blooded animals.

"If it came from turtles, it's of less significance than if it came from humans or pigs," Fujioka said.

Meanwhile, however, investigators at the state Department of Health are keeping a wary eye on the situation.

Preliminary studies turned up five

parasites in the material, one of which resembles a parasite that causes amoebic dysentery in humans. Dr. Robert Desowitz, who specializes in human parasitology at the University of Hawaii's tropical medicine branch, says the parasite could also prove harmless. "It's up in the air," Desowitz said. "But if indeed these are turtle droppings, the parasites probably don't constitute a significant danger to humans."

Health officials have been monitoring the debris at Kualoa since July 6, collecting up to 400 pellets in a single day. The beach between Kualoa Point and the old sugar mill was closed Aug. 11.

Eugene Akazawa of the water quality monitoring branch said bacteria counts in the water have been low. Nevertheless, samples of the drop-

*If indeed these are turtle droppings, the parasites probably don't constitute a significant danger to humans.*

Dr. Robert Desowitz  
UH tropical medicine branch

pings were recently sent to a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory in Iowa for identification.

"It could be turtles, but we're not closing the case until we know for sure," Akazawa said.

# HAWAII

Friday, August 25, 1989 ■ Star-Bulletin

# Tests point to probable turtle origin

By Barbara Hastings

Advertiser Science Writer

The signs warning of polluted water are still up at Kualoa Regional Park, but a state health official says the feces washing up, while unpleasant, "should not hold too much of a human health hazard."

Tests done by a Mainland laboratory on the fecal contamination at the

Windward Oahu park showed that it was "non-human and non-domestic," said Bruce Anderson, deputy health director. That means it's not from cats, dogs, pigs, cattle or horses. "The data point to marine animals; turtles are most likely," he said.

Generally, any disease-causing viruses or bacteria in any species preys only on that species, Anderson said. That means if it's a human bacteria, it

usually attacks only a human host. Turtle germs tend to attack turtles. There are exceptions, Anderson said, but the general rule is that these pathogens are host-specific.

The fecal material has been washing up at Kualoa for several weeks, causing the state to post warning signs Aug. 11.

"It's still unclear why these are appearing now and were not reported

The Honolulu Advertiser

Thursday, September 7, 1989

## for feces in Kualoa waters

before," Anderson said. He said he talked with people long familiar with the area and they couldn't recall this type of contamination before. It might be a shift in the migratory patterns of the green sea turtle, Anderson said.

George Balazs, a green sea turtle specialist with the federal NOAA Fisheries, said last month he was fairly certain the feces were from turtles.

At the time, Balazs said he, too,

wondered why the sudden influx of feces at Kualoa.

Balazs said Kaneohe Bay is the preferred habitat for many of the turtles, but a tumor-causing disease is spreading among the animals. Balazs said it's possible that the tumors, causing obstructed vision and swimming abilities, are causing a change in migration patterns.

in Kaneohe Bay, near Oneawa

**WAIHEE VALLEY**

**BALL: Kailua Americans  
to District 1 crown/B-1**

**GOLF COURSE: City project  
worries water officials/ A-3**

**Windward Sun Press**

25 Cents/Voluntary Payment For Home Delivery: One Dollar Per Four Week Period

WEEK OF AUGUST 3-9, 1989

**Tumors killing green sea turtles**

By **KEVIN DAYTON**  
News Editor

KANEOHE



The threatened green sea turtle may need to be reclassified as an endangered species in the next few years unless marine researchers can discover the cause of mysterious tumors that have been blinding, crippling and killing the sea creatures, according to one scientist.

George H. Balazs, a zoologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service who is an authority in the Pacific on green sea turtles, estimated that half of the green turtles in Kaneohe Bay have at least one of the tumors, which are known as fibropapillomas.

More and more young green turtles have been appearing in the bay since they were declared a threatened species in 1978, but Balazs said the lumpy tumors that grow up to seven inches in diameter are a "serious and spreading disease" that poses a new threat to the recovering turtle population.

The green sea turtles, which can weigh up to 400 pounds, are a traditional Hawaiian food, but were hunted excessively for restaurants and to feed fishing crews until they were protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Turtles that are weakened or helpless are being reported weekly to Balazs, who said that many of the dying reptiles have several tumors.

"What you see on the outside isn't all of the problem," Balazs said, adding that the tumors appear to be only one symptom of a disease also characterized by increased white blood cell counts and other irregularities. Many of the turtles found with tumors also are near starvation, he said.



George F. Lee photo

**MYSTERIOUS DISEASE:** A turtle that was found floating helpless in Kaneohe Bay last week is loaded into a container for observation by (from left) James Brede, Paul Stewart and Sean Stone. The turtle, which was still too young to breed, died later that same night.

Some of the turtles are unable to swim because the abnormal growths make it impossible for them to move their flippers properly. Others have had difficulty eating or breathing because of tumors blocking their nasal passages or interfering with the workings of their throat and jaws.

In one specimen that was reported to Balazs on Friday, for example, boaters towed a 31-inch, 25-year-old

turtle back to Heeia Kea pier after noticing that the creature was too weak to dive or swim away. Balazs said the turtle, which was still too young to breed, had tumors on its eyes, jaw and near the base of its front flippers.

The turtle was too ill and emaciated to save, Balazs said, and it died later Friday night.

The tumors, which also have been observed on green sea turtles in the

Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon area near Cape Canaveral, Fla., tend to grow on the soft tissue of the reptiles, including the areas around the eyes, tail, groin, neck and at the base of the flippers, Balazs said.

The abnormal growths have been seen most frequently on green turtles in Kaneohe Bay, near Oneawa Canal, in the ocean just off of the Kahala Hilton and in Haleiwa

See TURTLES on A-8



## Threatened green sea turtles die of mysterious tumors

**TURTLES** from A-1 Harbor.

The tumors were first observed on turtles about 50 years ago, but Balazs said that until the past few years, the growths appeared on only one out of 100 or 200 specimens.

The two leading theories about the tumors are that they may be caused by some unknown virus, or they might be a result of a parasite.

Dr. Elliot Jacobson, a University of Florida specialist in sea turtle viruses, visited Hawaii in June to get tumor samples for study. But so far he has been unable to find conclusive evi-

dence a virus is causing the tumors.

The second theory, which is being researched by scientists at the University of California at Long Beach, is that the tumors might be caused by the turtles' immune response to a parasite.

The parasites may be blood flukes, and could be depositing eggs in the blood stream of the turtles, which then become lodged in the reptiles' capillaries. That, in turn, may trigger an immune response from the turtle that causes the tumors, Balazs said.

Balazs asked that residents with information about stricken turtles call him at 943-1221.

# State shortening ban

By Edwin Tanji

Advertiser Maui County Bureau

State officials will revise their rules restricting jet skis and parasail boats with a ban on operations from Jan. 6 to March 15, Transportation Director Edward Hirata said yesterday.

The state originally proposed a longer ban running from Dec. 15 to May 15, but that drew lawsuits from thrillcraft operators who said they would be put out of business if the prohibition stood.

The new rules are in line

with revised recommendations of the National Marine Fisheries Service, which suggested a prohibition on thrillcraft operations off the Big Island, Maui and Oahu for the shorter January-to-March period and reduced operations from March 16 to May 15.

Once drafted, the revised rules would be subject to public hearing. There also are a number of proposals pending in the Legislature that could preempt the department's rules.

The state's restrictions on thrillcraft in waters off the Big

Island, Maui and Oahu is intended to protect humpback whales that frequent Hawaii waters during the winter months.

Attorneys for thrillcraft operators said they would generally support the revised rules, although Maui attorney Penny Brown decried a closed-door meeting between Hirata and the regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service last week.

"Members of the industry would have liked to have participated in the discussions be-

## span on thrillcraft

ween the Department of Transportation and the National Marine Fisheries Service," he said. "We are pleased that there will be revisions from the original ban, but wish it had not resulted from a closed-door meeting."

Hirata last November approved Ocean Recreation Management rules that prohibited jet skis and parasail operations from the Dec. 15-May 15 period. The jet ski and parasail companies filed suits on each of the islands, winning an injunction against the ban in hearings

held in 2nd Circuit Court on Maui.

State attorneys eventually agreed to refrain from enforcing the ban on any of the islands. Hirata then went to Los Angeles to meet with fisheries service regional director Charles Fullerton last Friday.

Hirata said the fisheries service recommendation for the shorter ban "is their official position." The fisheries service earlier played a key role in developing the rules for the longer, five-month ban.

"They feel that the whales

and turtles can still be protected under the less restrictive recommendations that they made. We intend to amend the rules by giving serious consideration to their recommendations," he said.

Attorneys Dennis Niles and David Simons, who represent parasail companies, said the companies could support the revised ban.

Niles said the companies would want to work with state officials and the fisheries service in drafting the new rules.

# Abortion is brought up in Florida turtle egg case

*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*

**S**OMETIMES I write ideas for Oceanwatch columns on sticky little note papers, which I hang around my desk. When my work space gets too crowded with these yellow reminders, I have to take inventory and decide what to do with them.

This was one of those weeks. My notes said: turtle egg abortions, why is ono a tuna?, Ewa Beach monk seal, leaping ray and speeding jellyfish.

Here's what they mean:

■ When does a turtle egg become a turtle? This legal question came up recently in Florida when a court there convicted James Bivens of poaching 1,088 sea turtle eggs. Bivens' sentence was 60 days in jail and a fine of \$500 plus \$100 for each egg, for a total of \$109,300.

Bivens is appealing.

He says an egg is not a turtle and he shouldn't have to pay for each egg as if it was.

His attorney added emphatically that this "has nothing to do with abortion" but the words are suspiciously similar. The prosecutor is arguing that each egg represents a "unit of marine life" and is a potential turtle.

There's no question among environmentalists whether eggs are turtles: if you take all the eggs off the beach there will be no more turtles. Therefore, eggs are turtles.

Sea turtle eggs are valuable because some people believe they are aphrodisiacs. Sellers get up to \$5 for each egg.

■ Ted Farm from Ewa Beach asks in a letter: "Why are ono in the tuna family when they look like barracudas?"

Tunas, mackerels and ono all belong to the same family because of several similar features. But one stands out: Each fish in this clan has two rows of tiny fins called finlets at the rear of the body. Barracudas don't have these finlets. Also, their lower jaw is longer than the upper, a feature not shared with tuna and their kin.

■ Farm is a reader whose interest in marine life leads him to write to me occasionally with thoughtful questions and interesting observations from his part of the island.

Last week, Ted got a treat that the rest of us animal-lovers only dream about. A Hawaiian monk seal hauled out on the beach in front of his house.

Ted knew that he wasn't the only one who would appreciate this unusual event. He called the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and soon Mitch Craig of the agency's monk seal team was



## OCEAN WATCH

By Susan  
Scott

in Ewa Beach checking it out.

Craig found the adult monk seal, probably a male, peacefully snoozing on the beach. He also found about 20 or 30 people milling around, hoping to get a good look at this rare marine mammal.

Both Farm and Craig talked to the crowd about the importance of keeping a distance since monk seals are so skittish around humans. People stayed away for a while but as evening approached some moved in to take flash pictures.

The seal took off. Farm walked the beach the next morning looking for his special guest but it was long gone. This story brings up some interesting questions.

If biologists are successful at bringing back monk seals, where will the animals go? Can humans and seals share beaches?

I don't believe the people in this story were trying to hurt or scare this animal. They were taking pictures because they liked him.

But we can love our native animals to death. If this had been a female with a pup, the commotion might have caused her to abandon her baby.

If you see this adventurous seal or any others, call Sea Life Park, the Waikiki Aquarium or NMFS. You can help these creatures by staying away from them so they can rest.

■ My neighbor, Sandra Curtis-Guerrero, swims daily for exercise in Waikiki. Recently, as she side-stroked along in a position where she was looking towards her legs, she watched an eagle ray leap out of the water and jump over her.

Sandra said she was scared at first but then realized that this was a privileged experience.

Still, she wondered if the creature could have hurt her.

I have never heard of an eagle ray hurting a person. These gentle creatures flap their pretty polka-dotted fins in search of snails and other invertebrates. They look like birds in flight and this one sounds like it really did try flying.

Next week: Jelly speedsters.

Susan Scott is a marine science writer and author of *Oceanwatcher*, a guide to Hawaii's marine animals. Her *Oceanwatch* column appears Monday in the *Star-Bulletin*.

THA 1-5-90 A5

## Two convicted in turtle case sentenced to five days in jail

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The two were convicted of catching the two turtles on Sept. 3. Police later found the turtles in the back of a pickup truck and released them in the ocean.

Federal Deputy Public Defender Hayden Aluli disclosed yesterday that David Nuesca

### IN COURT

was recently diagnosed as suffering from leukemia and his prognosis is "very grim."

But Conklin said he could not give the two men probation because they knew what they were doing was illegal.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Gasner asked for a jail term, but went along with letting the two men remain free pending their appeal.

He later called the sentence "fair" because it lets the public know that violating the federal Endangered Species Act will be treated seriously.

STAR-BULLETIN

Friday, January 5, 1990 □ A-7

### Father, son get five days for taking sea turtles

U.S. Magistrate Daral Conklin yesterday sentenced a father and son to five days in jail for taking green sea turtles from the sea.

But Conklin, noting that David Nuesca, the father, has leukemia, said the sentences do not have to be served until the men's appeals are exhausted.

David and Darral Nuesca were convicted in December of taking two turtles off Maui. Although the turtles were not killed, the taking was a violation of the federal Endangered Species Act.

"This isn't a big case, but it is important," said Conklin, in handing down what is believed to be the first jail sentence for violations of the Endangered Species Act. He said the jail time could be served on Maui, where the men live.

Assistant Federal Public Defender Hayden Aluli said David Nuesca is undergoing emergency treatment for leukemia, a condition possibly aggravated by the stress of his recent trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Gasner suggested some incarceration was appropriate but made no

specific recommendation.

Defense attorneys suggested the men be assigned to do community service, possibly working with environmental groups.

In the past year, the U.S. attorney's office has prosecuted a number of cases involving violations of the Endangered Species Act. Those included harassing dolphins and whales and the killing of a monk seal. Until the Nuesca case, however, the defendants were only assessed fines.

The U.S. attorney's office is seeking a one-year prison term for a Kauai man accused of killing and eating a female monk seal.

### Feds name Hayden Aluli assistant public defender

Hayden Aluli has been named first assistant federal public defender.

Aluli has been an assistant in the office since 1984, said federal Public Defender Michael Levine.

Aluli, a University of Hawaii law school graduate, clerked for Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Frank Padgett before joining the public defender's office.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff

JAN 23 1990

## Sea captain rescues injured sea turtle

A deep-sea turtle is being nursed back to health after being found caught in a death trap of ocean debris Sunday.

The 55-pound Ridley Sea Turtle was rescued by a charter boat skipper who found it entangled in a drifting cargo net off Keahou Bay.

Blu Sky II Captain Dave Purcell freed the turtle but the exhausted reptile was too tired and hurt to swim. A four-inch gash was in its right front flipper and it had several deep nicks on its sun-bleached shell.

Realizing the turtle's fate in the ocean was a sure, quick death if given it given its freedom in that condition, Purcell and his mate Jerome Acol retrieved the stricken animal and sailed it in for help.

"Good judgement on their part," said Francis I. Kuailani Sr., fish and wildlife agent and ranger at Koloko-Honokohau National Park. Kuailani said the Ridley turtle is common but only in deeper offshore waters. It is rarely seen near

shore, he said, but all sea turtles are protected under federal endangered species laws.

This one is "definitely an adult, about 3½-feet from head to tail," Kuailani said.

Kuailani contacted the National Marine Fisheries Service and plans were discussed to transport the turtle to Oahu for treatment. But Royal Hawaiian Sea Farms in Keahole offered its help and the turtle is now resting in a foot-deep pond that is otherwise used to grow seaweed.

"He looks a lot better than he did yesterday," said David Chai this morning. But Chai, an aquatic biologist at Royal Hawaiian Sea Farms, said the turtle isn't eating and it needs veterinary care. The cut in its flipper is deep and may need stitches, Chai said, and the turtle may also require treatment with antibiotics.

The turtle was probably  
See TURTLE,  
Page 8

From Page 1  
feeding on jellyfish, squid, shrimp or other food that would congregate near the floating, tangle of heavy line, Chai said. There's no telling how long the turtle drifted with the debris, but it was long enough for its shell to be "bleached out" by the sun, he

turtle in deep sea waters when it's ready.

"It makes a good statement against ocean debris," said Chai, calling for stiff fines against ocean polluters. "It's a lot worse than littering the highway," he said. "At least highway litter doesn't kill."

—By D. Hunter Bishop

Chai, seeing the turtle's condition today.

Royal Hawaiian Sea Farms president Steven Takase has agreed to keep the turtle until it is fully recovered, however, Kuailani said. And state Department of Land and Natural Resources personnel are standing by to release the

said. George Balozs of the National Marine Fisheries Service is expected to arrive from Oahu tomorrow to look at the turtle, said Chai.

Officials were hoping to get the turtle back in the ocean by tomorrow or Thursday but that might not be possible, said

# Funds sought for conservation lands

By Ken Miller

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — A coalition of national conservation groups is asking Congress to free funds needed for the government to buy or lease land at Haleakala National Park on Maui and four other sites in the state.

The land acquisition plan was announced yesterday by the Wilderness Society and 19 other conservation and recreation organizations.

Money for the purchases would come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, created by Congress in 1965 to protect natural resources by buying available land from private holders. The coalition said it was supporting such a sweeping program to mark the fund's 25th anniversary.

The Bush administration's 1991 budget does not contemplate such a sweeping land-purchase plan, but this proposal will at least bring the issue to light in Congress.

Among the affected Hawaii sites:

■ Maui — 62 acres in Kipahulu Valley on the Hana side of Haleakala National Park.

The proposal is aimed at protecting various species of endangered Hawaiian plants, and would allow the National Park Service to spend \$700,000 of \$2 million already set aside for the acquisition.

■ Oahu — 98 acres in and around the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge near Kahuku Point.

Conservationists recommend that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spend \$2 million to purchase the land, now managed under a lease from the Estate of James Campbell, to help protect four species of endangered Hawaiian water birds and to protect Oahu's only green sea turtle nesting beach. Approval for the funding comes from the federal Endangered Species Act.

■ Molokai — An undetermined amount of land at Kalaupapa National Historic Park, where an estimated \$150,000 is needed to initiate a long-term lease to preserve the Hansen's disease settlement.

■ Big Island — 235 acres at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, established by Congress in 1978 but not open to the public.

The report recommends \$17 million be spent to acquire a tract of land in the center of the park.

■ Big Island — 35 acres of Opaepa Pond.

The Wilderness Society recommends spending \$1.2 million out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy the pond, home to the Hawaiian stilt and Hawaiian coot, and preserve it for those and other

species. Approval for that purchase also comes from the Endangered Species Act.

The report said the Land and Water Conservation Fund worked as planned for several years after it was formed, with Congress earmarking needed funds for land purchases.

The fund is financed by receipts from outer continental shelf mineral leases, the sale of surplus property, recreation fees and motorboat fuel taxes.

Under law, the government can spend \$900 million a year from the fund, and for years amounts close to that were spent annually.

During the Reagan administration, however, land acquisitions slowed, and the fund began to pile up huge reserves, to where it now contains more than \$7 billion in unspent revenues.

Nationwide, the plan presented to Congress would spend just short of \$1 billion: \$799 million through the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and another \$200 million in matching grants to the states.

Aside from the Wilderness Society, the 20 groups that issued the report include the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, the Trust for Public Land, the National Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Sat. 2-3-90 HSB

KALOKO - HONO KO HIAI N HI  
1-26-90  
West Hawaii Today



—WHT photo by BOB FEWELL

**TURTLE RELEASE** — A Ridley sea turtle which was found Sunday by fishermen off Keauhou Bay and nursed back to health in a pond at the Royal Hawaiian Sea Farm, Keahole Point, was released yesterday by state and federal wildlife officials. The turtle was returned to the ocean off of Keauhou Bay and is shown being lowered into the water by James Kaulukukui Jr., conservation officer with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. Joining Kaulukukui on the state DLNR vessel, Malama Hawaii, was DLNR Enforcement Division Acting Supervisor for West Hawaii, Charles Nahale, and Fish and Wildlife Service Agent Francis Kuailani Sr. During the turtle's stay at Royal Hawaiian Sea Farm it was inspected, measured, weighed and tagged by Eugene Nitta and George Balazs of the U.S. Marine Fisheries Service. After its release, the turtle was observed for about 20 minutes before the boat headed back to shore. The turtle, when rescued, was suffering from exhaustion and weakness. It had a cut on one of its flippers and several nicks on its shell.



# KALOKO-HONOKOHAU N.H.P.

4A—West Hawaii Today, Wednesday, January 24, 1990



—WHT photo by BOB FEWELL

**INJURED TURTLE** — Fish and Wildlife agent Francis Kuailani Sr. checks on the condition of this deep sea Ridley turtle which is being temporarily housed in a pond at the Royal Hawaiian Sea Farm, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii. The turtle was rescued on Sunday by Dave Purcell, skipper of the Blue Sky II, and crewmember Jerome Acol. The men said the turtle was trapped in a cargo net floating off Keauhou Bay. The turtle, Kuailani said, appeared to be weak and exhausted. It had suffered a cut on one of its flippers and several nicks on its shell. Steven Katase of Royal Hawaiian Sea Farms and biologist David Chai are caring for the turtle until it is recovered and can be released. All sea turtles are protected under an endangered species federal law. Anyone wishing to report turtle violations can call Kuailani's office in Kona at 329-6881, or the National Marine Fisheries Service on Oahu at 943-1221.

THA 1-5-90 AS  
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Reported by Star-Bulletin staff

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

NOV 14 1989

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**HONOLULU MINORITY BUSINESS** Development Center Orientation, 9 a.m., Nov. 14, 1001 Bishop Street, Pacific Tower, Ste. 2800. Free orientation session intended to familiarize the local minority business community with MBDC's services. Information: 531-6232.

**A TREASURE SALE**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nov. 14, Community Center Auditorium, 310 Paokalani Ave. Shop for old and new holiday gifts.

**"REPUBLICANS/DEMOCRATS: WHY BE A PARTY MEMBER?"**, Windward Community College, political forum series, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Nov. 14, WCC Waipa Lounge. Speakers include, Jack Richardson, chairman of the Hawaii State Democratic Party; Brad Thiessen, chairman, and Wendy Miyashiro, vice-chairperson of the Hawaii Young Republican Party. Information: 235-7433.

**KOREAN STUDIES** in European Socialist Countries, discussion by Ingeborg Goethel, Professor of Asian Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin, 2 p.m., Nov. 14, Conference Room 103, Center for Korean Studies Bldg., 1881 East-West Road. Part of the Colloquium Series.

**INTEGRAL NUTRITION**, slide/lecture presentation, 6:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Makiki District Park, Arts & Crafts Building. Free. Information: 924-2489.

**RARE COIN CLASSES** offered by Doug Ho, Honolulu coin collector, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Ala Moana Hotel. Fee. Reservations: 545-4111.

**AIDS HEALING SERVICE**, 7 to 8 p.m., Nov. 14, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Meditation, music and prayer. Open to all. Sponsored by the Hawaii Council of Churches. Information: 263-9788.

**"CONQUERING THAT FEAR"**, Psychology for Living seminar, led by Dr. Nicholas B. Christoff, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Nov. 14 at Central Union Church. Free. Information: 941-0957.

**"HAWAII POLITICS IN THE 1990'S: Where are We Going?"** Symposium featuring Neil Abercrombie, Annelie Amaral, Vicky Banya, Fred Hemmings Jr., and Yas Kuroda, 7 to 9 p.m., Nov. 14, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Campus Center Ballroom. Sponsored by the Hawaii Political Association.

**"INTRODUCTION TO SIDDHA MEDITATION"** video and instruction, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 14, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Tenney Theatre. Information: 942-8887.

**LYON ARBORETUM SELF-GUIDED TOURS**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday thru Friday; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Guided tour 1 p.m., Nov. 15. Reservations recommended. Call 988-7378 for more information.

**VACATION NICARAGUA**, video presentation describing a trip by a group of Americans to Nicaragua, noon, Nov. 15, Porius 637, UH-Manoa Campus. Sponsored by the Latin America and Caribbean Solidarity Association. Information: 262-9893.

**"CREATIVE CARTOONING - BEYOND STICK FIGURES"**, brown bag presentation by Bruce Hale, Noon to 1 p.m., Nov. 15, Richards Street YWCA. \$3 non-member fee. Information: 538-7051.

**DAMIEN HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**, 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 15; 2 to 4 p.m., Nov. 19, Campus at 401 Houghtaling Street. Information: 841-0195.

**"MAGNIFICENT AND MYSTICAL MARINE TURTLES"**, slide lecture presentation by George H. Balazs, zoologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service and leader of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team, 7 p.m., Nov. 15, Atherton Hallau, Bishop Museum. Fee. Reservations: 848-4149.

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**MAKUA VALLEY**, topic of discussion by Marion Kelly, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Hawaii and John DeSoto, Honolulu City Council Member, 7 p.m., Nov. 15, Honolulu Friends Meeting House, 2426 Oahu Avenue. Information: 988-6265.

**NANAKULI NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING**, Services, Inc., annual membership meeting, 7 p.m., Nov. 15, Nanakapono Elementary School Cafeteria. Information: 531-2696.

**SELF-IDENTITY THROUGH HO'OPONOPONO**, free lecture, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Nov. 15, Windows of Hawaii's Vista Room, Ala Moana Bldg., 20th Floor. Sponsored by the Foundation of I, Inc. Ho'oponopono is an ancient Hawaiian process that allows for release of problems and blocks that cause stress, imbalance and dis-ease within one's self. Information: 842-3750.

**PAPER FORUM** with Marshall Kary, Kathleen Rowley and Marcia Morse, 7 to 9 p.m., Nov. 15, Honolulu Printmaking Workshop, 825-A Dillingham Boulevard. Videos, demonstrations of printing on handmade paper, examples of paper, and discussions about paper as an artform. Information: 848-0402.

**VIETNAMESE WOMEN REVOLUTIONARIES**, Brown Bag Biography by Christine White, Noon to 1:30 p.m., Nov. 16, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Biography Cottage, near Klam Gym.

**KING KALAKAUA BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE** at Iolani Palace, Nov. 15. The main side of the Palace will be draped as it was for King Kalakaua's Jubilee in 1888, with exact reproductions of the original red, white and blue bunting, and Hawaiian flags made for the 1888 Jubilee Centennial. The Royal Hawaiian Band will play from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with Dr. Niklaus Schweizer, Swiss Consul to Hawaii as master of ceremonies. At 12:30 p.m., Gov. John Waihee, Colonel David Rodrigues and Edward Kawananakoa, will conduct the 25th Annual inspection of the Royal Guard fronting the Palace.

**CROSS CULTURAL LEARNING: An American Koto Player in Japan**, Modern pieces for two kotos; ethnomusicology colloquium and music performance 6 to 7:45 p.m., Nov. 15, UH-Manoa, Music Bldg. 36.

**LADIES NITE OUT**, 6 to 9 p.m., Nov. 16, Naʻauhu Congregational Church, 2851 Pal Highway.

**STORYTELLING WORKSHOP**, Telling and Coaching with Jeff Gere, drama specialist, with the City & County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Part two of three sessions, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Nov. 16, Ewa Lani of the McCoy Pavilion. Free. Call 373-4782.

**BALLET HISPANICO**, a New York City-based dance company performance incorporating ballet and modern dance with flamenco, classical Spanish, popular Latin American and traditional Caribbean dance techniques, 8 p.m., Nov. 16, Leeward Community College Theatre. Information: 455-0384.

**"VIGNETTES OF SOVIET LIFE UNDER GLASNOST"**, Phi Beta Kappa lecture by Patricia Polensky, Russian biographer, Hamilton Library, 8 p.m., Nov. 15, at St. John Auditorium, Plant Sciences Bldg., UH-Manoa.

# Officials to check legality of local fishermen's nets

**QUESTION:** Auwe!!! The state and federal governments are objecting to foreign fishermen using gill nets miles from shore to catch fish, but are saying nothing when the same thing is happening in our own backyard! Local fishermen string hundreds and hundreds of feet of gill net nearly every weekend right off Wailupe Beach Park.

They catch everything that is out there with those monofilament "walls of death." They even catch endangered species like the green sea turtles. A little one was found dead after being washed ashore last weekend, right where the fishermen lay their nets.

Why are they allowed to use them off a beach park? Also, why are they allowed to put a tent over the park's picnic benches and camp there overnight all weekend?

**ANSWER:** Camping is not allowed at Wailupe Beach Park so city park police will check the park this weekend to be sure no one pitches a tent there for an overnight stay. If you see a tent and campers before that, call police at 911.

State conservation enforcement officers also will check to see if the fishermen's nets are legal or illegal. They probably are regular nets with mesh that is 2 inches in length when stretched, from knot to knot, said Maurice M. Matsuzaki, chief of the enforcement division. Nets with mesh smaller than 2 inches are illegal, he said.

The state and federal governments are against foreign fishermen using drift gill nets that stretch for miles in the open ocean to catch fish, Matsuzaki said. Call his division's 24-hour hotline, 548-5918, when you see the fishermen with the gill nets.

His officers also will investigate your report that turtles are being caught. It is illegal to capture all turtles, Matsuzaki said.

**Q:** The starting point of the Judd Memorial Trail in Nuuanu is so polluted with trash that it stinks! Why aren't there at least one or two trash cans at that point so that people at least can put their garbage where it belongs?

It's so sad to see such a beautiful place become so ugly because of peoples' careless indifference to littering. Our family always picks up a little trash every time we go there or to the beach so that others might care a little more. We started doing this after being inspired by another family.

**A:** The state Division of Forestry and Wildlife has the responsibility



## KOKUA LINE

By Harriet Gee

of maintaining hiking trails. A division official said rubbish cans are not placed at the start of each trail because hikers are encouraged to take their rubbish home with them for disposal. Experienced hikers do this automatically.

The division also does not have sufficient personnel to empty and replace trash containers on a regular basis. Placing containers could encourage hikers to dispose of their rubbish there or on the ground, if the receptacle is full.

## New director

Harry K. Lee will become the new state director of all activities sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons beginning Jan. 1 and may be called for up-to-date information on the programs.

The association doesn't have a telephone number listed but Lee said he would be happy to have his personal number (396-8530) used as the central contact.

A reader recently asked Kokua Line how he could obtain information about the association's refresher course on driver education for senior citizens after he found no listing in the directory. Anyone 50 years or older who attends two sessions of the course is awarded a certificate that earns them a discount on auto insurance premiums from some companies.

The next course will be offered Jan. 23 and 24 at the Waikiki-Kapuhulu Library at 9 a.m. For more information or to pre-register, call Seymour at 537-9333. The schedule of future classes will be listed hereafter in the Today section's Bulletin Board.

## Mahalo

"I was involved in a 'miracle-to-still-be-alive' accident on Kapiolani Boulevard Nov. 5. When my car finally came to a stop a young man and three women came to my assistance. I kept insisting I was OK but they did not leave me until the police came. I want to thank them once again, as well as the policeman who was so kind and drove me home."

Need help with problems? Call Kokua Line at 525-8688 or write to P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu 96802.

DEC 20, 1989 HSB A-2

# Lahaina man, son convicted of catching protected turtles

A Lahaina man and his son were convicted by a federal jury yesterday of taking from the waters off Maui two Pacific green sea turtles protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The jury convicted David Nuesca and his son Daryl of catching the two turtles Sept. 3. Police later found the turtles in the back of Daryl Nuesca's pickup truck, and released them in the ocean.

The charge carries a maximum six-month jail term and a \$10,000 fine.

Federal Magistrate Daral Conklin scheduled sentencing for Jan. 4.

The jury, which deliberated for about three hours, acquitted the father of a second charge of having three turtle shells at his residence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Gasner said he did not know what he will recommend at sentencing, but said he may be asking for a jail term.

Federal Deputy Public Defender Hayden Aluli said he will appeal the convictions. He said he will argue that as native Hawaiians, the Nuescas should be exempted from the law the same way that persons from the Trust Territories are permitted to catch the turtles for sustenance.

## COURTS

### Father, son go on trial over endangered turtles

A Maui father and son went on trial yesterday in federal court on charges of catching two Pacific green sea turtles.

Daryl Nuesca, 19, and his father, David, were stopped Sept. 3 after authorities found two live turtles in the back of a pickup they were riding in. The turtles, on the federal list of endangered species, were released back into the ocean.

Authorities later found three turtle shells at the Nuesca home. David Nuesca is charged with possession of those. His attorney, Deputy Federal Public Defender Hayden Aluli, told the jury yesterday the government would have to prove that the three shells came from turtles that were caught within the past 11 years. It was not illegal to catch turtles before then.

Daryl Nuesca's attorney did not make an opening statement or disclose what his defense would be.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Gasner said Daryl Nuesca caught the two turtles in a net and was seen carrying them to the truck "like suitcases." When stopped by Maui police, Nuesca allegedly said he had a right to catch turtles because he is of Hawaiian ancestry.

But in a pretrial ruling, U.S. Magistrate Bert Tokairin said Hawaiians are not exempted from the Endangered Species Act, as Alaskan Eskimos are in certain instances.

12-13-69

HSB

## THE COURTS

### Jury decides killing is case of manslaughter

A 23-year-old Iwilei man tried for murder in the shooting death of an acquaintance has been convicted of the lesser offense of manslaughter.

A Circuit Court jury returned the verdict yesterday after about five hours of deliberation in the trial of Jon Teruya, who shot Tilo Ufiufi, 21, at Teruya's home on Aug. 7.

Judge Edwin Honda scheduled Teruya's sentencing for Jan. 30. He faces a 10-year maximum prison sentence. Defense attorney John Yamane said his client had agreed

to plead guilty to manslaughter before the trial.

Teruya testified that he shot the larger Ufiufi to defend himself as Ufiufi was charging him.

Deputy City Prosecutor John Riggs called the case against Teruya "a difficult case." Ufiufi was more than a foot taller and about 80 pounds heavier than Teruya and had been smoking crystal methamphetamine.

### Two Maui men convicted of capturing sea turtles

A federal court jury yesterday convicted two Maui men of taking green sea turtles in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

David Nuesca and his son, Darryl, face up to six months in prison and \$10,000 in fines when they are sentenced on Jan. 4.

But U.S. Magistrate Daral Conklin said the men could remain free on bail in the meantime and would not have to be present for the sentencing.

The turtles were returned to sea after the men were stopped in their pickup truck while leaving Honouua Bay Sept. 3.

Deputy Federal Public Defender Hayden Aluli, who represented David Nuesca, said he would appeal the conviction. He said Pacific islanders in the United States Trust Territory are exempt from the law and allowed to hunt green

Friday, December 15, 1989 □ A-7

sea turtles for food. He believes people of Hawaiian ancestry, such as the Nuescas, should have a similar exemption.

### Magistrate denies bail in 'crack house' case

U.S. Magistrate Doral Conklin yesterday ordered a Kailua couple held without bail pending trial on charges they ran Oahu's first "crack house."

Katherine and Allan Gaspar were indicted last week under a new law directed at people who use their homes to process crack cocaine or deal other drugs.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff

# He's not making this up: Lovelorn turtle attacks

**Y**OU can imagine how alarmed I was when I found out that I had been swimming in the same waters as the Giant Perverted Turtle.

I found out about this story when numerous alert readers sent me an article from The Reporter, a newspaper published in the Florida Keys, headlined TURTLE ATTACK IS REPORTED.

If you have not yet heard about the Giant Perverted Turtle, please be advised that, until we get this thing cleared up, you should avoid submerging yourself in any body of water unless it has a drain and a soap dish.

Immediately, I interrupted my regular journalism routine of staring fixedly at individual pieces of ceiling dirt, because it just so happens that my major hobby, aside from turning off lights and appliances that have been turned on days earlier by my son, is scuba diving off the Florida Keys.

You go out to the reef, bouncing over the waves, then you dive in and admire the incredible variety of marine life that is attracted by other diving enthusiasts barfing over the side of the charter boat.

You see some fascinating things down there.

I once got to see what fishing looks like from the fish end. There, dangling in the current, was a largish hook, to which had been attached a disgusting thing such as you might be served in a sushi restaurant.

Staring at this thing was a small formal gathering of filefish, which is a fish with pursed lips and a bulging forehead that make it look very serious, as though it should be carrying a little briefcase and doing the other fishes' tax returns.

As the other filefish watched, the first one would swim forward, take the sushi in its mouth, spit it out immediately, then swim to the end of the line. Then the next fish would repeat this procedure, and the next, and so on ("Yuck! You try it, Norm!" "OK! Yuck! You try it, Walter!" "OK! Yuck! You try...").

If I'd had a waterproof pen and paper with me, I'd have stuck a little note on the hook saying, "THEY DON'T LIKE IT."

But getting back to the Giant Perverted Turtle, according to The Reporter article, written by outdoor writer Bob T. Epstein, there's a very aggressive male 300-pound loggerhead turtle that lurks in the water under one of the bridges in the Florida Keys and - I am not making this up - keeps trying, very forcefully, to mate WITH HUMAN DIVERS.

I'm not going to give details of this occurrence in a family newspaper, except to say that if we ever decide we need some form of punishment harsher than the death penalty, this would be a strong candidate.

JUDGE: I sentence the defendant to be put in the lagoon with Bart.



*Honolulu Advertiser*  
11-21-89 B1

**Dave Barry**

Life and Related Subjects



## DEFENDANT: NO! NOT THE TURTLE!

I called up one of the divers who'd reportedly been attacked, a real estate agent named Bruce Gernon, who confirmed the whole thing, but asked me to stress that he successfully fought the turtle off. So let the record show that the turtle did not get to first base with Mr. Gernon.

Fortunately this alarming story is getting attention from leading science authorities: Epstein told me he has been contacted by both the Letterman AND Sajak shows.

So action is being taken, and not a moment too soon, either, because - this appears to be a related story - several alert readers have sent me an Associated Press article stating that two marine biologists in a submarine 690 feet deep, far off the coast of Alaska, discovered, lying on the ocean floor: a cow.

I am still not making this up. Needless to say the cow was deceased. God alone knows how it got there. One obvious possibility is prankster skindivers, but we cannot rule out the possibility that the cow was abducted by lust-crazed walruses.

Fortunately the biologists were able to make a videotape, starring Rob Lowe, so we should have some answers soon. Until then, I'm not going to even take a SHOWER.

# Harassment of sea animals decried by island residents

□ They say more agents are needed to enforce U.S. rules

By Lester Chang  
and Alan Isbell  
Star-Bulletin

11-16-89 A3  
HSB

LIHUE — Environmentalists on Kauai are asking a federal marine law enforcement agency to use more undercover agents to catch commercial boaters harassing sea animals off Kauai.

More effort is needed to stop the harassment of humpback whales, dolphins and green sea turtles off the Na Pali Coast and Kilauea Lighthouse, they said during a hearing yesterday.

While there are few documented Kauai cases, the National Marine Fisheries Service cited numerous boaters off Maui this year with undercover agents, agency spokesman Gene Nitta said.

The branch in Hawaii can't do more because it is understaffed, with only two agents, he said.

Nitta is holding statewide hearings this week to discuss proposed permanent regulations on whale watching in Hawaii.

Among other things, interim regulations, adopted in 1987, prohibits boaters from getting closer than 100 yards from whales and within 300 yards of them in birthing areas. Violators face up to a \$25,000 fine and possible seizure of their boats.

Conservationist Robert Macknowski said similar regulations for dolphin watching aren't necessary, and that stiffer enforcement of federal protection laws will curb harassments.

refuges are the best way to protect sea animals, said Don Heacock, a state wildlife biologist. So far this year, boats collided with three turtles, resulting in the death of at least one turtle, he said.

Nitta said a combination of a marine life conservation district, a reserve and a shoreline fish management area should be explored and that going with just one option was too restricting.

Meanwhile, at a Maui hearing attended by about 30 people Tuesday, Nitta was told regulations should be based on research, not "knee-jerk reaction."

Most of those attending were commercial tour craft operators.

Dave Jung, a Maui operator who is also a member of Whale Aid — an organization set up to fund research on Hawaii's visiting humpbacks — said the agency first should understand why approaches by boats would cause whales to go away.

To that effect, Jung noted that money raised by Whale Aid is being used to monitor sounds made by both whales and boats.

Ric Martini, a scientist living in Lahaina, said this hydrophone research "can easily" identify and track whales and vessels within a 10-kilometer radius.

Researchers Debbie and Mark Ferrari, supported financially by Whale Aid, provided the federal agency with the data that established the 300-yard restriction in birthing areas, which on Maui is the whole of Maalaea Harbor.

But the Pacific Whale Foundation, a non-profit research organization that runs commercial charters out of Maalaea Harbor, disputed the findings. Paul Forestell, a foundation researcher, said he doesn't believe the extra 200-yard restriction in birthing areas made any difference to the whales.

Forestell wanted to know: "Why is Maui always focused on as the place where calves need to be protected? I think you should be looking at Oahu, or the Big Island. As the northern Pacific herd begins to regain numbers, whales are beginning to return to those islands again."

Nitta will be holding similar hearings at 7 p.m. today at Kealahou School in Kailua-Kona and at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Kaimuki Library on Oahu.



# Hanapepe residents rip

By Jan TenBruggencate

Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE Hanapepe residents say they can't understand the reasoning behind a state Department of Transportation plan to allow thrill craft in Hanapepe Bay.

The department's Harbors Division held a hearing on its proposed changes to various rules, including those to control thrill craft, protect endangered species and amend other boating regulations.

In one change, the department proposed allowing commercial and recreational thrill craft operations within the bay. Residents said the proposal threatens children, fishermen and wildlife. Their main points:

- Whales use the bay. They displayed aerial photographs showing young whales swimming inside the bay.

- Young children learn to surf in an area designed by the Department of Transportation as a thrill craft low-speed corridor.

- Fishermen catch baitfish in an area designated for commercial thrill craft operation and akule in the recreational



thrill craft area.

- The threatened green sea turtle regularly is seen in the proposed thrill craft area.

Four speakers in brief statements said they support thrill craft at Hanapepe.

Hanapepe resident Wilma Holi said there already have been jet skis operating at high

speed in the bay, and she has seen them interfering with net fishermen.

"The thrill craft operators have had their chance to operate in Hanapepe and they have proved how irresponsible they are," Holi said.

Several speakers asked that Kauai be designated an island without thrill craft operation areas.

In another matter, Clancy Greff, owner of Captain Zodiac, a Na Pali Coast tour boat operation, said he wants to move most of his operations away from Tunnels Beach near Hanapepe.

The loading of passengers at Tunnels has been the subject of strong opposition from some neighbors. Greff asked that the rules be amended to allow him to move most of those operations to Hanalei Bay.

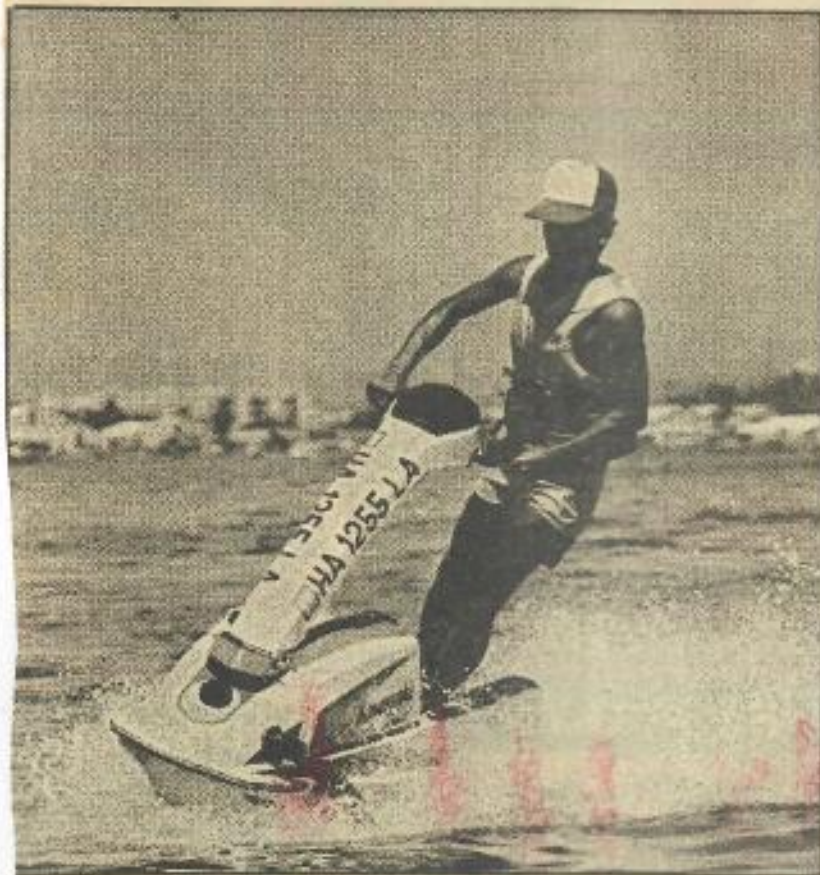
Billy Swain, president of the North Shore Charter Boat Association, challenged a rule that would allow only 15 boat operator permits at Hanalei. There are more than 15 operators now, he said.

"Who will not get a permit?" he asked.

# thrill craft OK

The Honolulu Advertiser

Friday, November 10, 1989



Advertiser file photo

## Maui foundation holds workshops on ocean issues

KIHEI — A series of workshops on marine mammals and protection of the ocean environment is being held by the Pacific Whale Foundation.

Four workshops will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Nov. 21.

Workshop topics include a history of marine mammal conservation, the natural history of whales and dolphins and ocean ecosystems.

Information on the workshops, including sites for each workshop, is available through the Pacific Whale Foundation at 879-8860.

Some Hanapepe residents oppose the state's proposal allowing commercial and recreational thrill craft in Hanapepe Bay.

## Ban drift-nets

A12 11-20-89 HSB

**H**AWAII'S two members of the House of Representatives took the floor during the debate on a resolution condemning drift-net fishing in the South Pacific.

The resolution urges the Bush administration to cooperate with South Pacific organizations in establishing an international agreement to ban drift-netting. It names Japan and Taiwan as major contributors to the problem.

Rep. Pat Salki said, "To allow this fishing method to continue would be an irresponsible and inappropriate misuse of ocean resources." Rep. Daniel Akaka declared, "It is time we dismantle the wall of death."

Drift-nets take a huge toll of marine life, snaring porpoises, turtles, birds and species of fish that have no commercial value. They also threaten to wipe out the albacore tuna. International action is urgently needed to stop this practice. The Bush administration has already moved to bring it under control.

Hawaii is concerned about protecting the ocean's resources, and its representatives in Washington are expressing that concern.

# A mixed plate of ocean anecdotes

Four anecdotes: one promising, one disturbing, one hopeful and one historical.

The Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources expects to replace the Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) off Kawaihae sometime in mid November. These buoys disappeared last spring and summer, probably through natural causes (deterioration of the anchor line).

DAR spokesman Glenn Higashi, the man in charge of the FAD system, says the replacement operation depends on the availability of the vessel *Kila*. The *Kila* is the boat normally assigned by the state for FAD maintenance but is also involved in a wide range of other projects.

Higashi says the DAR hopes to barge the buoys to Kawaihae so they'll be available on site whenever the schedule of the *Kila* permits deployment. Having the buoys, lines and anchors nearby should speed the process, says Higashi, because otherwise the *Kila* would have to return to Honolulu between jobs to get the gear.

Right now, the vessel is involved in an interisland cable-laying operation.

Once the buoys have been replaced, Kawaihae boats should have three to choose from — OTEC, XX and ZZ. The DAR does not plan to replace YY because it is only an intermittent pro-



**JIM  
RIZZUTO**

ducer and rarely gathers fish.

A few weekends back, a sea turtle research team working in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) discovered an illegal gillnet stretched point to point across Kiholo Bay. The mesh, said one member of the team, was clearly less than the two-inch minimum for gillnets stipulated by law.

During the team's two-day, overnight stay, the net was untended. It had been set out before the researchers arrived, remained untended while they were there and was still there after they left.

NMFS has no jurisdiction in state waters, so an official of the party contacted the state's enforcement division to report the violation and seek assistance. The caller was told that no enforcement officers were available. All had been assigned to the state's mari-

juana eradication program.

Sea turtles are endangered species. NMFS and its volunteer assistants, are capturing turtles at places like Kiholo, tagging them and releasing them to study age, growth, and other aspects of their natural history and biology.

Kiholo is an especially important site because the sheltered waters and sandy beach attract sea turtles. The researchers have been able to capture and tag more than a hundred Kiholo turtles over the past two years.

On last week's excursion, they were delighted to find a rare Hawksbill turtle — among the most endangered of the many kinds of sea turtles now threatened by loss of habitat and predation.

As you wander around Honokohau Harbor looking at the tuna towers on all of the supersized big game boats, here's a historical trivia question for you to ponder.

What Hawaii boat was the first one with a tuna tower, when was it introduced and who was the skipper?

For Keauhou skipper Capt. Jack Ross, this was an easy question. He brought the Marleen here to Kona from Florida

**See RIZZUTO:**

Page 18

From page 15

more than 20 years ago.

An article by Bruce Carter in the Feb. 4, 1968 Honolulu Star-Bulletin was bannered "Look Out Marlin! Hawaii's First Tuna Tower."

Bruce's story led off with:

"Another first will make its bow in Kona waters this week when a sport cruiser with a Bimini-style tuna tower completes its cross channel run from Honolulu. Long a familiar sight off Florida and the Bahamas, none of the tuna towers has been used in the Hawaiian Islands heretofore."

Atlantic Ocean fishermen seeking bluefin tuna found the high perches — twice as high as a flying bridge — useful for spotting schooling fish far off in the distance.

Since we don't have bluefin here, local trollers had reservations about the value of these ungainly looking replicas of the Eiffel Tower.

"Whether the tuna tower will be of any assistance in spotting marlin in Kona waters remains to be seen," wrote veteran fisherman, author and captain, Bruce Carter. "Veterans doubt that anything other than the conventional flying bridge is necessary off Kona where the fish stay deep.

"As a result, critics will be closely watching the new cruiser to see if the tuna tower appears to be bringing better-than-average catches," he said.

The proliferation of tuna towers in the last two decades has swept away the critics — per-

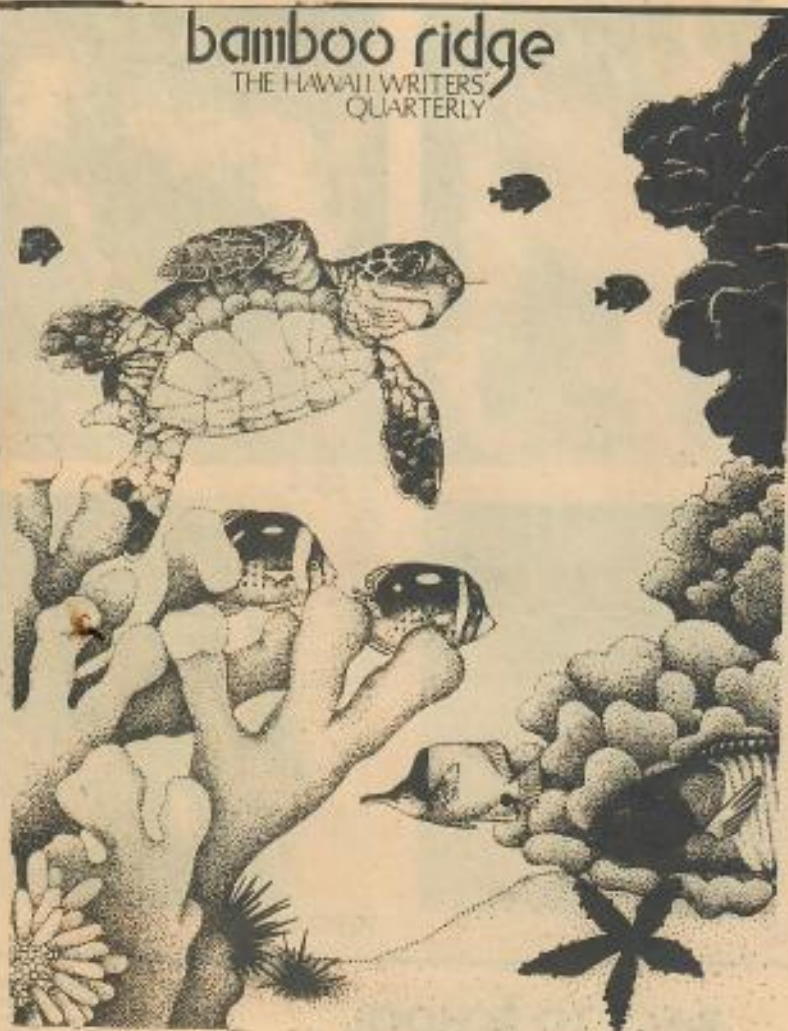
haps without settling the question.

Ironically, Captain Jack's current boat (what else? the Capt. Jack), designed by Jack,

himself, has a flying bridge, but no tuna tower.

Questions and comments for this column should be addressed to Box 635, Kamuela 96743-0635.

**bamboo ridge**  
THE HAWAII WRITERS'  
QUARTERLY



***Faye' cover art***

KAUA'I ARTIST CHRIS FAYE' has illustrated the latest issue of Bamboo Ridge Press' "The Hawai'i Writer's Quarterly No. 41" as shown above. Bamboo Ridge is a non-profit corporation founded in 1978 by Darrell Lum and Eric Chock. It is run by a volunteer staff. Information on back issues and subscriptions can be obtained from Bamboo Ridge Press, P.O. Box 61781, Honolulu, 96839. The next double issue will commemorate the bicentennial of the Chinese in Hawai'i. Writings by Hawai'i's Chinese dating back to the 20's as well as contemporary poetry and fiction will be featured.

# HAWAII

Tuesday, October 24, 1989 ■ Star-Bulletin  
A3

■ City-state  
■ William S  
■ Power st

## Watch out for flying turtles!



By Ken Sakamoto, Star-Bulletin

A construction worker at the Hawaii Prince Hotel appears to be part of a watery world. Actually, the sea creatures are part of a mural.

## Raid shatters gang's isle

□ Police arrest five of 22 in the Korean ring and seize cash and six guns

By Crystal Kua  
Star-Bulletin

Police have arrested members of a violent New York-based gang who Honolulu police believe arrived to set up a crystal methamphetamine drug trade between here and the East Coast, a police official said.

In the bust last week in Waikiki, police seized \$72,000 in cash, six guns, jewelry and ammunition and arrested four males and a woman belonging to "K.P." or Korean Power, whose members are Korean resident aliens living in New York and operating in the Queen's district.

"They are considered to be violent," said Maj. Mike Carvalho, head of the Narcotics Vice Division.

Police did not recover "ice," the street name for smokable crystal methamphetamine, or any other drugs in the bust, but informants have told police that the group was in town to start a crystal meth distribution line between Honolulu and New York, Carvalho said.

Some 22 gang members arrived in Honolulu between Oct. 4 and Thursday when the arrest occurred. The 17 gang members not arrested flew back to New York over the weekend, Carvalho said.

Five Korean gangs are based in New York, he said.

Carvalho said police are looking for...

# Opinion

## The Maui News

Founded in 1900

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## It is shameful that this situation exists

### EDITORIAL

When history tells our story, it is well we will not be around to answer for the sins of our time. Imagine that in 4 hours workers could gather 6 tons of trash from a small bay off Kahoolawe. Picture it, if you can, 6 tons of plastic bottles, fishing nets, plastic bags and whatever else man chose to discard, *and Kathy picking it all up!!*

The most serious aspect of the debris is the monofilament drift nets that are cut free and left to drift and snare whatever sea life might be caught in them.

President Bush has finally decided to join the move to outlaw these nets, and it is about time. Hawaii has been against them as have other Pacific island communities. When it is estimated that 365,000 miles of these killing nets are cut adrift each year it isn't too difficult to image what it does to the creatures of the sea.

The sad thing is that the trash is not diminishing. We are not getting the message to the right people. We have not been able to convince the men who make their living from the ocean that they are destroying their own livelihood.

It is sickening to read that rare turtles are found dead on beaches with stomachs full of cigarette butts. The sportsmen, the sailors, and the men who live by the bounty from the sea have so little regard for these creatures. They use the ocean as a giant garbage receptacle.

We are indebted to those who turn out to clean the beaches and the waterways. There should be stiff fines and prison sentences for those who make it necessary.

## Law covers seals, turtles, porpoises

By Edwin Tanji

Advertiser Maui County Bureau

MAALAEA, Maui — Humpback whales may be the best known of the marine creatures protected by federal laws, probably because their size and seasonal visits give them a higher profile to the general public.

But the top federal enforcement official in Hawaii, Gene Witham, said Hawaii residents need to remember that the regulations also protect resident species, including the Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles and porpoises.

The laws ban killing, injuring or just plain disturbing the creatures that make their homes around the Islands. The monk seal, green sea turtle and hawksbill turtle are all protected by the Endangered Species Act. Monk seals and porpoises are protected by the Marine Mammals Protection Act.

Witham is senior resident agent for the Hawaii area with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the enforcing agency for those acts.

He said it is illegal in the United States to even bring in turtle shells or items made from turtle shells, although in other parts of the world it is not illegal to have such items. "Turtles are probably the biggest source of complaints and reports after humpback whales," Witham said.

His office handles about 55 to 60 "turtle incidents" a year, he said, of which about half involve turtles taken illegally, generally by net or spear fishing.

"From the number of turtle parts, we find, the number of cases of taking is probably a lot higher," he said. "We find turtle parts all over the island."

It's not unusual to find remains of a turtle on a beach with the shell cut off and the meat taken from it, he said. But he said the cases also include finds of dead turtles washed up on a beach with obvious signs of having been entangled in a net.

"Turtles are not capable of escaping from a gill net once they have been entangled. Being air-breathing animals, within an hour after they've been caught, they'll be dead," he said. It's also not legal to disturb turtles, as some divers are inclined to do, hanging onto the turtle's back as it tries to flee.

The penalties for harassing a protected species can run up to a maximum of \$25,000, but Witham said that the standard fines are much lower. For those people found illegally taking a turtle, the fines have been around \$400 to \$500 for each incident, he said.

There have been no citations issued for harassing monk seals in his eight years of experience in Hawaii, he said. But that's probably because the seals are such rare creatures in populated areas.

"We've had reports of harassment of seals, but we haven't been able to substantiate them. We think the reports we receive are accurate, but we just haven't been able to get enough proof," he said.

He encourages reports of violations. "We appeal for public help because we don't have the resources to do it ourselves," he said.

It doesn't take much to report a violation, he said. A witness need only provide a description of a boat or individual and the actions observed, along with details on time and place of an incident. If the witness can iden-

tify the violator, that helps but is not absolutely necessary. A witness reporting an incident need not give his or her own name, Witham said.

Witham said witnesses can claim a reward if their complaint results in a conviction for a violation of either of the federal acts. The reward would be up to 50 percent of whatever fines are imposed on the violator.

Reports of incidents may go to local police or to the Oahu office of the National Marine Fisheries Service at 541-2727. Witham said callers on the

Neighbor Islands may call collect to report violations. On Maui, the National Marine Fisheries Service will maintain an office during the humpback-whale winter visit at 244-7572.

Persons seeing a rare monk seal or any member of a protected species that appears to be injured or ill should also call the Fisheries service, Witham added.

If someone sees an animal of a protected species, there is no problem with hanging around to observe it, he said. But he warns against approaching the animal or doing anything that

causes it to change its behavior, whether it's causing a seal to leave a beach where it has been sunning itself or chasing a school of porpoises with a high speed boat.

"We want guys to use good judgment. If the animal comes up to them to take a look, that's fine, but when the animal leaves, don't go after them. We're looking out for that," he said.

"We take our jobs quite seriously. We think of ourselves as the voice of the animals who can't speak for themselves."



3/11/88 ASB A2

# Markets' turtles not the endangered type

By Harriet Gee  
Star-Bulletin writer

**Q** — While browsing around the Chinatown open markets fronting King Street Wednesday morning, I saw a large green-and-yellow turtle and two smaller ones on sale for \$8 a pound. The large turtle's shell was about 10 inches in diameter. Could you have someone with authority check to see if those turtles are on the federal government's endangered species list?

I've read where people have been prosecuted by the federal government for killing turtles that are protected by law. The turtles that I saw were still alive but I'm sure they are being sold for food and not as pets. I hope it won't be too late to save them from extinction.

**A** — Those are not the marine turtles that have been classified as endangered species and protected by federal law, but edible fresh-water turtles from the mainland. "They are very common turtles and are being sold for food and as pets," said Henry M. Sakuda, chief of the state aquatics resources branch. He sent a staff member down to Chinatown to investigate your complaint.

"Most fresh-water turtles are green and yellowish brown and have claw feet, like those found on chickens and reptiles," Sakuda said. This helps them hold onto things as they walk ashore to bask in the sun, he said. Marine turtles are brown and grayish and their four appendages are shaped like paddles. Their shells are usually more polished than those on the fresh-water turtles.



Harriet Gee

Several years ago, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prohibited pet shops from selling turtles whose shells are less than 4 inches in diameter because children were swallowing them, said Maurice Tamura of the state Health Department's food and drug branch. The state has no objections to the sale of turtles, "as long as they are not on the endangered list and are safe for human consumption," Tamura said.

Turtle importers must obtain a permit from the state Agriculture Department's plant quarantine branch to bring them in from the mainland, said Albert Lam, acting branch chief. He said they have been allowed to enter Hawaii for years, after agriculture inspectors check to see if they are the correct size and do not have leeches, Lam said.

**Q** — I have been buying ground turkey lately because it's supposed to be low in calories, cholesterol and fat, high in protein and very economical. I notice the meat feels quite oily, however, when I'm mixing it and forming patties. Why isn't the fat content listed on the packaging, the way hamburger is sold? Auwe! I hope I'm not paying for a lot of turkey fat and skin!

**A** — Armour Food Co. supplies all of the major supermarkets in Hawaii with ground turkey, according to Charles Harmon, Hawaii division manager. He told Mrs. K yesterday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not require producers to list the fat content on packaging for poultry products.

Harmon said Armour's ground turkey has more than 90 percent lean turkey (between 91 and 93 percent), while the rest of it is turkey fat and some skin.

**Q** — We were so happy when a lot of mango flowers appeared on our tree a few months ago. The white flies went to work again, however, and

destroyed all chances of a large crop of mangoes this year. This happened last year also. My husband says it isn't the white fly but a brown fly that has destroyed our mangoes. Is there another new pest in Hawaii?

**A** — No, it's the same pest, the mango midge, that was reported several years ago, says Larry Nakahara, chief of the state Agriculture Department's biological control branch. The midge is a brownish fly that attacks the mango flowers and prevents them from producing fruits, usually in the drier sections of Oahu. If you live in the wetter areas, you can blame several diseases, or fungus, Nakahara said.

A tree that flowered first in a dry neighborhood like Kaimuki will be able to have more mangoes because the midge population hasn't built up, Nakahara said. But if your tree starts flowering late, you won't harvest too many mangoes because the midge population will have built up great numbers by then. A heavy rain will "knock down" the midge from the tree because it is very fragile and will die.

## Food follow-up

A state sanitation inspector visited Long Bridge, the popular chicken-fighting site in Haleiwa, last Sunday and found the female food vendor that a reader complained about to Kokua Line several weeks ago.

The inspector cited her for not having a peddler's license from the state Health Department, but did not find any evidence of the unsanitary practices that the reader reported.

Harriet Gee writes Kokua Line Tuesday through Saturday in the Star-Bulletin. If you have a question or problem, call 525-8686 or write to Kokua Line, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802.

## STATE TARGETS KILLER LITTER

### Thousands volunteer to sweep beaches

When thousands of volunteers show up on beaches from Diamond Head to Ala Moana, they'll do more than just pick up litter.

They'll be saving Hawaii's marine life. According to John Yamaguchi of the state's litter control office, "Get the Drift & Bag It!" a massive community clean-up, serves other purposes, too.

"These volunteers will also be helping to save Hawaii's marine life including several endangered species, participating in a beach debris study and helping to measure the effectiveness of an international treaty," Yamaguchi says.

The clean-up is set for Saturday, Oct. 22, from 8:30 to noon.

During Hawaii's 1987 clean-up, more than 2,726 people picked up close to 40 tons of debris, much of it plastic, styrofoam, and fishing nets and lines.

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according to Yamaguchi.

"Debris such as this is more than just litter, it also can kill marine animals, such as Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles and birds.

"These animals often mistake plastic and styrofoam litter for food and swallow them," Yamaguchi says.

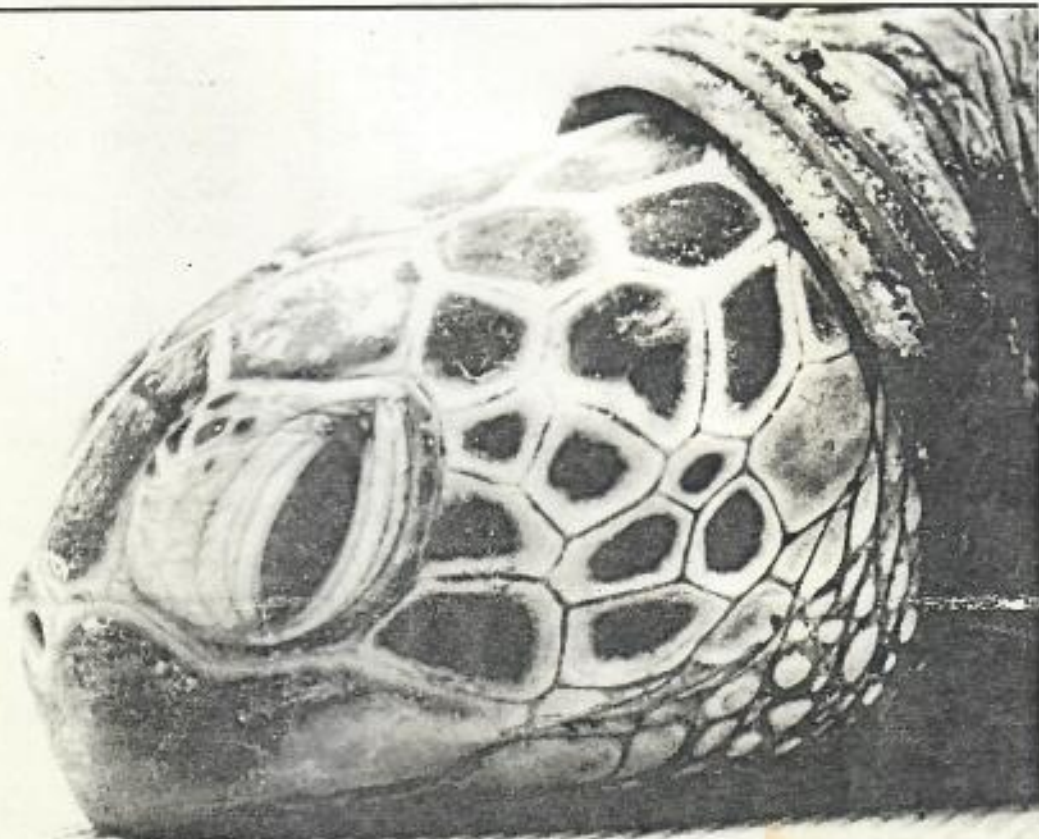
The sea animals, according to Yamaguchi, have been found strangled or starved to death, after being caught in fishing nets that have been lost or abandoned, as well as six-pack plastic ring connectors.

For the third year, Hawaii is also participating in a national program that monitors beach debris. Yamaguchi says that volunteers will be monitoring and keeping counts of various types of litter found on Hawaii's beaches. The information will be forwarded to the Center for Environmental Education in Washington, D.C.

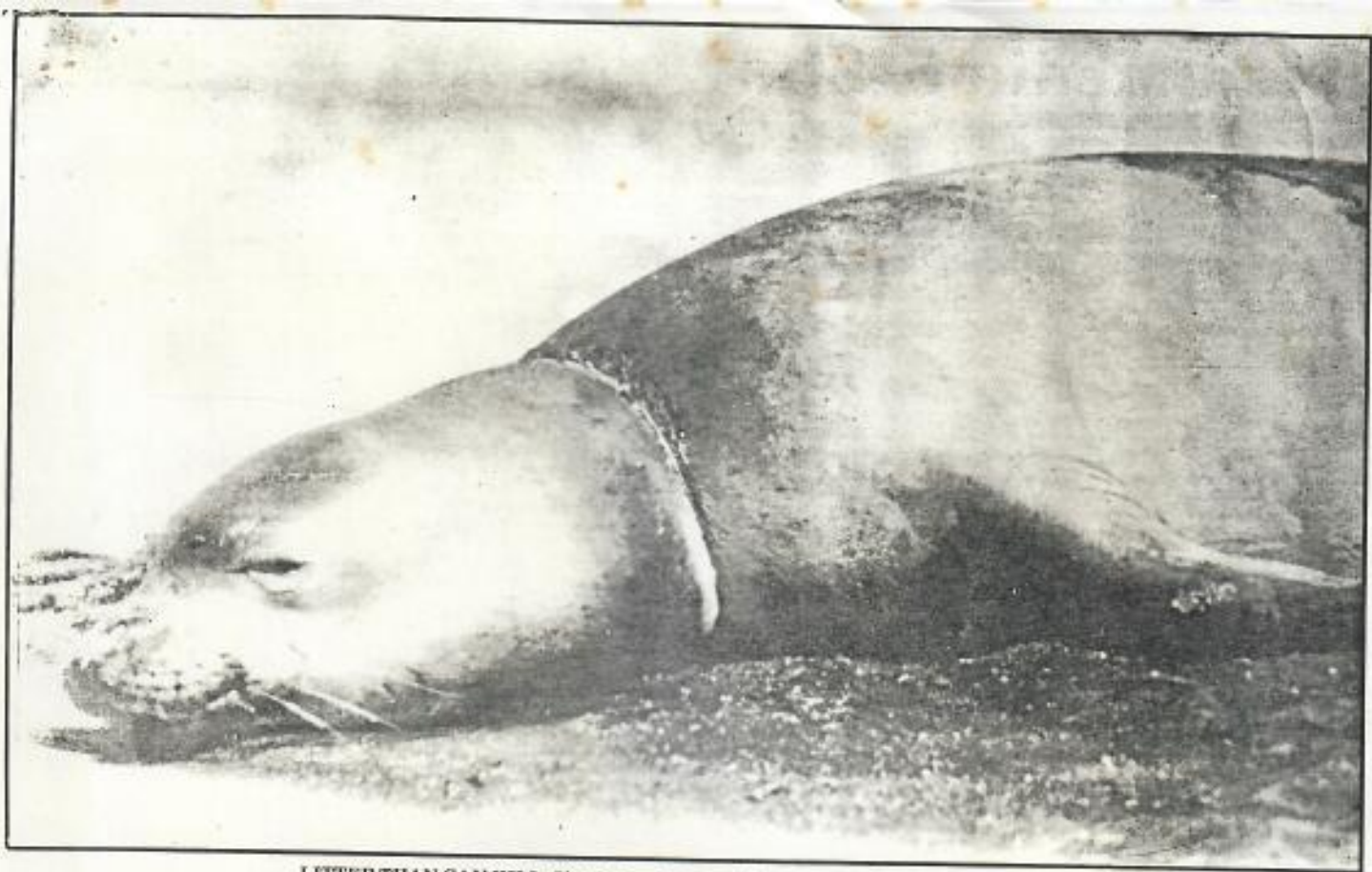
"The results of this study will be released in 1989 and will be used as baseline information to help measure the effectiveness of an international treaty, which prohibits the disposal of plastic and other trash from ships at sea.

The treaty takes effect at the start of 1989.

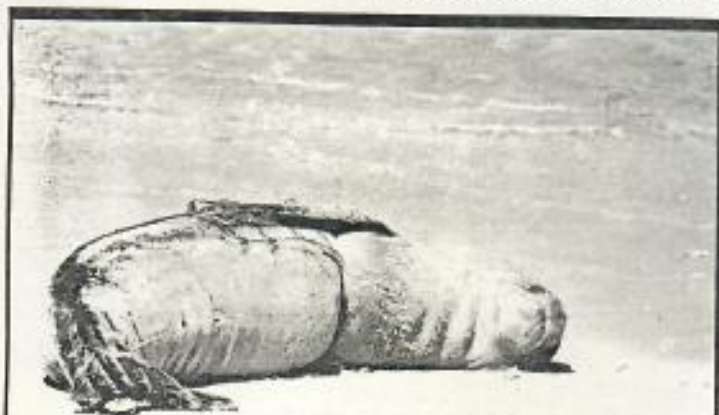
For more information, call the Community Work Day Program at 548-6444. The clean-up is sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Litter Control.



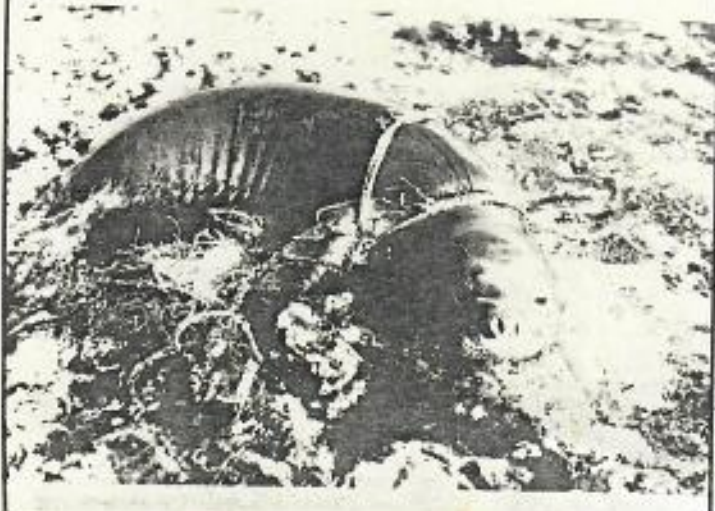
**NOT A HAPPY CAMPER:** Killer litter comes in all shapes and sizes. This Green Sea turtle may have spent a great deal of time coping with debris wrapped around its neck. State officials say that even computer tape casings are tossed into the sea. The state is coordinating a beach clean-up. See more pictures on page 6.



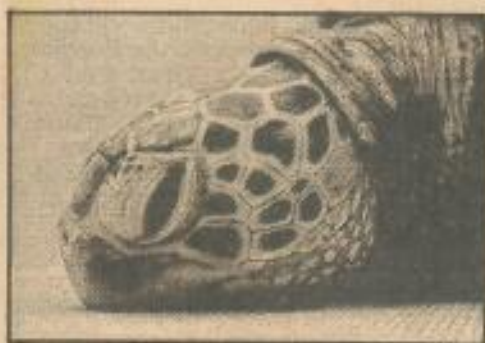
**LITTER THAN CAN KILL:** Plastic 6-pack rings can become entangled around seal's necks at a young age. As the seals grow they can be strangled. Thousands of volunteers will be trying to stem the increasing tide of debris that kills hundreds of marine mammals.



**DEATH ON THE BEACH:** These Hawaiian monk seals became tangled in bits of discarded boat lines or fishing lures and broken nets. "Get the Drift & Bag It!" is the day of an Oct. 22 clean-up day expected to bring thousands of people to clean up local beaches.



# Operation cleanup is planned



Thousands of people will be picking up marine debris Oct. 14, as part of a nationwide cleanup. This turtle, with a bottle rim constricting its neck, died of starvation.

By Peter Wagner  
Star-Bulletin

Thousands of island residents are expected to take to the beaches Oct. 14, not to bask in the sun but to pick up after their fellow man.

The sweep is part of a nationwide campaign by the non-profit Center for Marine Conservation in Washington, D.C. Supporting federal agencies include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Crews will go to work from 8:30 a.m. to noon on all islands, except Kahoolawe and the Big Island. The sweep of Kahoolawe is planned for Oct. 12, while volunteers on

Star-Bulletin

## ed for beaches Oct. 14

the Big Island are to meet Oct. 21.

The state litter control office, which is pushing the effort for the fourth consecutive year, says local residents seem eager to help clean up the beaches.

"People here in Hawaii have particularly strong feelings toward the ocean," said John Yamauchi, community projects coordinator in the state office. "It's a lot easier to get people to clean up the ocean than to walk down the street to clean up some trash."

Yamauchi said the litter control office has been flooded with calls, mostly from people who volunteered last year.

"The people who come out to clean up are not the people who are littering," he said. "We want people at home to say,

'Hey, I'd better take care next time I go to the beach because if a plastic sandwich bag flows into the ocean because of my sloppiness, it could have a fatal effect on a turtle or a seal or something.'"

The idea is not only to tidy up but also to note exactly what's washing in. Volunteers moving in small teams will record in detail the number and the type of items picked up.

Last year, more than 3,000 people cleaned up 117 beaches from Kauai to the Big Island. The effort tallied 250,000 pieces of trash, 62 percent of which was plastic, state officials said.

Information gathered in Hawaii will be analyzed along with results from 24 other coastal states and territories by the center.

Data from past cleanups were used in testimony and in reports leading to an international treaty this year banning the dumping of plastics at sea.

Among other things, the new cleanup data will help determine if the new law is working.

More than 47,000 Americans took part in the drive last year, covering 3,500 miles of coastline. Almost 1,000 tons of trash were taken away.

The program will even reach a remote cove on the uninhabited island of Kahoolawe, where winds and tides carry an unusually high concentration of flotsam.

About 50 civilians, including members of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, the state Community Work Day Office on Maui and the commercial Pacific Whale Foundation, will join a Navy unit in that cleanup.

For more information, call the state Litter Control Office at 548-3400.

## Hawaii's threatened Green Sea Turtles

Hawaii's idyllic climate provides a friendly home not just for people, but for many varieties of interesting creatures, especially those who thrive in the warm Pacific waters surrounding the Islands.

Sadly, some of these creatures have until fairly recently been exploited or neglected and now require special protection. Under the federal Endangered Species Act, an endangered species is one which is in immediate danger of extinction; a threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future.

One animal native to Hawaii that is protected by this important legislation is the green sea turtle. The National Marine Fisheries Service, in cooperation with the Center for Environmental Education, has published an informative brochure on this creature. The following article contains highlights of this brochure.

**S**ea turtles are graceful saltwater reptiles, well adapted to life in their marine world. With streamlined bodies and flipper-like limbs, they are able to swim long distances in a relatively short time.

There are only three species of sea turtles native to Hawaii: the green, the hawksbill and the leatherback. These fascinating creatures have played important roles in the environment and culture of Hawaii.

Of the three native Hawaiian sea turtles, the

green turtle is the most common. These turtles, which weigh up to 400 pounds, are primarily vegetarians. They eat algae or limu growing underwater on coral reefs and on rocks close to the shore. Like cows, green turtles depend upon bacteria in their guts for

digestion of their food. Green turtles nest in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The carapaces (upper shells) of adults are dark with olive or gold flecks. These turtles received their name from the color of their body fat.

When they are active, sea turtles must swim to the ocean surface to breathe every few minutes. When they are resting, they can remain underwater for a long as 2 1/2 hours without

breathing. Green turtles often rest in caves or under ledges in deep water.

Although sea turtles live most of their lives in the ocean, adult females must return to land in order to lay their eggs. Scientists believe that nesting female turtles return to the same beach on which they were born. Often, sea turtles must travel long distances from their feeding grounds to their nesting beaches. Just how sea turtles find their nesting beaches is



A female and a male green turtle.



Sea turtles, like all reptiles, bask in air (above). Green turtles are shown nesting underwater at left.

unknown.

Hawaii's green turtles migrate up to 800 miles from their feeding areas near the coast of the main islands to nesting beaches in the Northwestern



Hawaiian green sea turtles basking in the sun.

Hawaiian Islands. The males accompany the females in this migration and mate with them offshore from the nesting beaches.

Females often come ashore to nest several times in a season, but wait two to three years before nesting again. Green turtles nest only at night and can be frightened away by lights or movement. It is not easy for these turtles to find a suitable nesting site on land, where they no longer



A hawksbill turtle basking.

have the buoyancy of water to support their heavy bodies.

Green turtle eggs incubate for about two months. After hatching from their leathery, golf ball-sized eggs, the hatchlings make their way to the water. Some hatchlings never reach the ocean and are snatched up by hungry crabs, or they are impeded by obstacles and die in the sun's heat. Once in the ocean, sharks and possibly other carnivorous fish may eat hatchlings.

The life span of the sea turtle is unknown. Hawaiian green turtles seem to grow very slowly in the wild and may take 40 to 50 years to reach sexual maturity. Due to their size and swiftness in the water, adult sea turtles have only two predators: sharks and people. Tiger sharks regularly feed on all sizes of green turtles.

Once there were tens of millions of green sea turtles around the world. Now there may be fewer than 200,000 mature females. In Hawaii, the green turtle is a threatened species. Only 100 to 350 females nest each year, principally at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Because hawksbills do not nest in groups and leatherbacks do not nest in Hawaii at all, it is difficult to make good estimates for the size of these two species' Hawaiian populations. Both species are considered endangered worldwide.

Why have sea turtle populations declined in Hawaii and around the world? Explanations include direct exploitation (for such uses as food and clothing), poaching, subsistence hunting by some native Pacific Islanders, incidental catch (i.e., caught in commercial fisheries, shrimp trawls, etc.), eating toxic marine debris, and destruction of habitat by coastal development and pollution.

All sea turtles in Hawaii are fully protected under state law and by the federal Endangered Species Act. These laws prohibit harassing, harming, killing or keeping sea turtles in captivity without a permit allowing these activities for research or educational purposes. Divers should be aware that riding turtles is illegal and puts these animals under stress.

If you see green sea turtles being killed, captured, harmed or in any way harassed, please call the Enforcement Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service at 341-2727.



# Plague killing sea turtles a grim puzzle for science

By Barbara Hastings

Advertiser Science Writer

The turtle washes up on shore, dead or near dead. Hideous growths wrap around its flippers and erupt near the eyes.

The lumps look like cauliflowers gone bad, very bad.

Another turtle is lost to mysterious tumors. The green sea turtle is protected by law from human predation, but there is no statute to protect it from this disease.

Scientists have theories — but no hard answers. It's one of those scientific detective stories. Researchers in Florida, California and here are ferreting out bits of information, each on a different course.

They do know the tumors are showing up on turtles in parts of Hawaii and Florida, yet their cousins in other waters aren't getting them.

They know that while the tumors aren't new, they weren't epidemic in Hawaii's turtles until a few years ago, and in Florida only a bit longer.

The growths are frightful; they rob the turtle of its grace. People who come upon one washed up on the beach turn away revolted or stare at it

morbidity. Hundreds of leeches, attracted to the blood supply in the tumors, cling to the animal. There's no hope for the turtle. It will die of the tumors, sooner or later.

The tumors grow so large around the eyes they obstruct the turtle's vision and the ones around the flippers disrupt its ability to swim properly, said George Balazs, leader of marine turtle research for the federal NOAA Fisheries service who has been studying the green sea turtle for years.

Balazs suggested that these tumors may have caused the mammals who live in Kaneohe Bay to shift their habitat slightly north. If so, he said, that might explain why turtle feces began to wash up in large numbers at Kualoa Regional Park, causing the beach to be closed for several weeks.

Balazs said about 50 percent of the turtles he and other di-

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Honolulu

October 8, 1989

Prepared by the staff of The Honolulu Advertiser

vers have seen in Kaneohe Bay have the tumors. Of the 84 that have washed up on beaches around the islands so far this year, 48 percent had the growths.

But the diseased turtles aren't found in all Hawaii waters, nor all waters off Florida. In Florida they're found along the Atlantic Coast, near Cape Canaveral. In Hawaii it's around Kaneohe Bay and in Kailua Bay near Kawaiunui Channel's drainage. It's on the North Shore at Laniakea and Chun's Reef, not far from Meadow Gold Dairies, and on the South Shore near a drainage of Kapakahi Stream at Wai'ala'e Beach Park. On Maui, they're found at Kahului Bay near the power plant.

(Turtles tend to live in specific areas. Adult Hawaii turtles go every few years to breed at French Frigate Shoals but return to their home waters — Kaneohe turtles return there, Kahului turtles go back to Maui.)

Because of the locations where tumor-covered turtles are found, speculation abounds that pollution, perhaps chemical runoff from agriculture or other human activities, is a factor. It's possible, researchers say, that pollution could depress the turtle's immune sys-



Advertiser photo by Charles Okamura

George Balazs, leader of marine turtle research for the federal NOAA Fisheries service, shows a dead sea turtle which has tumors on its flippers and eyes.

tem, weakening barriers against disease. But so far, there's no scientific evidence to prove this.

Some scientists speculate the growths are caused by a virus; others a parasite in the form of a flatworm.

Balazs has four turtles in a tank at Kewalo Basin. All are between two and five years old and all have tumors. One was hit by a boat; its tumors aren't too bad, Balazs said, so once it gathers strength, it will be released.

The other three will never

swim in the open ocean again. They provide tumors for research, but nothing can be done for them, Balazs said, except to keep them fed and comfortable. "A hospice, that's basically what this is," he said.

Veterinarian Patrick Leadbeater operated for hours on one turtle, Balazs said, removing tumor after bloody tumor. Within a few months, they all started to grow back.

What impact all this will have on the turtle population down the line can only be guessed. It's not known how

long the green sea turtle lives, Balazs said, but "without the disease, we speculate the life span is probably quite long." They don't even reach mating maturity until around 26 years.

If you find a green sea turtle on the beach and it's still alive, the first thing to do, Balazs said, is point it back to the water. If it can't swim away, then call NOAA Fisheries Honolulu Laboratory, 943-1221. Evenings and weekends, call the state Conservation and Resources Enforcement hotline, 548-5918.

## Two competing theories on origins of epidemic

Scientists offer two principal theories as to why normally healthy populations of green sea turtles experience an epidemic of life-threatening tumorous growths.

Elliott Jacobson of the University of Florida is focusing on a virus. He said the tumor epidemic off East Florida began in about 1982. Single cases were reported as far back as the 1930s, he said, but not many. By mid-1986, however, 57 percent of the turtles captured in one area had the disease.

Murray Dailey of California State University at Long Beach puts parasites at the top of his list. He assumes the eggs of a parasitic flatworm are the culprit. The flatworm lives in the heart or major blood vessels. When it lays eggs, they're picked up by the circulatory system, but the eggs are a too big to get filtered out. They block an area and the tumor develops.

Dailey says it's possible that the turtle is getting the flatworm parasite from a snail that is relatively new to Hawaii waters.

Consider, Dailey said, that if a seaweed was introduced to Kailua Bay from the Caribbean or Florida and a tiny, infected snail was hiding in the seaweed when it arrived.

Snails are hermaphrodites. That is, it doesn't take two to tango. From a single snail, a whole colony could develop.

Seaweed in fact was brought into Kaneohe Bay from that part of the world, according to Isabella Abbott, a University of Hawaii botanist.

A red algae, *Hypnea musciformis*, was introduced between 1970 and 1975, she said. The people who brought it "thought it would grow here and they'd make a million bucks" selling its extract, said Abbott.

But they didn't do any studies beforehand and so didn't know "that the residue sticks to any kind of strainer and it's extremely costly to remove it."

It was planted in Kaneohe Bay, she said, and in five years, had reached to Waikiki and is now even off Maui, near Paia.

But was an infected snail hiding in it and proliferating along with the seaweed?

"Unless the snail is very small, I think I would have seen it," she said.

While Jacobson in Florida wouldn't rule out the parasite theory until he has more definite links for the viral one, he said he's seen too many of the tumor samples that don't have any of the parasites.

"I think they come in after the tumor forms," he said.

Because of federal laws enacted in 1978 to protect the green sea turtle, researchers have been sighting more younger ones, but more younger ones with tumors, too.

— Barbara Hastings



now he's me. Gerald, don't preach! Leave that to us!"

Gerald Wright  
Paheo

## Shooting of the turtle

This letter concerns the article focusing attention to the shooting of the turtle in the Hilo Bay area.

The act of intentionally shooting a turtle in the neck in the Hilo Bay area is viewed as a terrible violation of state law and hunter ethics. The culprit who shot the animal obviously intended to ignore both issues.

The Hawaii Island Archery Club encourages all hunters to attend the free hunter education classes sponsored by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Learn about your rights as a hunter. The club also encourages the general public to join any archery club to promote the sport of archery and its ancient and noble heritage. Enjoy the organized, safe, educational, and competitive setting of a club.

In this light, the Hawaii Island Archery Club is pledging \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who shot the turtle.

A few words to the culprit: The archery community is small, don't tell anyone about your act. Put your bow away. Join a club and learn the facts.

For complaints of violations and hunter education classes, call the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hilo office, 961-7291.

Collins Tomei, Treasurer  
Hawaii Island Archery Club  
Hilo

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 10242  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
PHONE: 734-8124  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup  
MAUI NEWS

SEP. 13 1988

## Turtle thief is facing fines

LAHAINA — A Lahaina man arrested last week after a witness spotted him with two Pacific green sea turtles taken from a net near Honolua Bay will be prosecuted in federal court, the state Department of Land & Natural Resources reported this morning.

Branch Chief Keith Keau of the Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement Division in Wailuku said the turtles were taken from the water Sept. 3.

He credited a quick response by Maui police for the arrest of Daryl Nuesca, 19, who was originally

charged under state law for possession of the turtles.

Those charges are being dismissed to allow federal prosecutors to take the case, he said. Nuesca faces a maximum fine of \$25,000 on each count.

The sea turtles are both state and federally protected, but the National Marine Fisheries Service will be handling this case, Keau said. The turtles were taken from the back of the suspect's pickup truck, photographed and released, apparently unharmed.

*Hawaii Tribune*  
09/26/89

# Marine Options Program offers rare chance to study sea turtles

9-22-89

ka Leo O Hawaii

P.3

by Terrance Lum  
ka leo reporter

As part of a proposed project by the University of Hawaii's Marine Options Program, students will have the opportunity to study one of Hawaii's threatened

sea creatures, the Hawaiian green sea turtle.

"The program is open to all students interested in marine science," said Kakkala Gopal, director of the program. "They don't have to be marine science majors."

The project, which is being conducted in conjunction with

the National Marine Fisheries Service, involves monitoring and tagging the Hawaiian green sea turtle, also called *Chelonia mydas*.

"The project involves capturing the turtles, then taking measurements of the turtle's carapace (upper shell), head, weight, etc.," said Steve Russell, coordinator for the program. "The turtles will then be tagged and released."

Russell said that at a later date, they hope to recapture some of the turtles that had been tagged and take new measurements to determine the turtles' rate of growth and other data.

"The species is considered threatened," Russell said. "Meaning that it could become endangered."

The Hawaiian green turtles, known to native Hawaiians as "Honu," are herbivorous, eating the algae or limu that grows underwater on coral reefs and on rocks close to shore.

Weighing about one ounce at birth, the turtles nest in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, then make their way down the island chain to feed.

The turtles may grow up to 400 pounds and return to their place of hatching to lay eggs and start the cycle anew.

Last month, the green sea turtle made headlines when a large number of its feces was found floating onto Kuuloa Beach on Oahu.

Russell speculated that it could have been due to a large blooming of algae in the area attracting the turtles, or that the turtle population might be increasing.

The turtles are protected under Hawaii state law and under the federal Endangered Species Act. These laws prohibit harassing, harming, killing or keeping sea turtles in captivity without a permit.

Those interested may contact Kakkala Gopal or Steve Russell at 948-8433.

THA 9-9-89

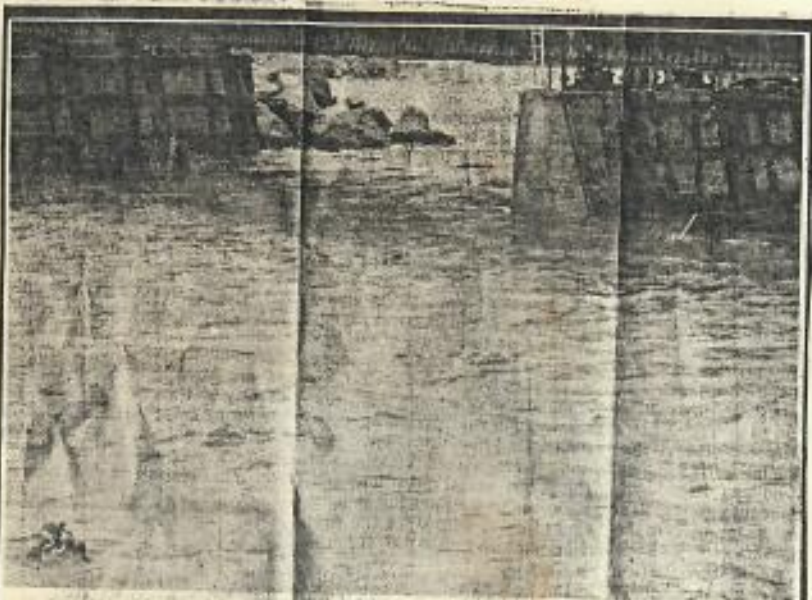


Advertiser photo by Ron Jett

## Rinsing out a turtleneck

A tourist gives his turtle a shower after a workout at Waikiki Beach the other day.

SEP 8 1989



**INJURED TURTLE** — At top right is a green sea turtle that has been shot with an arrow. At bottom left is a scuba diver who attempted unsuccessfully to help the turtle Wednesday at the mouth of the Wailuku River. —T-H photo by Shirley Spencer

## Experts: Turtle with arrow in its neck should not be helped

By Dave Smith  
Tribune-Herald

A green sea turtle with an arrow stuck in its neck that has been seen in waters around Hilo shouldn't be helped, say state and federal officials.

Criticism of of marine experts for not doing anything to help the turtle is unfound-

ed, the officials say.

A caller to the Tribune-Herald this week complained that officials contacted about the situation appeared callous and unresponsive. The caller and others said they didn't appreciate advice to leave the injured animal alone.

See INJURED TURTLE,  
Page 10

### From Page 1

But according to humane society and state and federal conservation officials, the turtle appears basically healthy. They believe the most prudent action at this time is just to continue to monitor the situation.

The turtle has been seen with what appears to be an arrow protruding from its neck for two weeks coming in with the tide to feed at the mouth of the Wailuku River on the west side of Hilo.

Observers have described the animal as "quite large," in the neighborhood of 175 pounds. But because the turtle also appears vigorous, authorities say the best thing to do is to leave it alone.

"This turtle doesn't need rescue necessarily," said George Balazs, a zoologist with the Fisheries Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration office in Honolulu.

The Big Island aquatic biologist for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Robert Nishimoto, said the turtle continues to be active, despite its appearance.

"If it was sluggish or just hanging around we would pick it up and take it to a veterinarian," he said. But if the situation remains unchanged, it's best to take no action, he said.

Balazs said yesterday all the information he has received from Big Island Humane

Society and Department of Land and Natural Resources officials suggests that although the arrow appears "gruesome," it presents "no great hazard" to the turtle.

"Its routine is what a normal turtle does," he said, noting the animal would not be expected to have the power it's exhibiting if it had suffered a significant injury.

Because the animal does not appear to be showing any debilitating effects from the wound, attempting to remove the arrow would probably cause further injury to the turtle, Balazs said. And because of the size and strength of the turtle, the attempt could also lead to injury to the rescuer.

"This is not a delicate fish, it's a big, tough reptile that's been known to sustain massive shark bites and recover."

Pat Gorman of the East Hawaii Humane Society said he has received numerous calls from persons wanting to help the animal. He said some callers have even been "ready to jump in" to help the turtle.

But Gorman said he is deferring to the experts, and is advising callers not to take any action at this time.

Balazs said the turtle's injury can hardly compare to a turtle's flipper "being ripped right off" by a shark, which has been known to occur with the animal still surviving.

Balazs said that if the arrow had pierced any crucial areas such as the trachea (windpipe) or esophagus, the animal would

have long ago drowned or died from blood loss. That suggests the arrow, slowed by the turtle's "quite tough" hide, is stuck in muscle and gristle, he said.

The turtle, which Balazs said appears full grown and could be 25 years old or older will likely shake the arrow loose eventually, possibly after it becomes snagged.

The zoologist stressed that he is "not perfectly content" to leave the arrow embedded in the turtle.

"But when you weigh the options, I have to conclude it's mainly a superficial wound."

But Balazs does advocate some official action.

"Probably the best thing to do is find the dimwit who did this and prosecute him to the full extent of the law," he said. "It's horrible — totally malicious and detestable what someone has done."

The person who shot the turtle is flirting with serious penalties, according to fisheries enforcement officials.

Injuring or killing a green sea turtle is a violation of both state and federal law. The state marine conservation statute calls for penalties of up to \$1,000 and/or a year in jail. And fisheries enforcement officers on Oahu said those injuring a green sea turtle, which falls under the Endangered Species Act, could result in the assessment of a fine of up to \$25,000 and a year in jail for each offense.

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

SEP. 12 1989

## Man faces fines for taking 2 turtles

LAHAINA — A Lahaina man caught with two Pacific green sea turtles in the back of his truck will be prosecuted in Federal Court for a violation of the Endangered Species Act, state enforcement officers said yesterday.

Daryl Nacua, 19, faces a maximum fine of \$25,000 for each of the turtles that he tried to take home with him on Sept. 3. Police said a witness reported a man took two turtles from a net off Mokuleia Point near Honolulu

Bay. Nacua was stopped by a police officer, who found the two turtles in the back of his pickup truck. State enforcement officer Keith Keau said both turtles were still alive. They were photographed and released apparently unharmed, Keau said.

Sea turtles are protected by state and federal law, but the case was turned over to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Keau said.

## Dad, son freed on bond in turtle hunting case

A Maui father and son accused of hunting endangered green sea turtles were released on signature bonds after pleading not guilty in federal court yesterday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton said David Nuesca, 50, and

his son Daryl, 19, hunted sea turtles daily for food.

David Nuesca is charged with possession of three turtles, and his son is charged with capturing two turtles. The charges are misdemeanors, but if convicted, the men face up to a year in jail and fines of up to \$50,000. Trial has been set for Nov. 14.

Peyton asked that the men be held in jail pending trial because death threats have been made against a 9-year-old witness in the case.

He also said other threats have been made against four or five other witnesses. He said the FBI is investigating the threats.

Peyton said the Nuescas of Lahaina have been violating the federal Endangered Species Act daily, or at least weekly, by killing and eating green sea turtles.

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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

SEP 13 1989

## Turtles land Maui man in hot water

LAHAINA — A 19-year-old man caught with two Pacific green sea turtles in the back of his pickup truck faces possible federal penalties for violating the Endangered Species Act, state officials said.

If convicted in federal court, Daryl Nuesca of Lahaina could be fined as much as \$20,000 and face up to a year in prison.

He is accused of trying to take the turtles to his home on Sept. 3.

A witness told police a man took two turtles from a net off Mokuleia Point near Honolulu Bay on Maui. A policeman later stopped Nuesca and allegedly found two turtles in the back of the pickup.

Both state and federal laws protect sea turtles. In this case, the matter was turned over to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

A-8 □ Saturday, September 16, 1989

9-13-89 A3 ADVERTISER  
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9-13-89

STAR-Bulletin

**NEWSWATCH** A3

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**Threatened green sea turtles die of mysterious tumors**

**TURTLES** from A-1 Harbor.

The tumors were first observed on turtles about 50 years ago, but Balazs said that until the past few years, the growths appeared on only one out of 100 or 200 specimens.

The two leading theories about the tumors are that they may be caused by some unknown virus, or they might be a result of a parasite.

Dr. Elliot Jacobson, a University of Florida specialist in sea turtle viruses, visited Hawaii in June to get tumor samples for study. But so far he has been unable to find conclusive evi-

dence a virus is causing the tumors.

The second theory, which is being researched by scientists at the University of California at Long Beach, is that the tumors might be caused by the turtles' immune response to a parasite.

The parasites may be blood flukes, and could be depositing eggs in the blood stream of the turtles, which then become lodged in the reptiles' capillaries. That, in turn, may trigger an immune response from the turtle that causes the tumors, Balazs said.

Balazs asked that residents with information about stricken turtles call him at 943-1221.

**WAIHEE VALLEY**

**BALL: Kailua Americans  
to District 1 crown/B-1**

**GOLF COURSE: City project  
worries water officials/ A-3**

**Sun Press**

**Windward**

# Tumors killing green sea turtles

By KEVIN DAYTON  
News Editor

**KANEOHE**  
The threatened green sea turtle may need to be reclassified as an endangered species in the next few years unless marine researchers can discover the cause of mysterious tumors that have been blinding, crippling and killing the sea creatures, according to one scientist.

George H. Balazs, a zoologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service who is an authority in the Pacific on green sea turtles, estimated that half of the green turtles in Kaneohe Bay have at least one of the tumors, which are known as fibropapillomas.

More and more young green turtles have been appearing in the bay since they were declared a threatened species in 1978, but Balazs said the lumpy tumors that grow up to seven inches in diameter are a "serious and spreading disease" that poses a new threat to the recovering turtle population.

The green sea turtles, which can weigh up to 400 pounds, are a traditional Hawaiian food, but were hunted excessively for restaurants and to feed fishing crews until they were protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Turtles that are weakened or helpless are being reported weekly to Balazs, who said that many of the dying reptiles have several tumors.

"What you see on the outside isn't all of the problem," Balazs said, adding that the tumors appear to be only one symptom of a disease also characterized by increased white blood cell counts and other irregularities. Many of the turtles found with tumors also are near starvation, he said.



George F. Lee photo

**MYSTERIOUS DISEASE:** A turtle that was found floating helplessly in Kaneohe Bay last week is loaded into a container for observation by (from left) James Brede, Paul Stewart and Sean Stone. The turtle, which was still too young to breed, died later that same night.

Some of the turtles are unable to swim because the abnormal growths make it impossible for them to move their flippers properly. Others have had difficulty eating or breathing because of tumors blocking their nasal passages or interfering with the workings of their throat and jaws.

In one specimen that was reported to Balazs on Friday, for example, boosters towed a 31-inch, 25-year-old

turtle back to Heeia Kea pier after noticing that the creature was too weak to dive or swim away. Balazs said the turtle, which was still too young to breed, had tumors on its eyes, jaw and near the base of its front flippers.

The turtle was too ill and emaciated to save, Balazs said, and it died later Friday night.

The tumors, which also have been observed on green sea turtles in the

Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon area near Cape Canaveral, Fla., tend to grow on the soft tissue of the reptiles, including the areas around the eyes, tail, groin, neck and at the base of the flippers, Balazs said.

The abnormal growths have been seen most frequently on green turtles in Kaneohe Bay, near Oneawa Canal, in the ocean just off of the Kahala Hilton and in Haleiwa

See TURTLES on A-8





—WHT photo by DAN BREEDEN

**CAKED IN OIL** — Shadow crewman Clayton Weiders holds the green sea turtle discovered off Keahole Point yesterday. Some of the larger chunks of crude oil were taken off the creature, however, an oily coating remained. The oil was placed in a plastic bag (bottom right) and it will be analyzed to determine its source.

## Turtle survives oil slick

By DAN BREEDEN  
West Hawaii Today

A 17-pound turtle encased in crude oil was found by members of the Shadow fishing boat yesterday off Keahole Point.

"He was laying in the middle of it and he couldn't move," said Tom Salisbury, captain of the boat. "He was barely moving when we found him."

The juvenile turtle was still alive but was in the middle of a two-foot disk of the black goo. Crewmember Clayton Weiders

said he pulled handfuls of the oil from the reptile.

The green sea turtle was taken from Honokohau Harbor to Keahole Airport so it could be flown to the National Marine Fisheries office in Honolulu. There it will be cleaned and nursed back to health. Samples of the oil were also taken to Honolulu in hopes that tests will show where it came from.

Salisbury said the turtle appeared to be in good condition but probably hasn't eaten for weeks.

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WEST HAWAII TODAY

JUL 14 1989

## Recovering turtle was encased in glob of weathered bunker oil

By Helen Altom

Star-Bulletin

The tar that immobilized a green sea turtle rescued off Kona earlier this month was bunker oil, or refined fuel oil, says John Naughton, federal fishery biologist.

The oil had been in the ocean at least a month or possibly two, said Naughton, National Marine Fisheries Service member of the regional response team that advises the Coast Guard commander on oil spills.

"That puts it right in the realm of the Lanai-Molokai oil spill, because that was bunker, and would be about the same age."

However, there is no way of knowing for sure that it was from that spill because it was so weathered, Naughton said.

The oil was identified in tests done for the Coast Guard by Hawaiian Independent Refinery.

Turtle specialist George Balazs, also with the fisheries service, said the turtle must have contacted the oil after it was weathered for it to stick as much as it did.

The animal was cemented in a

ball by the oil except for the nostrils and it couldn't have struggled that way for more than a couple weeks, he said.

The sport fishing boat Shadow found the turtle on July 13. The crew cleaned it and turned it over to the Pacific Game Fish Research Foundation in Kona, which sent it to Balazs.

He said the turtle hasn't shown any decline since he finished cleaning it and took it to Sea Life Park.

It is continuing to eat, swimming around in its tank and is even more active than captive turtles the same size, he said, adding that these are "all good signs" for the turtle's recovery.

The turtle is an endangered species protected under state and federal laws.

It is the first one found in the Pacific covered with oil, bearing out fears of the scientists that recent oil spills might affect endangered species, Naughton said.

"How many do get stuck in oil out there and just die and we don't even know about it?"

The 6-pound turtle is a size rare-



By George Balazs, Special to the Star-Bulletin

Found off Kona by a sports fishing boat on July 13, this green sea turtle was the first of its kind found in the Pacific covered with oil.

ly seen in the ocean because the juveniles disappear for what is known as a "lost year," he said.

Perhaps at that stage they are susceptible to oil contamination because they appear attracted to objects floating in the water, such as a big blob of oil, Naughton said.

As federal scientists, part of their job is to look out for the protection and recovery of endangered species, Balazs said.

"We may not have the mechanism, money, and personnel to detect the impact but we all know the ocean is not some massive

sponge that can soak up and neutralize all the bad things put into it."

Lt. Cmdr. Ken Keane, chief of the Coast Guard's port operations, said the oil probably was too weathered to definitely pin its origin to the Molokai-Lanai spill, which the Coast Guard alleges was due to the cruise ship SS Independence.

Naughton said the only answer is prevention of spills in the first place. "That's the real key. Once the oil gets in there, I don't care how much clean-up, there is going to be damage done."

# Turtle found off Big Island covered with tar

□ The six-pounder is doing well after its oily coat is removed

By Helen Alfonn  
Star-Bulletin

A green sea turtle found off Kona encased in tar except for its nose appears to be doing well at Sea Life Park, says National Marine Fisheries biologist George Balazs.

The six-pound turtle was coated with at least five pounds of tar when the Shadow, a sport fishing boat skippered by Tom Salisbury, spotted it about two miles off Kona July 13, Balazs said.

The crew first thought it was a big

blob of tar, but as they got closer, they could see a little turtle's shell hanging out, he said.

"When they scooped it up, they thought they had a dead turtle, but its nose was sticking out a bit . . . They saw it wiggle and realized the thing was alive in there.

"We're talking about a near-miracle," Balazs said.

"I don't understand why it was alive, to tell you the truth. I don't understand why just the nose was sticking out so it could breathe because it couldn't move. It was just tarred, like in preparation for tarred and feathered."

The boat radioed the Pacific Gamefish Research Foundation in Kona. The non-profit organization, dedicated to management, preservation and

knowledge of game fishes, contacted Balazs, a turtle specialist at the fisheries service's Honolulu Laboratory.

David Grobecker, a marine biologist who directs the foundation, met the boat in Kona with veterinarian Bob Braun. The crewmen had peeled off most of the tar, Grobecker said, and he and Braun helped clean and revive the turtle.

They sent the animal and the tar to Balazs, who said he was surprised at the large amount of material.

John Naughton, a National Marine Fisheries biologist and member of the regional response team on oil spills, turned the material over to the Coast Guard, which asked Hawaiian Independent Refinery to try to identify the type of oil.

See TURTLE, Page A-4

Star-Bulletin

A-4 □ Saturday, July 22, 1989

## TURTLE: Tar almost kills 6-pound turtle

Continued from Page A-1

Cmdr. Ken Keane, chief of the Coast Guard's port operations, said no oil spill had been reported off the Big Island.

"We're just curious to see what kind of oil it was," Keane said. That could provide a clue as to how long it was in the ocean, he said, adding that it appears to have been there a long time. "It could have come several thousand miles."

Balazs, who has dealt with all kinds of injured and ill turtles, said this was his first experience with a turtle immobilized by tar, which was like chewing gum.

He used vegetable oil, a waterless hand cleaner and dishwasher detergent to clean the turtle, working three hours Thursday night and two hours the next morning "to make it presentable."

"Even now, at Sea Life Park, the story is not really over," he said, noting that the turtle's mouth is



By George Balazs, Special to the Star-Bulletin

This green sea turtle was coated with tar when it was discovered in the ocean about two miles off Kona July 13. Scientists marvel that it survived.

black with tar despite swabbing. "I have a feeling some is still coming up through the throat." The oil swallowed also could affect the turtle's liver or cause other damage, Balazs said.

He said the turtle also had plastics — another major threat to marine life — in its system from eating it in the ocean.

But it is swimming around in its tank at Makapuu and eating fish

and chopped squid — a good sign, Balazs said.

He estimates the turtle's age at between 1 and 3 years. It's difficult to say because turtles that size are rarely seen and little is known about their growth rate, he said.

Turtles usually are 15 to 20 pounds when they are seen near shore, he said.

# State will check shore waters for pollution

By Lester Chang

Kauai correspondent

LIHUE — To try to help keep shoreline waters in Hawaii free of pollution, the state Department of Health will start an ocean water-monitoring program.

Health Director John Lewin yesterday said his agency isn't targeting any shoreline agricultural businesses or hotel resorts but that they should "take notice."

The department will be buying additional equipment to do the job, he said.

In other matters, Lewin told news reporters that the federal Environmental Protection Agency could take over the state's responsibility of collecting fines for state health violations if his department isn't doing the job properly.

Kauai County, for instance, could apply some \$29,000 in fines in that way, he said. The county is still negotiating with the department about the fines for multiple violations at the Kekaha and Lihue landfills dating back to 1975.

He said he was heartened by the quick steps Mayor JoAnn Yukimura's administration has taken to clear up the violations.

The department cited the county for leaving landfills unattended, allowing scavenging and not covering landfill areas in a timely manner.

Lewin also praised her administration's efforts to develop a county garbage management plan, which he said was innovative.

He said no other county has yet to commit itself to such a plan. It includes recycling, incineration and composting.



—T-H photo by Larry Kadooka

**MANJUSURI AND SEA TURTLE** — Visiting artist Mayumi Oda makes an amusing evaluation of her modern, recreated Goddess of

Wisdom encountering the sea turtle in its habitat off the Kona coast in this silk-screened print on rice paper.

A4—Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Sunday, July 2, 1989

Tribune-Herald

**LIFESTYLE**

# HAWAII

Monday, July 17, 1989 ■ Star-Bulletin

- Motorcyclist killed, another paralyzed **A-4**
- Son stabs father in Ewa Beach home **A-4**
- Public hearings for the week listed **A-5**

## What does it cost to make a turtle?

California now puts the value of a lost pelican at \$331.20 and a gull at \$167.60

**By Peter Wagner**  
Star-Bulletin

Those who think some things don't carry price tags haven't seen the latest in oil-spill damage assessments.

A report contracted by the California Department of Fish & Game puts the value of a pelican at \$331.20. Gulls and grebes are listed at \$167.60. Humpbacks fetch \$94,530. Tide pool organisms: \$1 each.

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment manual, published in May, offers a list of plants and animals along the California coast each assigned a monetary value based on a complex mathematical formula. Wetlands, for example, are worth \$106,100 an acre, an assessment that computes the cost of building and maintaining a new one.

While the state of Hawaii has no cash register for ringing up the cost of an oil-covered wetland or a dead sea turtle, Health Department officials are looking with interest at the yet-to-be-tested approach.



Star-Bulletin file photos

Oil spills, like the one earlier this year involving the oil tanker Exxon Houston, above, off Barbers Point, are focusing attention on the issue of biological damage assessment. At right, this thick goo covered a 2-mile stretch of the Leeward Coast in March.



“

*You don't dump something as toxic as oil into the water and not have some impact on the environment.*

”

**John Naughton**  
Marine biologist





**Bruce  
Anderson**

not on the biological or aesthetic consequences of spills. The U.S. Coast Guard last month filed a \$177,000 complaint against American Hawaii Cruises to recover cleanup costs after an oil spill in March off Molokai and Lanai.

The Coast Guard reached into its contingency fund of tax dollars to hire a contractor to scoop the oil off the beaches, put it in plastic bags and carry it off to the nearest landfill. American Hawaii Cruises, which operates the Hawaii cruise ships Independence and the Constitution, is also facing a \$5,000 fine if found responsible for the 10,000-gallon fuel spill.

But no account has been taken of damage to the marine food chain or of the tarry residue that still coats rocky outcroppings three months after the spill.

(On Saturday, the New York Times reported that a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., declared that companies responsible for oil spills and other pollution should be forced to pay the full costs of restoring the environment to its original condition, not just the market value of damaged natural resources.)

John Naughton, a marine biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, saw no obvious damage underwater in dives off the Lanai and Molokai coasts. But he worries about the green sea turtles seen eating contaminated seaweed along the shoreline. And little is known scientifically about the underwater effects of oil, he said.

"There is always a die-off, whether its phytoplankton or other small creatures," Naughton said. "You don't dump something as toxic as oil into the water and not have some impact on the environment."

In the wake of a 1986 amendment to a federal law, states are looking for ways to put a more complete price tag on the damage of oil or chemical spills. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act lays a federal foundation to collect damages on the basis of biological and aesthetic losses. The technique requires a team of biologists, economists and lawyers working together to make

"The whole issue of biological damage assessment is very new," said Mark Ingoglia, coordinator of the state's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response program. "We're all trying to learn how it's done."

State and federal officials historically have focused mainly on cleanup costs,

a case that will hold up in court.

"What we're trying to do is recover the full impacts to the environment — not just cleanup costs," Ingoglia said. "It's controversial and not everybody agrees about what everything is worth, but it's something the state is very interested in."

The mechanism could see its first test in Alaska, where a careful head count of dead birds, otters and other animals is being taken after the Exxon Valdez disaster in Prince William Sound.

"It's a well-defined process in law but in practice, it's never been used," said Everett Robinson-Wilson, regional response coordinator for the Fish & Wildlife Service in Alaska. "It's our job to find out what the injury was. Economists will work on how to value the loss."

As of last week 27,578 birds and 856 otters had been counted — a conservative tally, federal officials say, which doesn't take into account damage to surviving animals' reproductive ability.

But scientific scrutiny is expensive, and state and federal agencies charged with environmental protection here are mostly shoestring operations. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources in April followed up on the Molokai/Lanai spill with a cursory visual inspection of the area.

Bruce Anderson, who heads the Environmental Protection and Health Services Division in the state Department of Health, sees little hope for

more-sophisticated assessments until the federal government makes funding available for the scientific legwork.

"The intentions are good, but federal funding has been extremely limited," he said. "Even the money appropriated for training programs hasn't been released."

Prevention, he says, is the key.

Francis Oishi, who conducted the state's site inspection of Molokai and Lanai, agrees that money and manpower are woefully short. "To make a good assessment, you need an inventory of what was there before," he said. "We just don't have the manpower or the funds to conduct an ongoing inventory of all the state's coastal areas."

Hawaii has been lucky, environmental officials say, with no major spills yet causing widespread damage. But the officials have their fingers crossed. The March 2 spill off Barbers Point in which the Exxon Houston dumped 30,000 gallons of crude oil came close to the feared disaster.

"It could have been another Valdez situation here," said Anderson. "They had 80,000 barrels of oil on board and it could have resulted in major impacts not only to wildlife areas but to the tourist economy."

The weather conditions that day, with kona winds prevailing onshore, made containment all but impossible, he said, and officials conjured up visions of blackened beaches from Waiiki to Walanae.

"If the tanks ruptured, they were

looking at the fouling of most beaches along the Leeward Coast," Anderson said. "They put a boom up at the mouth of the Kahe power plant because they were afraid the oil would foul the intake and cause an island-wide blackout."

Also hanging in the balance are the fragile Northwest Hawaiian Islands, where many endangered animals such as turtles, seals and others congregate. One major spill in that area could wipe out entire species, experts say.

Locally, environmental groups are watching the new assessment approach with curiosity.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Steve Holmes, president of Hawaii's Thousand Friends. "We've got humpbacks and green sea turtles and other endangered species here. But how do you put a price on them?"

While recoveries beyond cleanup costs have been rare here, a 1987 fuel spill in Pearl Harbor brought a \$150,000 settlement from Chevron USA. The company also spent \$1.2 million cleaning up the 100,000-gallon spill that killed two endangered birds and damaged acres of wetland at a bird refuge near Middle Loch.

Chevron spokesman David Young said the settlement, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, involved drainage improvements to another federal bird refuge in Kahuku. Meanwhile, he said, the company is contesting a \$10,000 fine levied by the Environmental Protection Agency, saying the damaged wetland is not in its jurisdiction.



By Terry Luke, Star-Bulletin

This green sea turtle, called "Mr. T" by rescuers, has a man-made puncture wound in its neck.

## Group fights to save

□ The endangered animal's outlook is grim after it is hit with a spear gun

By Helen Altonn

Star-Bulletin

A young green sea turtle — an endangered species protected under state and federal laws — is fighting for its life with partial paralysis caused by a man-made puncture wound in its neck.

"The outlook is grim," said sea turtle specialist George Balazs, watching over the animal at the

National Marine Fisheries Service's Honolulu Laboratory.

The injured turtle is a juvenile, about 5 to 6 years old, he said. Its sex can't be determined until it's older.

Balazs is keeping the animal cool with wet towels in a cardboard box. It can raise its head and has some movement in its back flippers, but its front flippers are limp.

"Isn't that sad?" said Gene Witham, senior enforcement agent for the fisheries service in this area. "He should be out in the ocean."

The animal's rescuers at Sunset Beach also were concerned.

Carole Beller and Richard Whyte were snorkeling at Kam-

JUNE 20, 1989 A1 HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

## turtle's life

### Numbers to call

Injured or dead sea turtles and actions harming or disturbing them should be reported. You can call:

- National Marine Fisheries Service Enforcement Office, 541-2727
- State Conservation and Resources Enforcement Office, 548-5918

mie's surfing break, across the channel from Sunset Beach, at about 4:45 p.m. Sunday when they

See **TURTLE**, Page A-8

# TURTLE: Group fights to save injured animal

Continued from Page A-1

saw the turtle. He was in a ravine in the reef, about 8 to 10 feet under water, Beller said.

Whyte dove down and brought the turtle to the surface. It wasn't breathing and wouldn't move his flippers, Beller said.

"We didn't know what to do, but finally he started breathing a little bit. We held him in the water and swam with him. Richard pumped his shell — giving him artificial respiration."

They decided he would die if they let him go, so they took him to the shore, she said.

"We started calling all the places we could think of to call, to put some effort into saving his life, although we were not convinced that was the best thing to do. We thought maybe letting him go back into the ocean and die a natural death was the best thing to do."

"But people started to come around, with the spirit of saving an endangered species," she said.

"It was a whole beach adventure from 5 to about 9 p.m. Everyone was concerned, I was amazed at all the people in the neighborhood, kids and adults, everybody got into (trying to save) this little guy."

"We don't even care for each other like all of us care for this turtle. It was the cutest little thing."



By Terry Lake, Star-Bulletin

National fisheries experts George Balazs, left, and Gene Witham say the injured green sea turtle can raise its head and has some movement in its back flippers, but its front flippers are limp.

They named the animal, who is about 17 inches long, Mr. T and built a little pool for him at the edge of the ocean, she said. "He was in water up to his nose. . . . He started breathing better, so we thought there was a lot of hope."

But while cleaning him off, they noticed he had been punctured, Beller said. They had seen some young people spearfishing in the area earlier, she said.

A state conservation officer picked up the turtle at about 9 p.m. Sunday and took him to Sea Life Park, which alerted Balazs yesterday morning.

Witham also had been notified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was checking into a possible violation of the federal endangered species act.

Ronald Kama, Oahu branch chief of the state Conservation and Resources Enforcement Division, said his staff also will pursue any violations of the state law. But, he added, "Trying to find who injured a turtle is like finding a needle in a haystack."

Barry Choy, who assists Balazs with the turtle program, said he thought the puncture hole — about the size of an ice pick — was

caused by a hinge gun, a spear with a very small diameter.

The hole is very deep, apparently severing some nerves so the turtle could not move its front flippers, Balazs said. "The first thing any turtle does is flip its front flippers, even when it is weak."

Green sea turtles are on the endangered species list to help the populations build up because they are in danger of extinction, Witham and Balazs emphasized.

"This kind of action certainly sets that back," Witham said.

Molesting, harming or disturbing the turtles in any way is against federal and state law. That includes grabbing turtles and riding them to the surface — a popular sport, Witham said.

Criminal penalties include a fine of up to \$25,000 and one year in jail. Civil penalties are up to \$10,000 and six months in jail.

With 70,000 scuba-diving tourists estimated in Hawaii annually, Balazs and Witham are concerned about increased stress to the animals.

They ask that people avoid areas in which they see turtles.

Some dive-charter skippers are encouraging use of turtles for "show and tell," Witham said. "They are subject to arrest, and if we can prove it, they will be arrested."

He said the fisheries service is getting increasing reports of injured or dead turtles, probably because of three factors — more awareness that they are threatened animals, more turtles because they are protected and more poaching.

Witham said he has about five to six turtle cases a year.



## THE WAY WE LIVE

By Susan  
Manuel

June 20, 1989 B1

### June: A celebration of life, color, aromas

**T**O a Midwesterner the idea of seasons in Hawaii can seem a kind of inside joke. The car air conditioner works like hippo breath, and the traffic's intolerable.

But summer's also when south-shore swimming becomes warm and undulating. The other evening, out on the swell under a vast sunset, a man pulled up, pushed back his swim goggles and asked if this was heaven. And he hadn't seen "Field of Dreams."

Mountain apples, guava and mangoes are ripening. Next will come the sweet smell of rotted road kill. Avocados cut off before their prime lie around like hard little wombs. The ginger's soon to perfume; Tantalus and the gardenias just gave out in a pungent puff of glory. Toads on the dark path splat against my knees.

It's mid-kau, the dry season, and time for explosions of royal poinciana, night-blooming cereus, purple wiliwili, tigers claw and shower trees.

In the month of Kaaona, Hawaiians prepared opelu nets for the kapu lifting in July, according to the "Calendar of Natural Events." When the ohia lehua grew nearer to the sea, the Hawaiians knew from the brushy red flower that aku fishing was hot. Now confined to the mountaintops, summer-peaking lehua blooms signal United and JAL.

Tuna and blue marlin have muscled here from Latin America and California to spawn. Food is scant, but the waters are love-inducing and predator-free, other than billfishers looking for photo ops. A good, innocent place for babies.

**I**N June, ruttled breadfruit globes told Hawaiians that a squid special was on in shallow waters. Orange hala balls beamed the news that urchins were fat with eggs and uhu plentiful and well-fed.

Days of longer sunlight make everything grow more abundantly in the ocean, so surfers and divers see more green sea turtles feeding in fields of limu. But the big action this month is nearly 500 miles away at the French Frigate Shoals, where each night a half to three dozen pregnant turtles climb onto slips of beach to nest.

No one knows why they paddle all the way up there to mate and lay eggs. "The most practical answer is that they've always gone there," says George Balazs, turtle expert at the National Marine Fisheries Service. "There are what appear perfectly fine sand beaches in remote beaches much closer than where they go to nest. But the same pattern is repeated around the world."

"Maybe the answer lies in the very distant past. Maybe the answer lies in ocean currents. Up to adolescence, little turtles live on the high seas. Maybe current systems bring them back to lush shorelines of the main Hawaiian islands."

The turtles seen here now are between babies, or too young. Average mating age is 25; weight 175 pounds; length across the back nearly 3 feet.

**B**ALAZS has been depressed about the turtles for several years now. Officially a threatened, not endangered, species, they're slowly increasing in numbers at the French Frigate Shoals.

But every year in the past decade more turtles stricken with massive tumors are being picked up around the main Hawaiian Islands. Florida is the only other place this is happening. Can tourism cause cancer?

Balazs brought in a Florida expert who believes a virus is at work. Last week's EPA list of polluted waters around Hawaii included several sites where sick turtles have been found. Balazs speculates a pollutant may be compromising turtle immune systems, allowing a virus to invade.

June also seduces subterranean termites to lights by the swarm-load, fantasizing their futures as kings and queens of vast colonies.

But domesticity strikes with a radical change in life style. The termites drop to the ground and throw their wings over their backs, fracturing them so they fall off. Earthbound, male following female, the couples search wood for a moist nail hole or a crack, trekking through the perilous terrain of killer buffos, geckos and ants. The pay off is progeny: each pair surviving to nest together — 5 percent of the swarm, says entomologist Julian Yates — produces up to 5 million colonists.

Then there are species like kolea (the golden plover) who just can't get a good meal summers in Hawaii, so when June comes they head for Alaska.

Susan Manuel's column on environmental issues runs Tuesdays in Today. Write her at P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802.

## Turtles and oil spills

With so many recent oil spills in Hawaiian waters it is important to know what damage this pollution can have on our marine life. In-

formation is especially relevant for vulnerable creatures listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, such as our Hawaiian sea turtles.

How does oil impact a sea turtle? Here are some answers. As air breathers, sea turtles must frequently swim to the surface. When a layer of oil is present, a turtle will invariably come into contact with it. If the slick is viscous and wide-spread, a turtle can become so coated that its mouth, nostrils and eyes are completely clogged.

Similar devastation to sea birds, otters and other wildlife has been shown almost daily in TV coverage of the Valdez-Alaska spill. Fortunately, acute death of this sort has thus far not been a common feature of oil spills here in Hawaii.

Does this mean little or no damage has occurred? Not necessarily. According to Dr. Peter Lutz, sea turtle physiologist and researcher at the University of Miami, the chronic or lingering sublethal effects of petroleum on sea turtles can be considerable. These impacts are usually much less apparent to the casual observer. They can include: a massive immune response by the body when oil passes across the intestinal wall; shut-down of the turtle's salt-excreting gland; severe dermatitis leading to increased skin infection; and interference with digestion when oil is swallowed. In addition, "tar balls" floating at the surface often have a strange appeal to turtles to the point that they eat them. When this happens the throat can become blocked and the jaws stick together.

The bottom line in all of this can be summed up in one simple sentence: Oil and sea turtles don't mix, no matter what quantities are involved.

GEORGE H. BALAZS

Letters

The Honolulu Advertiser | Wednesday, May 3, 1969 | A-12

MAY 4 1989

## Oil spills

With so many recent oil spills happening in Hawaiian waters it is important to know what damage this pollution can have on our marine life. Information is especially relevant for vulnerable creatures listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, such as our Hawaiian sea turtles. How does oil impact a sea turtle? Here are some answers. As air breathers, sea turtles must frequently swim to the surface. When a layer of oil is present, a turtle will invariably come into contact with it. If the slick is viscous and wide-spread, a turtle can become so coated that its mouth, nostrils and eyes are completely clogged. Similar devastation to sea birds, otters and other wildlife has been shown almost daily in TV coverage of the Valdez, Alaska spill. Fortunately, acute death of this sort has thus far not been a common feature of oil spills here in Hawaii. Does this mean little or no damage has occurred? Not necessarily. According to Dr. Peter Lutz, sea turtle physiologist and researcher at the University of Miami, the chronic or lingering sublethal effects of petroleum on sea turtles can be considerable. These impacts are usually much less apparent to the casual observer. They can include: a massive immune response by the body when oil passes across the intestinal wall; shut-down of the turtle's salt excreting gland; severe dermatitis leading to increased skin infection; and interference with digestion when oil is swallowed. In addition, "tar balls" floating at the surface often have a strange appeal to turtles to the point that they eat them. When this happens the throat can become blocked and the jaws stick together.

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George H. Balazs  
Honolulu



MauI News Sept. 17, 1987

## Turtle catch costly for 3

WAILUKU — Three Kahului men were each ordered to pay a \$500 fine and perform 100 hours of community service yesterday for capturing a green sea turtle May 15.

Federal and state laws prohibit the taking of all sea turtles.

Lloyd Lee, 39, Robert Piano, 27, and Dan Holmes, 34, were arrested by state conservation officers while loading the 100-pound adult turtle

into their truck. The three fishermen had inadvertently snared the animal in a gill net they set up in waters off the Hale Nanea clubhouse in Kahului.

The turtle, which carried a U.S. Marine Fisheries Service tag, was released back into the ocean.

Lee and Piano admitted the crime yesterday in Wailuku District Court, while Holmes was convicted during a brief non-jury trial.

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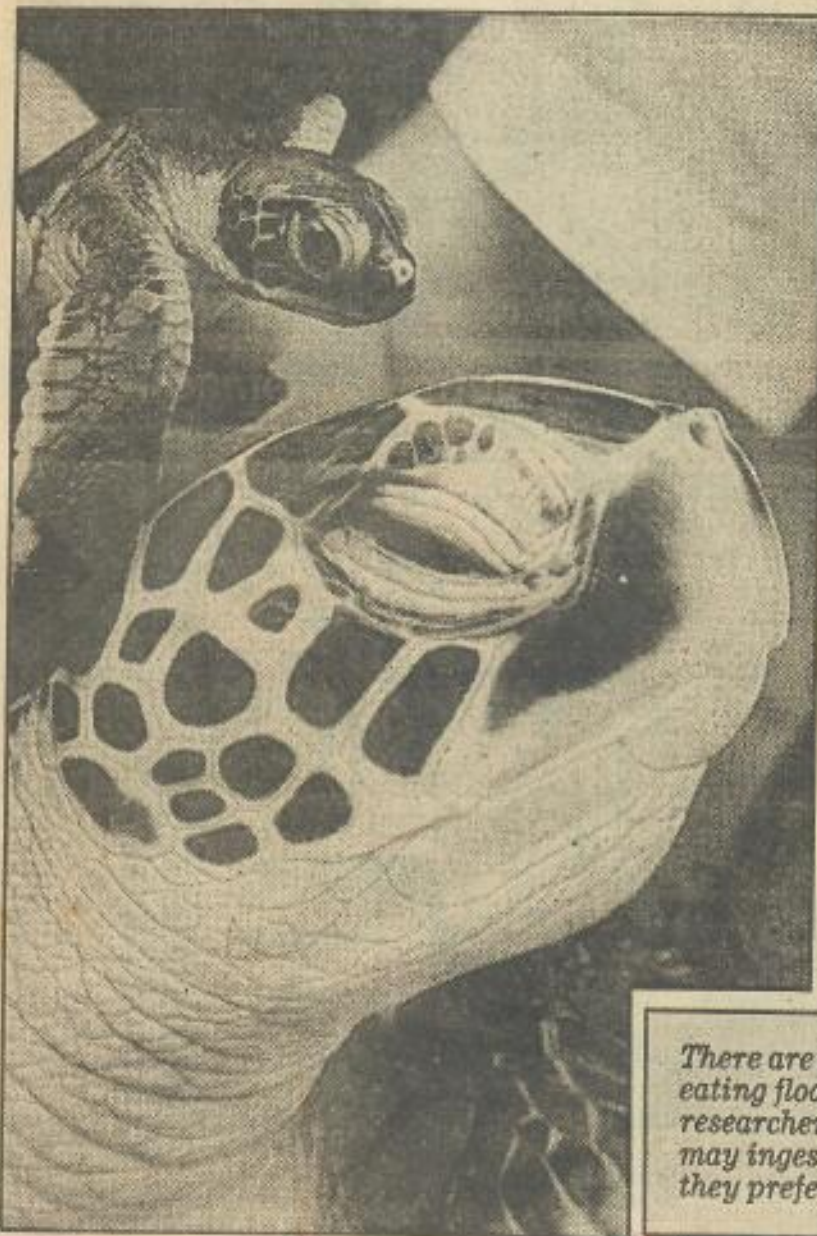
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## Environmental update



# Hawaii's particula

Most of the forms of life affected by the tanker Exxon Houston's oil spill March 2 off Barbers Point are common, and over time should recolonize those areas where oil has damaged them.

For endangered species, the recovery is not so easy.

The oil spill of more than 33,000 gallons is just one of several problems the endangered green sea turtle faces.

Turtles were seen in the area of the spill the morning after it occurred, although not actually within the spill. They were the only endangered species specifically noted at the spill site.

Experiments show green sea turtles will avoid a visible oil slick. But experiments also show that the turtles are remarkably sensitive to oil contamination.

That seems odd to some, since

*There are reports of young turtles eating floating oil globs, and researchers speculate older turtles may ingest oil stuck to the seaweeds they prefer.*

# hardy green sea turtle rly vulnerable to oil spills



Jan  
TenBruggencate  
Environment Writer

the turtles are renowned for being tough customers. They can survive shark attacks that cost them pieces of their body.

But a little petroleum can cause serious medical problems.

A study in Florida for the U.S. Interior Department showed that adult green sea turtles avoid an oil slick by staying down longer, diving deeper and seeking open water.

Officials flying over the Exxon Houston spill March 3 said they saw green sea turtles near the slick — but in clear water, not swimming in the oil-covered area itself. It was impossible to tell how much exposure the turtles suffered.

When turtles are exposed to oil, the Florida researchers said, they can suffer changes in breathing, low blood sugar, raised white blood cell counts, skin lesions and other problems.

That exposure may come from contact with oil in the wa-

ter despite attempts at avoidance, and it may come from actually eating oil. There are reports of young turtles eating floating oil globs, and researchers speculate older turtles may ingest oil stuck to the seaweeds they prefer.

John Naughton, a National Marine Fisheries Service biologist, said he found oil from the Exxon Houston on species of seaweed that turtles are known to eat.

"If they do come in at high tide and feed on these areas, that could be a problem."

He also said the oil spill was much less damaging to marine organisms than it might have been, because high waves shoved most of the oil up above the normal high water line, and bypassed much of the coastal sea floor.

The Hawaiian sea turtle population was declining 15 years ago, when killing them was limited and eventually halted. The turtle numbers now seem to be coming back up.

People report seeing them again in fair numbers. Wildlife officials report turtle nesting at beaches where turtles haven't been seen for years.

That's the good news. The bad news is that they are under another kind of stress. Strange, debilitating tumors have been found on large numbers of green sea turtles.

The tumors are big, bulbous pink things. The tumors are well supplied with blood vessels. National Marine Fisheries Service turtle researcher George Balazs said experiments to surgically remove them showed they bleed profusely.

Balazs also found that when turtle tumors are surgically removed, they quickly reappear.

The tumors are generally external. They are found around the flippers, sometimes interfering with swimming. They are found on the face, sometimes blinding the creatures. In a few cases, tumors in the throat have starved turtles, or choked them.

Researchers are baffled about the tumor causes.

Don Heacock, a state aquatic biologist, said scientists have seen tumors in turtles for decades, but seem to be seeing more in recent years. Among the tumor cause theories: some kind of virus; marine pollution; a blood fluke that turtles may get from something they eat.



## Even minor oil spills threaten Hawaii sea turtles

With so many recent oil spills in Hawaiian waters, it is important to know what damage the pollution can have on our marine life. This is especially relevant for vulnerable creatures listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, such as our Hawaiian sea turtles.

How does oil impact a sea turtle? Here are some answers. As air breathers, sea turtles must frequently swim to the surface. When a layer of oil is present, a turtle will invariably come into contact with it. If the slick is viscous and wide-spread, a turtle can become so coated that its mouth, nostrils and eyes are completely clogged.

Similar devastation to sea birds, otters and other wildlife has been shown almost daily in TV coverage of the Alaska spill. Fortunately, death of this sort has thus far not been a common feature of oil spills in Hawaii.

Does that mean little or no damage has occurred? Not necessarily. According to Dr. Peter Lutz, sea turtle physiologist and researcher at the University of Florida, the chronic or lingering sub-lethal effects of petroleum on sea turtles can be considerable. These impacts are usually much less apparent to the casual observer.

They can include: a massive immune response to the body when oil passes through the intestinal wall; shut-down

of the turtle's salt excreting gland; severe dermatitis leading to increased skin infection; and interference with digestion when oil is swallowed.

In addition, "tar balls" floating at the surface often strangely appeal to turtles to the point that they eat them. When this happens the throat can become blocked and the jaws stick together.

The bottom line in all of this can be summed up in one simple sentence: Oil and sea turtles don't mix, no matter what quantities are involved!

George H. Balazs

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GEORGE H. BALAZS

## Green sea turtle is recovering after tangling with fishing line

A Hawaiian green sea turtle was convalescing at Sea Life Park last night after a near-fatal entanglement with a length of 200-pound-test monofilament fishing line, park officials said.

The turtle, an endangered species, was brought to the park early yesterday afternoon by a fisherman who found it stranded on the beach near Makapuu, said Bob Moore, Sea Life Park general manager.

"It had it (the line) wrapped around both of its flippers and its neck, and it appeared that each time he moved his flipper, it would not only bite into his flippers, but it would choke him," said Moore. "He was

pretty weak when he came in here. On one flipper, the monofilament line had dug in, it looked like, all the way to the bone. I think if we hadn't gotten to him, he would probably have choked to death."

The turtle is fairly young, weighing about 25 or 30 pounds, said Moore.

Monofilament fishing line is a strong synthetic material that does not break down under natural processes. Plastic debris of many types is causing extensive damage to marine life worldwide, according to international researchers who met this week at the Ala Moana Hotel.



**GOOD, IT'S FRIDAY:** Anonymous reader, identified only as "Giggles," says it was nice of the Navy, Marines and Outdoor Circle to plant a wilwili tree on Kahoolawe: "But the right tree really would have been a *Bombax*" . . . **Bonnie Caldwell** of A La Kart, the restaurant meal delivery service, figures that "the epidemic of fax machines could be the cure for the traffic crunch in Honolulu" . . . **Markus Taum**, personal trainer at the Honolulu Club, on his work: "It's like a baker who puts lots of beautiful cupcakes in the oven, but never gets to taste them" □ □ □

**DIS AND DOT:** Sorry to hear that we won't be hearing legendary **Ron Jacobs**, one of the original POI Boys, on KPOI any more. Station decided yesterday not to renew his second-time-around contract . . . You can tell that the public relations arm of the People's Republic of China knows what it's doing, starting with its name: The China Association of International Friendly Contacts. Representatives will be in town for the big China trade expo in May . . . **John Waihee** and **Frank Fasi** have ac-



Atisanoe

cepted invitations to the Japan Society of America's dinner honoring **Salevaa Atisanoe**, a.k.a. **Konishiki**, on Tues. Which presents an amusing picture: Wouldn't you love to see the Guv and TheMayor settle their differences in a sumo ring? □ □ □

**ISLE STYLE:** Artist **Robert Wyland** came home from Washington with a commission to do a life-size wall mural at the offices of the National Wildlife Federation in D.C. Wyland says it will feature Hawaiian green turtles and reef life . . . West Maui folks are still celebrating the opening of Lahaina Cinemas, which offers three theatres. Lahaina had been movie-less for several years . . . Let's get this straight: I was so excited about the upcoming Scottish Heritage Week parade and Highland Games that I jumped the gun — even went so far as to invite a friend to attend. But the parade happens a week from today through Waikiki and the Highland Games happen at Ft. DeRussy on Sat., April 1 . . . Here's nominating **Ray Sweeney** for Irish Father of the Year. Ray arranged for a bagpiper



Wyland

to awaken daughter **Erin**, 18, a freshman at UC-Davis, at 7 a.m. on her first St. Patrick's Day away from home. Friends in her dormitory were alerted and snapped pictures as the fellow, wearing a green Sweeney clan cap, blasted away on the pipes □ □ □

**DOTS ALL, FOLKS:** Local angle dept.: New York interior designer **Mark Hampton**, who did the Mauka and Makai model homes at **John Michael White's** Kohala Ranch, is busy these days helping First Lady **Barbara Bush** spruce up the White House . . . It figures dept.: In the Manoa Marketplace golf tournament, **Roy Asato's** prize was a dinner certificate from his own K.C. Drive-Inn. He graciously gave it to a tournament volunteer . . . **Comic Jaz Kaner**, re-



Kaner

laxing on the North Shore before performing next week at the Comedy Club, was telling friends about receiving a note on a cocktail napkin from a woman while performing in Las Vegas: "Have him scrubbed and brought to my tent." Scrubbing is something Jaz knows about — new bride **Leslie** attends UCLA medical school □ □ □

## Naturally Hawaiian

By Patrick Ching  
Artist/ Environmentalist



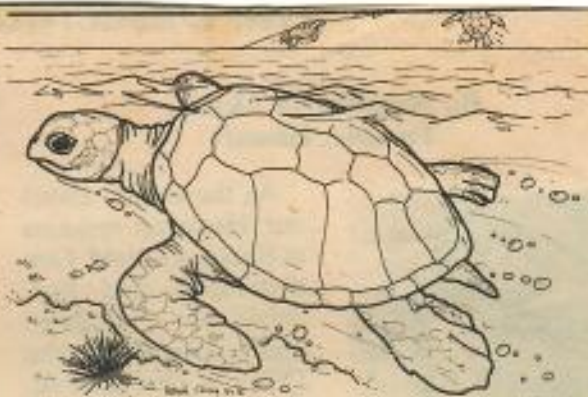
If you've spent any time in or near the ocean, you most likely are familiar with the sea turtles that frequent Hawaiian waters. If you've been lucky enough to observe them underwater then you have experienced their gracefulness as they glide through the water with seemingly effortless strokes of their winglike flippers.

Several types of sea turtles inhabit Hawaiian waters: the Hawksbill, Olive Riddley, Loggerhead, and Giant Leatherback Turtles are occasionally sighted while the most common turtle by far is the Pacific Green Sea Turtle.

The favorite nesting grounds for the green sea turtle, known to Hawaiians as Honu, are on the tiny, sand-covered islands in the northwest Hawaiian chain.

Each summer the turtles come here to feed, mate and bask in the sun. These uninhabited islands are an ideal refuge for the Honu, which are easily disturbed by humans or dogs, especially while on land.

From May to August, the pregnant female turtles come out of the water to lay their eggs in the sand during the night. An adult female may weigh over 300 pounds and lay over 100 eggs about the



size of golfballs. After a couple of months the eggs will hatch and the young turtles will emerge from their nest during the night and head for the water.

In many areas of the world seabirds take large numbers of young turtles before they reach the water. In Hawai'i however, seabirds are not known to eat newly hatched turtles. Once in the water, though, young turtles are vulnerable prey to fish, sharks, and other marine animals. Sharks may even attack and kill full-grown turtles.

Predation by man is by far the biggest threat to the world's sea turtles which are hunted and killed for their meat, shells, and eggs. The Honu was a favored food of the Hawaiian people who also made use of their shells and eggs. As domestic and commercial demand for turtle meat and products increased, the sea turtle population in Hawai'i decreased. As a result the Honu was put on the Federal threatened species list, and now it is illegal to harass or kill them.

Januali (January) 1989

Kei Wai Ola O Ohi'a

'Ao'ao Umikumahiku (Page 17)



Biologist in tune with the sea

Don Heacock, an aquatic biologist with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, wishes he had more time in the day to do his job.

On any given day, Heacock can be responding to an oil spill affecting marine life, assessing the impact of a hydropower plant on fish in a river, giving lectures on marine life or investigating the death of a green sea turtle.

He keeps long hours because he likes his job and because he is on a mission to educate the public about the importance of protecting marine life and the dangers of overfishing. He also wants to increase the stock of game fish.

"As a scientist I have a professional obligation to protect the natural resources," he says. "In this case, it is the ocean, which we still know so little about."

He will soon be presenting to the National Marine Fisheries Service office in Honolulu his findings concerning the recovery of skeletal remains of a sperm whale that washed up on a beach near Lihue Airport in September.

The jaw bone, teeth and ribs of the whale apparently were removed by souvenir hunters. The removal of remains is prohibited by federal law, and offenders can be fined.

Heacock theorized that the whale, whose tail was bitten off by sharks, was already dead when it landed on shore.

Heacock was able to recover parts of the vertebrae, which he hopes will be an invaluable learning tool.

"Sure, we can give slide show presentations, but letting a fourth-grader, for instance, handle pieces of the vertebrae definitely has a more lasting impression," he says.

He is doing a study on the inventory of the 'o' opu nakea, a freshwater fish, and the akule, a coastal saltwater fish, both popular game fish whose numbers have plummeted over the years either because of overfishing of sexually immature fish or a change in their habitats.

He fears their numbers will continue to drop if his department does not establish effective fish-management policies soon.

In the case of the 'o' opu nakea, he supports a resolution introduced by Rep. Peter Apo to ban the commercial sale of the fish and the use of gill nets and spears to catch the fish.

Heacock is known as a "walking encyclopedia on fish" by some Kauai fishermen.



Name: Don Heacock  
 Age: 39  
 Position: State aquatic biologist  
 Education: Maui Community College; Humboldt State University  
 Hobbies: Raising freshwater fish, fishing, diving, surfing

A-3

1-5-89 HSB

Lester Chang, Star-Bulletin

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Government to auction used vehicles Friday

Fifty used government vehicles will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday at the General Services Administration Sales Office, 104 Lagoon Drive.

Sedans, station wagons, pickups and other vehicles will go on sale at Building #241.

After the GSA sale, the U.S. Marshal Service will auction off Honda XR motorcycles, a Datsun 280Z, Porsche 930 Turbo Carrera, Jeep Cherokee and other vehicles.

Vehicles may be inspected tomorrow, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the sale.

For further information, call 836-1578.

### Boehlert is named to fisheries post

George W. Boehlert has been named director of the Honolulu Laboratory of the Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service.

He succeeds Richard S. Shomura, the laboratory director for 15 years. Shomura left the position in March to work on fishery-related

projects at the University of Hawaii and will retire from federal service in August.

Boehlert has been chief of the laboratory's insular resources investigation since 1983, leading research on physical and biological interactions in seamount ecosystems. He has written dozens of scientific publications.

The Honolulu Laboratory was established in 1949 as the Pacific Ocean Fishery Investigations and is located next to the UH-Manoa. It employs about 90 scientists and support staff with research ranging from Hawaii to the U.S. territories and possessions and other Pacific islands.

The scientists study the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle as well as tuna, billfish, bottom fish, lobster and shrimp.

### State has late paychecks for 55 former employees

The state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is trying to locate 55 people who have a total of \$8,600 due them in wages from former employees.

Anyone on the list below should

call 548-4047 or write to 830 Punchbowl St., Room 340, Honolulu 96813 and furnish proper identification:

Frederick Ball, Francisco Baran Jr., Felipe Bayani, Lydia Bayani, Kirk Benard, Dixie Brock, Charles Brooks, Josefina Cabanas, Eufroncina Cabonce, Delores Cardenas, Chou Chang, John Devine, Aida Dingle, Gregoria Duran, Paulette Felx, Jerome Ford, Juan Garcia, Antoinette Gonda.

Also, Susana Merena, Jofel Miguel, Moatoni Muti, Terry Neimi, Chu Cha Park, Juanito Ramos, Charles Raymond, Roxiana Rodrigues, Juanito Rosana, Joslyn Scott, Ropeti Simanu, Raymund Sotiangco, John Gilbert Souza, Billy Stork, Kenneth Strowbridge, Mar Sugai, William Supebedia, Arnold Suzuki.

Also, Derick Griffiths, King Keiiwajwaole, Matthew Lee, Sutia Liili, Michael Madeira, Joseph Mariconda, Masaki Maruyama, Andrew Matautia, Rudolpho Mendoza, Sianita Mendoza, Alfonso Taquiam, Cipriano Tarape, Terry J. Tavares, Tommy Thomas, Daniel Tomas, Evile Tuisaloo, Victoria Vallente, Ernest Watson Jr. and Jeffrey Wolff.

Reported by Star-Bulletin staff

# Turtles drowning in a sea of plastic

By Helen Alfonn

Star-Bulletin

Sea turtle specialist George Balazs stroked a young turtle weighing only a few pounds — a size he says is rarely seen in the ocean.

This one was raised from a hatchling at Sea Life Park, where it lives happily and safely with family members.

Their relatives on the high seas aren't so lucky. They are in constant danger, threatened by predators and human garbage — nets, rope, pieces of plastic, glass bottles, strapping tape, wire, oil and much more.

Seven turtles have been found dead on Hawaii shores since 1984 when an international conference was held here to focus on debris problems, Balazs said.

"All seven were clogged with debris in their lower guts that was compacted in hard balls."

That may not seem like a high number, the National Marine Fisheries Service scientist said. "But we consider that the tip of the iceberg."

Studies done since 1985 by the National Wildlife Health Center show that 16 of Hawaii's 18 spe-

cies of seabirds feed on plastic debris, said Stewart Fefer, refuge manager of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

More than 90 percent of Laysan albatrosses sampled had plastic in their system, said the Honolulu migratory bird biologist.

Adult birds are able to throw up the material, but they feed their chicks until they can fly, and the chicks can't regurgitate, he said. "So they are more affected than adults. The growth rate of the chicks is reduced, and a fair amount of plastic may affect the chicks' survival."

At a news conference yesterday highlighting meetings here next week on marine debris, Balazs, Fefer and John Henderson of the Fisheries Service's Honolulu laboratory talked of the threats.

Henderson is involved with efforts to protect and increase endangered Hawaiian monk seals, among other animals suffering from floating trash.

Richard S. Shomura, former director of the laboratory and chairman of the Second International Conference on Marine Debris, said the first workshop in 1984 primarily involved biologists

and derelict nets entangling marine life.

But the problems have escalated tremendously, and many agencies are worried, he said. More than 200 marine, wildlife and social scientists, economists, lawyers, government and industry officials, and others will explore the issues Monday through Friday at the Ala Moana Hotel, Shomura said.

The public must be alerted to the problems because a new federal law slaps penalties up to \$50,000 on any watercraft dumping plastics in the ocean, said Coast Guard Capt. Gordon Piche. It will require self-policing through education, he said.

The dilemma is that most of the debris does not wash ashore but floats in the ocean where it snares and entangles marine life and is eaten by them, Balazs said.

Young sea turtles are particularly vulnerable because they live in areas where currents come together with natural food and floating objects, he said.

These turtles are seldom seen in the ocean until they are about 15 pounds because they live at or near the ocean surface, drifting



By Dean Gensel, Star-Bulletin

Scientist George Balazs holds a young sea turtle that's safe with its family at Sea Life Park from dangerous ocean debris.

and swimming, he said. Consequently, it's difficult to assess the impact, he said.

But the seven dead turtles found in Hawaii in recent years contained no seaweed or shore food — only plastic from the high seas, Balazs said.

"It's not just whether we care

about albatrosses and turtles, which we do, but the quality of the entire environment we're a part of," Fefer said.

"Some of these things could affect the food chain, of which we're at the top.

"The ultimate concern is for the survival of humans."

Honolulu Star-Bulletin 68-05-3

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Star-Bulletin

Sea turtle specialist George Balazs stroked a young turtle weighing only a few pounds—a size he says is rarely seen in the ocean.

This one was raised from a hatchling at Sea Life Park, where it lives happily and safely with family members.

Their relatives on the high seas aren't so lucky. They are in constant danger, threatened by predators and human garbage—nets, rope, pieces of plastic, glass bottles, strapping tape, wire, oil and much more.

Seven turtles have been found dead on Hawaii shores since 1984 when an international conference was held here to focus on debris problems, Balazs said.

"All seven were clogged with debris in their lower guts that was compacted in hard balls."

That may not seem like a high number, the National Marine Fisheries Service scientist said. "But we consider that the tip of the iceberg."

Studies done since 1985 by the National Wildlife Health Center show that 16 of Hawaii's 18 spe-

cies of seabirds feed on plastic debris, said Stewart Fefer, refuge manager of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

More than 90 percent of Laysan albatrosses sampled had plastic in their system, said the Honolulu migratory bird biologist.

Adult birds are able to throw up the material, but they feed their chicks until they can fly, and the chicks can't regurgitate, he said. "So they are more affected than adults. The growth rate of the chicks is reduced, and a fair amount of plastic may affect the chicks' survival."

At a news conference yesterday highlighting meetings here next week on marine debris, Balazs, Fefer and John Henderson of the Fisheries Service's Honolulu laboratory talked of the threats.

Henderson is involved with efforts to protect and increase endangered Hawaiian monk seals, among other animals suffering from floating trash.

Richard S. Shomura, former director of the laboratory and chairman of the Second International Conference on Marine Debris, said the first workshop in 1984 primarily involved biologists

and derelict nets entangling marine life.

But the problems have escalated tremendously, and many agencies are worried, he said. More than 200 marine, wildlife and social scientists, economists, lawyers, government and industry officials, and others will explore the issues Monday through Friday at the Ala Moana Hotel, Shomura said.

The public must be alerted to the problems because a new federal law slaps penalties up to \$30,000 on any watercraft dumping plastics in the ocean, said Coast Guard Capt. Gordon Piche. It will require self-policing through education, he said.

The dilemma is that most of the debris does not wash ashore but floats in the ocean where it snares and entangles marine life and is eaten by them, Balazs said.

Young sea turtles are particularly vulnerable because they live in areas where currents come together with natural food and floating objects, he said.

These turtles are seldom seen in the ocean until they are about 15 pounds because they live at or near the ocean surface, drifting



By Dean Sessad, Star-Bulletin

Scientist George Balazs holds a young sea turtle that's safe with its family at Sea Life Park from dangerous ocean debris.

and swimming, he said. Consequently, it's difficult to assess the impact, he said.

But the seven dead turtles found in Hawaii in recent years contained no seaweed or shore food—only plastic from the high seas, Balazs said.

"It's not just whether we care

about albatrosses and turtles, which we do, but the quality of the entire environment we're a part of," Fefer said.

"Some of these things could affect the food chain, of which we're at the top.

"The ultimate concern is for the survival of humans."

ASB 4/25/88 A2

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN



By Susan Scott, special to the Star-Bulletin

Harassment by humans has forced sea turtles to mate away from prying eyes.

# Sea turtles avoid hassles of man, skirt main isles

**O**NCE I was lucky enough to watch a female sea turtle come ashore to lay eggs.

The sun was setting as the animal emerged from the sea. She accepted one last boost from a small wave and landed smoothly on the white sand.

After a moment's rest, she began her long journey up the beach, inching along with flippers better suited to swimming.

Slowly, with great effort, the turtle scooted her way toward the top of the beach, stopping frequently to catch her breath. Since sea turtles spend most of their life in the ocean, movement on land is difficult for them.

I left the beach then, not wanting to disturb this turtle's mission. She probably spent the night digging a hole with hind flippers, then, hopefully, laid her precious eggs.

Most people in Hawaii will never have the opportunity to watch sea turtles nesting because six of the seven species of marine turtles are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as endangered or threatened.

Sea turtles once nested on the main Hawaiian Islands, but now nearly all egg laying takes place in the Hawaiian Island National Wildlife Refuge of the remote Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

A few turtles still come ashore to dig nests in secluded spots of the main islands, but these places are kept secret by wildlife managers.

In spite of the law and sea turtles' precarious existence, people still capture and eat sea turtles and their eggs.

The nesting season of the Hawaiian green sea turtle, or *honu*, begins soon. From May through August these turtles migrate from the coasts of the main islands to the northwest chain.

There they mate in shallow water. Females then crawl ashore to



**OCEAN WATCH**  
By Susan Scott

dig nests and lay eggs. The nests in the refuge are safe from people, mongooses, pigs, dogs and cats, the land predators that have reduced sea turtle populations to dangerously low levels.

Tens of millions of sea turtles once dotted the world's oceans. Now, only 100 to 350 females nest in Hawaii each year.

You can help sea turtles in the following ways:

■ If you observe sea turtles being captured, harmed or killed, call the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at 541-2727 or the state Conservation and Resources Enforcement office at 548-5918.

■ Report nesting or basking activities, and dead, sick, injured or accidentally captured turtles to NMFS, Sea Life Park or the Waikiki Aquarium.

■ Refuse to eat any soup or food claimed to have sea turtle meat in it.

■ Don't buy or admire "tortoise-shell" jewelry or leather made from sea turtle skin.

■ If you come upon a sea turtle while snorkeling or diving, do not attempt to touch it, ride it, or spook it out of its resting place. This is harassment and frightens these gentle animals.

If we will share our beaches with these animals, stop harassing them and stealing their eggs, the sight of sea turtles crawling up a beach could once again be a common sight in Hawaii.

Susan Scott is a marine biologist and free-lance writer. Her Ocean-Watch column appears Monday in the Star-Bulletin. Write her at the Star-Bulletin, Box 3060, Honolulu 96802.



—ADRIAN SAXE COLLECTION

**WHO'S THIS??** — The Kona

Historical Society photograph collection contains many photographs of both local people and visitors to Kona which need identification. This photograph we are quite sure was taken in the early 1960s although no date is ascribed to it. It shows a boy with a gaff holding a baby shark and the mother shark.

If you are able to identify the boy or the kind of shark he has before him, call Megan Mitchell at the Kona Historical Society 323-3222 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

The Kona Historical Society is very much in need of volunteers to sit once a month for three hours (on a regular schedule) upstairs in the store museum to greet visitors, guide them, watch over the artifacts, answer the telephone and fulfill other small duties. If you would like to help, call Megan at 323-3222 and leave word for her to call you back.

# Friendly turtle harassing Kona divers

There's something strange going on off the Kona Coast and I thought you should know about it. There's a giant green sea turtle out there harassing scuba divers. That's right, the turtle is harassing the divers, not the other way around.

It seems whenever a diver ventures into the sea at a particular area, this darn turtle shows up and wants to be fed.

We've inquired around, consulting turtle experts, and everyone appears to be mystified about why this particular turtle is so seemingly friendly. All the divers we know say she's been tormenting them for months now and they can't get rid of her. She's really a pest to some. When they try to set up a perfect photograph of a resting eel or moorish idol, the turtle suddenly appears full-frame in their viewfinder. Or if they are casually inspecting a sea star, this turtle comes by and knows it from their hands. And God forbid they try to feed a succulent squid to a moray — the turtle comes and bites off a morsel for herself.

One of our marine biologist friends thinks it might have been grown domestically, or



**DICK DRESIE**

over at Sea Life Park. If so, the turtle, having been hand fed on a high protein diet, would be (judging by her size) about three years old. However, the same marine biologist concedes that if the turtle has been wild all her life (with less good vittles), she could be about 15 years old.

Wild sea turtles forage for food and are basically vegetarians, eating sea grasses and algae. They do love jellyfish, but we have few here in Hawaii. This turtle is fond of squid too. Turtles aren't good hunters, that's not their style, so when divers are in the area, she's anxious for a handout. Some take asparagus, celery and broccoli, and when no squid is

offered, the turtle reverts to being a vegetarian. She eats enough to feed a seahorse, so divers have decided to name her Miss Piggy.

I, too, wondered why the feminine name, and come to find out one of the divers waited around to see which restroom she came out of. No, seriously, we don't know whether she is a girl or a boy, but since she took a shine to Ricky Westphal, we just knew she had to be a girl.

If she had been grown in captivity, she would have an identifying marker attached to her front flipper, but not even a scar appears there to prove that theory. She just showed up one day and has remained in the general vicinity ever since. She's seen practically every day, if the seas are flat. She doesn't seem to like heavy swells. If we have rough seas for a few days, she finds shelter, somewhere, and hides her time until calmer seas prevail. Then there she is again!

Miss Piggy has become so friendly with one of our boat charters that she seems to wait

**See DRESIE  
Page 22A**

## ...Dresie

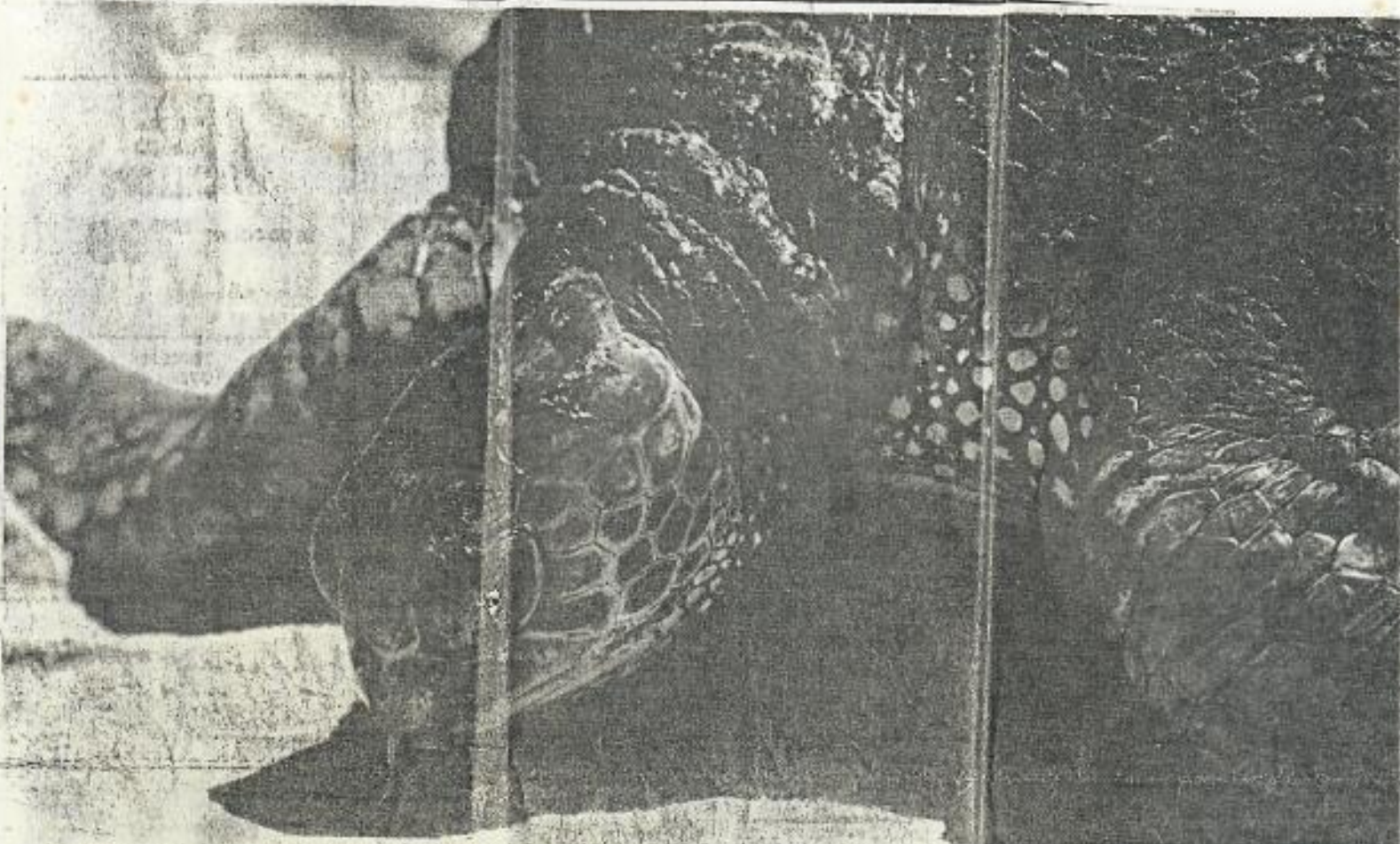
From Page 20A  
anxiously for them. They have a dog on board who swims occasionally with the divers. When the turtle sees this boat coming, or possibly hears them coming, she surfaces off the bow and waits for the dog to jump in! When the dog enters the water, the turtle dives, then surfaces in

front of the canine, and they play tag for awhile. The dog doesn't attempt to hurt the turtle in any way and they frolick around in the water to everyone's delight and amazement. That's hard to believe, I know, but more than one person has seen that actions, so reliable information is abundant.

If you don't believe this fish (or turtle) story, just ask any of our dive operators about Miss

Piggy. She's fast becoming the star of the Kona Coast. Not all endangered species are as friendly as this one, so if you spot her, don't harass her — she'll harass you!

Dick Dresie is a Kona resident and his book "Let's go Shore Dive'N' on the Kona Coast" is available at bookstores and dive shops. You can reach him at 329-5801.



GREEN SEA TURTLES remain on the threatened species list although there has been a gradual increase in their numbers since they were given protected status in 1978. They often fall victim to predators, unexpected encounters with humans,

and tumors. Scientists don't know the cause of the tumors, but are concerned about the recent increase in tumors on Hawaiian sea turtles.

(Photo by Gerald Ida)

## Green sea turtles still need protection

by David Boynton

Another dead green sea turtle has washed up on a Kaua'i beach, according to Aquatic Biologist Don Heacock, who says the latest find was reported at Kalapaki Beach near Nawiliwili.

According to Heacock, the turtle had apparently been run over by a very large boat, with a propeller that could have been as large as four or five feet in diameter. The prop cut the turtle's shell wide open on the underside, from head to tail.

"The turtle was probably swimming up to the surface to breathe when it was run over; the impact turned the turtle over so that the lower shell was exposed to the propeller", he explained. "It took a tremendous force to cut through the shell like that."

Green sea turtles or Honu are protected by both state and federal laws. They are listed as a threatened species (rather than endangered like the Hawaiian monk seal). It is illegal to harm, harass, or kill the Honu, although it is possible the skipper of the vessel that ran over the turtle found at Kalapaki was unaware anything had happened in this unpredictable accident.

Green Sea Turtles have been making a dramatic comeback since receiving protection in 1978, but their population increase is matched by a rise in encounters with people. Unfortunately, turtles often suffer from these contacts.

Though no longer harvested legally, turtles were prized for food by the ancient Hawaiians, and were even considered 'Aumakua or guardian spirits of some families. The oil taken from the green fat of the Honu was reportedly used as a medicine to make warts disappear.

Many Hawaiians were opposed to laws which took away their

traditional right to fish for turtles. Now, as turtle populations increase, Hawaiians anticipate a day when they will again be able to legally take turtles for home consumption.

However, it takes an average of 25 to 30 years for a female turtle to reach breeding age, by which time their shell will measure about 36". The breeding population of Hawaiian turtles is still small, with just a few hundred females nesting annually on the beaches of French Frigate Shoals. Federal officials do not foresee any change in the protected status in the near future.

Illegal catches of turtles still do occur, and fishermen have received fines ranging from \$200 to \$700 when apprehended. The highest fine in Hawai'i in recent years was \$1400 assessed and paid by a Maui man. On the mainland, fines in the tens of thousands of dollars have been levied for people marketing the meat of endangered sea turtles.

But boat collisions and illegal fishing are not the only threats faced by Hawaiian sea turtles.

In a summary published two years ago about sea turtle strandings in the Hawaiian Islands, 22 stranded animals were recorded for the first six months of 1985, and all but two of these died. The total for the year was 56 stranded turtles.

People caused the majority of the deaths, with spear holes visible in several of the turtles. One carcass that washed ashore on O'ahu's north shore has a small hole drilled in the shell with stainless steel wire tied in it. The head and four flippers had been amputated.

Numerous other turtles had troubles with fishing gear. Some that were entangled in fishing nets and others snagged by shore

Please turn to Page 8)



## ★ Turtles ★

(Continued from Page 1)

fishermen were released unharmed. One turtle was found dead with fishing line wrapped around its front flippers, and several others died after becoming entangled in netting. Butchered remains of several turtles added to the deathcount.

Signs of shark attacks were visible on a few of the turtles, including two whose missing front flippers had healed. Sharks are thought to be a major cause of turtle mortality.

In a study conducted in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, turtle parts were found in one third of the tiger sharks captured with food in their stomachs. One shark had the remains of five turtles in its stomach. The largest turtle shell found in a shark stomach was 38".

Several of the deaths in the "strandings" report were unexplained, though tumors were noted on some turtles. In all of 1985 there were 18 cases of tumors reported, and in 1986 there were 31 cases. The rapid increase in tumors from just a few cases per year in the early 1980s to dozens is a major concern for scientists studying the turtles. A status report on green sea turtles published in 1980 did not even mention the tumor problem, but now the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team has made tumor research its top priority.

The tumors grow to a size of several inches within two or three years and have been reported as large as 12 inches. One turtle had a large tumor in its throat, which interfered with its

ability to swallow. Animals with tumors tend to be weaker than others, and more susceptible to injury and death.

Scientists studying the tumors classify them as Fibropapillomas, or fibrous masses. Their cause is unknown, though infection by blood flukes is considered a possibility.

Another problem reported in the past few years has been false and infertile nestings. After not doing so for many years, turtles have begun to come ashore on isolated Kauai and Oahu beaches to lay eggs.

For reasons unknown, most nestings are unsuccessful. In some cases there are signs of attempts to nest but no eggs laid; on other occasions, the eggs are laid but do not hatch. One nest was washed away by high surf. This past summer, all 90 eggs laid in the sand on a southshore beach proved to be infertile.

Numerous turtles, some nearly "as large as bathtubs" used to be seen resting on Na Pali beaches in the 1960s. Helicopter pilot Jack Harter recalled seeing as many as 17 at one time on the beach at Nu'alolo-kai. Heavy commercial fishing for turtles greatly reduced their numbers, till sightings became infrequent in the early 1970s.

In 1974, a State regulation was put into effect which prohibited sale of turtle products, but still allowed the taking of turtles for home consumption with certain restrictions on size and fishing methods.

In 1978, it became illegal to take, possess, or harass the Honu, when the federal government conferred threatened species status on the Hawaiian green sea turtle. A gradual increase in turtle sightings along the Na Pali coast and elsewhere around Kauai was noted in the early 1980s but have dropped off again as boating traffic increases along Na Pali.

Sightings of Honu on the beach at Nualolo Kai have again dropped off, replaced by hundreds of people on summer days. Hopes for improved nesting success on Kauai will depend on having a few isolated beaches protected from commercial use.

"People need to be reminded that turtles are a threatened species", says Heacock. "Like the monk seals, they should be left alone, especially when seen on the beach."

If you have information on dead, dying, or harassed turtles, contact the National Marine Fisheries Service at 808-943-1221, or call the DLNR Enforcement Division (DOCARE) at 245-4444. After hours, weekends, and holidays call the Conservation Hotline by dialing ENTERPRISE 5469.



GREEN SEA TURTLES remain on the threatened species list although there has been a gradual increase in their numbers

and tumor but are c

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**BEACH BUDDIES** — A green sea turtle and a Hawaiian monk seal rest on a remote beach in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, several hundred miles northwest of Honolulu. Both of these animals may also occasionally be seen in the waters around the main Hawaiian Islands. They are fully protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Hawaii state laws. For further information write: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2570 Dole St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396.

## SPORTS

## SEA LOG

**PETE  
HENDRICKS**



## Unusual visitor to our waters

An unusual maritime visitor got some help from local mariners last week. A relatively rare olive ridley sea turtle was sighted just offshore of Kawaihae by the crew of the Mauna Kea Kai, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's 30-foot sailing and diving catamaran.

The two-foot long sea turtle was apparently in distress on the surface when sighted during a sunset cocktail sail. The turtle was brought aboard and placed in an "aquarium", actually a built-in rinse tank on deck for diving gear on the catamaran.

Upon completing the cruise, Captain Paul Fischer and crew Vivian DeAbollis contacted George Balans of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Honolulu and the turtle became the most unusual passenger next morning on the Princeville Airways Waimea-Honolulu flight.

The turtle was met at the airport and taken to the NMFS facility at Kewalo Basin and placed in a tank, where it rested for several days. "Ridley" then hitched a ride on the marine research vessel Townsend Cromwell, departing for a high seas research cruise. Somewhere along the way, the visitor was to be released into its pelagic habitat.

The olive ridley is an oceanic turtle not often seen in Hawaii, but may be the most abundant sea turtle in the world. Olive ridleys are widespread in tropical regions of the Pacific and Indian oceans and in the southern and eastern regions of the Atlantic.

These turtles feed primarily on crustaceans. Mating takes place offshore, with females staying offshore until nesting time. On some nesting beaches, such as in Costa Rica, female ridleys come ashore by the thousands to lay their eggs in the sand.

In some areas of the world, the olive ridley is slaughtered for meat, eggs and leather. The olive ridley fishery in the Mexican Pacific is the largest turtle fishery in the world.

The Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, is the most common sea turtle in the Hawaiian Islands. The green turtle is named for the color of its body fat, rather than its shell color, which is commonly olive brown above and whitish or yellowish below. These turtles are entirely herbivorous, grazing on near-shore pastures of seaweeds.

Most green sea turtles here migrate to the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to nest, a round-trip journey of 1,000 miles or more. Nestings on the main islands are almost none as the green sea turtle is most sensitive to nesting site disturbance.

Federal and state laws protect all sea turtles in Hawaii. Not even tortoise shell or leather from foreign sources can be brought into the U.S. Turtle meat has been a traditional food for many peoples of the world for centuries.

However, because of commercial harvest, accidental catches in fishing nets, loss of nesting beaches, pollution from petroleum and plastic, among others, some turtle populations have virtually disappeared.

These sea-going reptiles, whose ancestors swam shallow seas 150 million years ago, are under great stress throughout much of their oceanic habitat. Until stocks recover significantly, sea turtles will likely remain protected species in the U.S. for a long time.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

JUN 16 1987

## Getting It Straight

Music and spelling, among other things, got us into trouble in the past couple of days:

- The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra from London will perform at the Waikiki Shell on Aug. 7 and 8. A story in yesterday's Advertiser named the wrong orchestra. Mail-order forms for the concerts are available by calling 946-0346.

- Manny Sales was re-elected over the weekend as fourth vice chairman of the Hawaii Republican Party. His name was misspelled in a story in yesterday's Advertiser.

- An 1868 earthquake and tsunami on Hawaii caused the

collapse of Keauhou Landing in Ka'u. The earthquake-tsunami was not related to volcanic activity. A story Sunday incorrectly identified the location and cause of the collapse.

- Sea turtle researcher George Balazs works with the National Marine Fisheries Service. A story Sunday incorrectly identified his employer.

- It was Hawaii Central Credit Union on South King Street, Moiliili, that was robbed Friday afternoon, not Hawaii Federal Credit Union on Dillingham Boulevard, Kalihi. The name was reported incorrectly in a story Saturday.

# SPORTS

## SEA LOG

**PETE  
HENDRICKS**



### Unusual visitor to our waters

An unusual maritime visitor got some help from local mariners last week. A relatively rare olive ridley sea turtle was sighted just offshore of Kawaihae by the crew of the Mauna Kea Kai, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's 58-foot sailing and diving catamaran.

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# The case of the myste

By Jan TenBruggencate

Advertiser Kauai Bureau

A mysterious low island, in the vicinity of Kauai and Niihau, has been missing for more than 200 years.

Where was it? What happened to it?

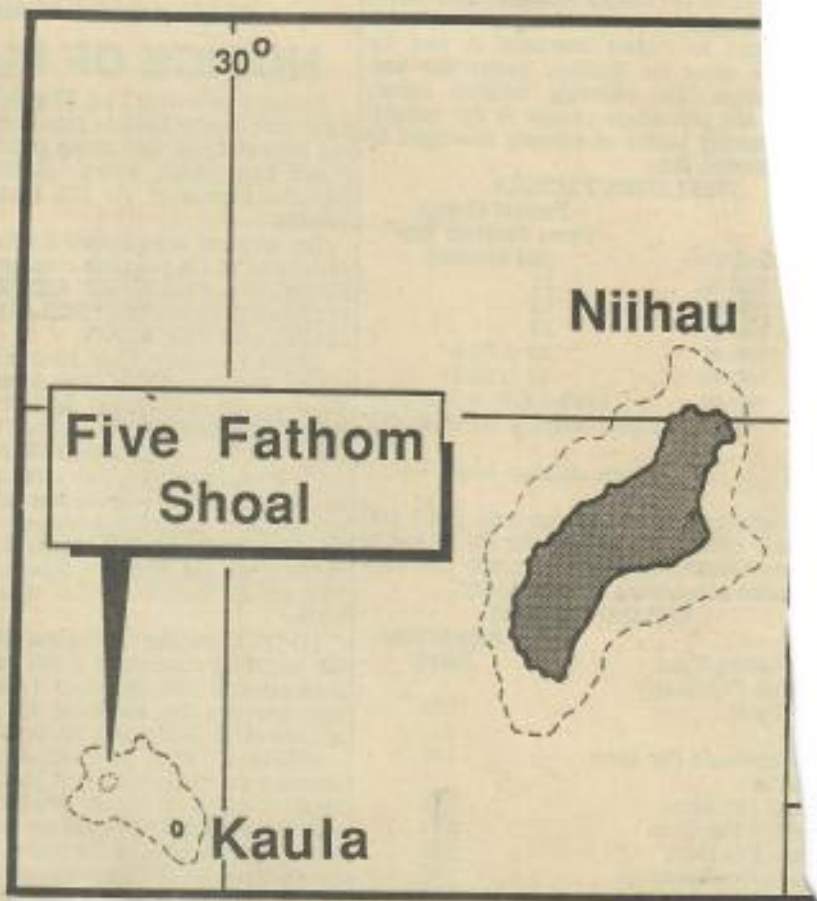
It is a puzzle that has perplexed people since the men of Capt. James Cook's first visit to Hawaii heard of it in 1778.

The British voyagers heard of this island, which they wrote as Modoopapappa or Tammata pappa, at least three times. In modern spelling, those names probably come out Moku papapa or Ka moku papa. (Ka in Hawaiian is the definite article, "the.")

Capt. Charles Clerke specifically looked for it in early 1779, after Cook's death. He even came across a canoe heading for it, but Clerke never found it.

Clerke believed he was looking for a sandy island, where no people lived, but where turtles were known to haul out of the water. The men in the canoe said they were going to catch some of those turtles at that place.

The island's location is fixed on no chart



Various descriptions have it to the southwest of Kauai and Niihau. Clerke thought it was southwest of Kaula, an islet southwest of Niihau. It wasn't. The nautical charts show no shallow places in that direction.

Dave Nekomoto, executive officer of the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, flies over the waters off Kauai and Niihau. He said he knows of no shallow reefs or sand bars off Kaula.

Koichi Masaki, a veteran Kauai fisherman, is credited with discovering the only thing close to a shallow off Kaula. It is a rock pinnacle that reaches within 30 feet of the surface, about 6 miles northwest of Kaula.

Masaki said that in all his years of fishing the waters, he located nothing else in the area that would meet the description of Clerke's island.

Victor Lipman, who with turtle expert George Balazs studied the issue for a 1983 article in "Honolulu" magazine, came up with Masaki's pinnacle as the only likely answer.

Kauai diver Sam Lee, who calls it Five Fathom Shoal, said it is shaped like an ice cream cone, with the top flat and the sides dropping steeply to the slack depths below. And that flat top is not much bigger than a floor in a good-sized office building, Lee said.

Could the "island" have simply been a sunken reef? Would Hawaiians have collected turtles feeding and resting at such a spot?

Balazs, who studies sea turtles for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said he visited the spot and finds it unlikely.

Balazs said he received one report that pre-Cook Hawaiians might have built a platform, hauled it out there and anchored it to the pinnacle to collect turtles.

"At first it sounded absolutely ludicrous," he said, but he considered it. Balazs said he concluded no such platform could have survived in those open ocean conditions long enough to become a regular turtle collection spot.

A man familiar with Hawaiian folklore said there were traditions in Hawaii of ghost islands, "certain legendary islands that were supposed to pop up and disappear." But that would not account for a spot so firm that you'd go looking for turtle there.

Another theory is that the sandy island named is actually one of the low islands of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The next two islands beyond the Kauai-Niihau group are rocky Nihoa and Necker, but beyond them extends the chain of sandbars and shoals, beginning with French Frigate Shoals.

However, a Kauai canoe on a short fishing trip would not be going hundreds of miles across open ocean for turtles. There were enough turtles around the main islands.

There is also the possibility the island referred to was one of the many small islands and rocks off Niihau. One fisherman suggested Kuakamoku, a rock off the southwestern coast of

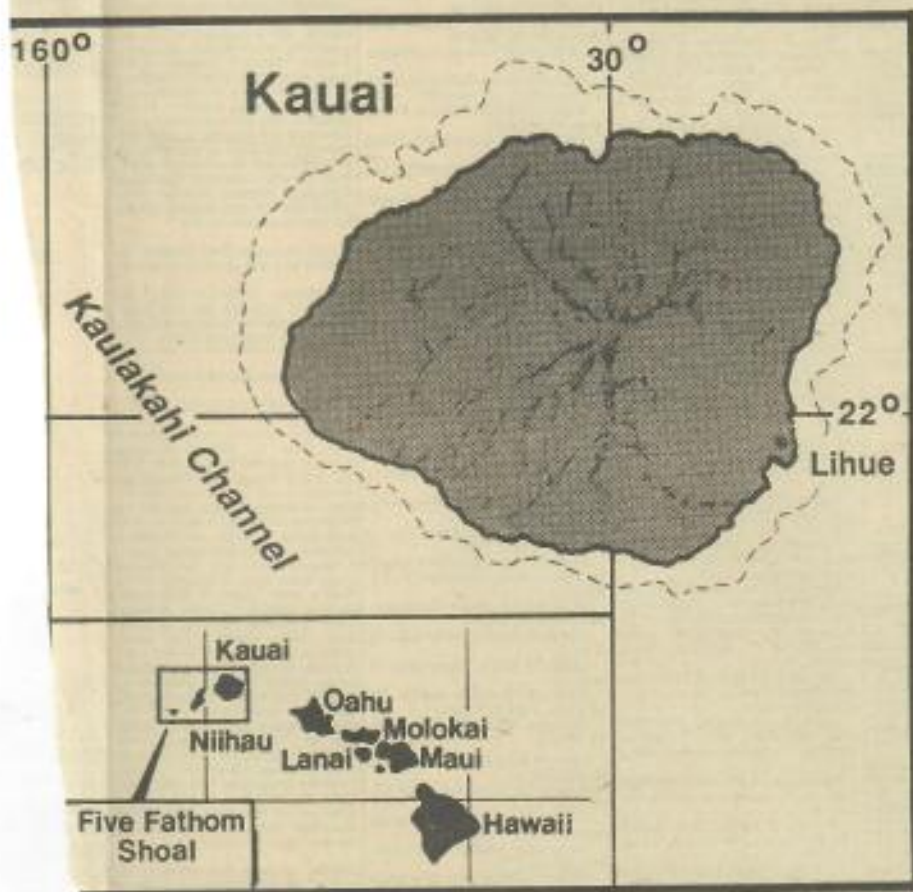
Niihau, could once have supported a sand bar. It does not, today.

Finally, there is the likelihood that the Europeans on Cook's ships simply misunderstood their informants.

One meaning of Moku papa could be flat island, but Samuel H. Elbert, co-author of "Place Names of Hawaii," said the



# erious disappearing isle



Map shows the location of an area known as Five Fathom Shoal. Kauai diver Sam Lee said it is shaped like an ice cream cone, with the top flat and the sides dropping steeply to the black depths below. While the area may be the mysterious "missing island," others say there is no evidence it could have been at the surface or supported a sandy area as little as 200 years ago.

Advertiser newsmap

words could mean many other things.

"Moku and papa are both pretty common words," he said. Moku can be an island, a district, a severed portion of something, he said. Papa can refer to a native offspring, things growing thickly together, a kind of lava, a part of a fishing net or a wind of a specific area,

he said.

"Moku papa can just mean a rock," he said.

The word papa'u can mean a sand bar or a shallow place.

The Hawaiians in the canoe Clerke saw could have been saying they were going to an islet or reef where turtles gathered, rather than giving the specific name of the place.

There are enough small islands off the coasts of Kauai and Niihau to meet the rough description. It is quite likely the Hawaiians were referring to an island or islands that did and still do exist. We just don't know which.

Or maybe there was a disappearing island, which has remained invisible all these years.

For Help in Solving Problems

# KOKUA LINE

Harriet Gee  
Phone 525-8686 or Write Kokua Line,  
Box 3680, Honolulu, Hi. 96802

**Q** — A neighbor caught a sea turtle today on the beach, hung it up by its back flippers with a rope and slit its throat. It was a big turtle. Its shell was about 2½ feet long and 2 feet wide. Its front flippers were about as big as my arm (I'm 10 years old).

The turtle had come up onto the beach on the North Shore and was trying to crawl back into the water when it was caught and killed. It was still alive when my neighbor (a man) took its shell off. Are sea turtles on the endangered species list? I don't think he was setting a very good example for the children standing around watching him slaughter the sea turtle.

**A** — What your neighbor did was wrong so the law enforcement division of the National Marine Fisheries Service has started an investigation of the incident. It is a violation of both the state and federal endangered species acts to kill the green sea turtle, which is on the "threatened" list. Watch for a follow-up report from Gene Witham, senior resident agent for the service.

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

WINDWARD PRESS

MAR 25 1987

## Officials send injured turtle back to sea

**WINDWARD**  
Fisherman Fraser Black turned over an olive Ridley turtle to National Marine Fisheries Service officials last week, after rescuing the turtle from waters near Chinaman's Hat.

The turtle, missing both

front flippers, is a member of a species rarely found near Hawaii, fisheries zoologist George Balazs told the Sun Press. The nearest nesting place for olive Ridley turtles, Balazs said, is in Mexico or Central America.

"We rarely see them unless they get into some kind of

trouble," he said. "Usually they stay far out at sea, anywhere from one mile to 200 miles away from the islands."

The turtle Black found probably was injured by sharks or became entangled in fishing nets, Balazs said. But the injuries must have occurred more than six months ago, he added, because the turtle appears completely healed and rather well-fed.

Loss of both front flippers would be devastating to most turtles, because they must chase and catch fast-moving fish for food. But olive Ridley turtles feed on deep-ocean jellyfish and other slow-moving invertebrates that are found near the surface, so the injury has not been critical to survival.

Balazs said fisheries officials plan to send the turtle back to its deep sea environment aboard a government ship leaving Hawaii Monday.

# Uncovering the secret

By Jan TenBruggencate

Advertiser Kauai Bureau

Hawaii's turtle scientists are grafting turtle belly to turtle backs, researching causes of turtle death and conducting tests on mysterious tumors affecting many of the Islands' green sea turtles.

It is all part of gathering the information that may help increase the population of the turtle so it can be taken off the federal threatened species list.

George H. Balazs, National Marine Fisheries Service zoologist assigned to turtles, said the early results from the grafting experiments are good.

Scientists graft a small piece of the yellow belly plate onto

the dark back plate of a hatching turtle, using a surgical glue to hold it in place. If it stays there, it can serve as an identification marker that won't wash or be pulled off.

Until this procedure, there was no way to mark the silver dollar-sized hatchlings so they could be identified as adults.

The grafting has not been so effective in other kinds of turtles, particularly those with more color on their bellies, he said. But *Chelonia mydas*, the green sea turtle, has a very pale belly and darker back, so it works, he said.

Balazs said the technique was developed by University of Arizona professor John Hendrickson and wife Lupe Hend-

rickson. The first Hawaii turtles were grafted in 1981. Four of those turtles remain in captivity, and the markers remain as pale spots on their shells.

Balazs said about 3,500 turtles have been marked with the grafting technique, both in Hawaii and at French Frigate Shoals, the prime nesting place for the Hawaii green sea turtles. Scientists hope the markings will help answer several major questions about turtle life:

● How long does it take for turtles to grow from hatchling size to the 12- to 14-inch size they are when they return from open-ocean living to the shoreline?

● How long does it take a

## life of the green turtle

turtle to reach sexual maturity in a completely wild setting?

● Is it true that turtles always return to nest at the beach where they hatched, as circumstantial evidence seems to indicate?

● How many hatchlings survive to sexual maturity?

● Is there any contact between the Hawaii green sea turtle populations and those of other Pacific areas, like the coast of Mexico? There is no evidence now of intermingling of the populations.

Scientists don't have a firm idea of the total number of Hawaiian green sea turtles, but they suspect there are about 750 females of breeding size. Balazs said anglers and other beachgoers in Hawaii have reported increased numbers of smaller turtles in recent years. He said that is a hopeful sign that a ban on the killing of turtles is helping to increase the

population.

Many turtles seen around the Hawaiian Islands in recent years have had large, firm tumors, sometimes bigger than baseballs, generally protruding from the soft tissue around the head, tail or flippers.

Balazs said there are two main theories about the cause, and the experts hope to have some answers soon.

● One theory is that the turtles' own immune systems form the tumors around some foreign body, like the eggs of a parasite. Balazs said a blood fluke of some kind could shed eggs into the turtle's body, with the tumors forming around the egg. As many as 30 to 40 percent of turtles washing up dead in Hawaii have the tumors. The National Marine Fisheries Service is working on a contract to hire a specialist to study the blood fluke question.

● Another theory, that the

tumors are caused by some kind of herpes virus, is already under study by a viral specialist, he said. Herpes is the most common virus in reptiles. The theory is that turtles under environmental stress could be susceptible to such viral tumors, he said.

Turtles face different kinds of stress, such as swimming in waters and eating plants contaminated by oil spills, and getting caught in heavy fishing line.

The issue of abandoned nets and lines is a major part of the overall controversy over oceanic debris and its effect on wildlife. Legislation to control the use and disposal of such fishing gear is under study in many legislative bodies in the United States and abroad. Synthetic materials that do not quickly decompose can kill marine life for many years.

# Hard Times for Green Sea Turtles

Tumor Cases  
Increasing  
Dramatically

By Helen Altonn  
Star-Bulletin Writer

Hawaiian green sea turtles are being found in increasing numbers washed up on beaches distressed and weakened by tumors, concerned scientists report.

The tumor cases have grown from six or seven per year from 1982-84 to 18 in 1985 and 31 last year, said George Balazs, sea turtle specialist at the National Marine Fisheries Service's Honolulu Laboratory.

The endangered animal has many survival problems, from predators to human debris floating in the ocean. But the tumor problem is so serious that the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team has given it highest priority for research, Balazs said.

"We don't even know the cause of the tumors," said Richard Wass, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Special funding is needed to try to figure out what is happening, Balazs and Wass emphasized in an interview. Both are recovery team members.

They said the tumors occur on the turtle's neck, eyes, flippers, jaw, tail and sometimes in the mouth and throat.

Weakened and debilitated animals are susceptible to sharks and other enemies, and their ability to migrate and feed is restricted, Balazs said. They become entangled in fishing gear because "the lumpy thing hanging out is likely to snag on a net."

IF THERE'S A chance that the animal can care for itself in the wild, it is put back after it is found beached. If the turtle is so weak that it can't care for itself, it is taken to the NMFS's Kewalo Basin Research Facility, Balazs said. "We're doing the best we can in a hospice situation."

He said Dr. Patrick Leadbeater, Honolulu Zoo veterinarian, voluntarily operated on a turtle that beached itself at Haleiwa in May. The turtle was "in severe distress" with tumors around its eyes and neck and in its throat, blocking the entrance to its windpipe.

It was the first time such surgery had been done, and tissue was sent to the Smithso-



By Craig T. Kojima, Star-Bulletin

**TURTLE TUMORS**—Federal scientists George Balazs, left, and Richard Wass inspect tumors growing on a turtle at the Kewalo Basin Research Facility.

nian Institution and other agencies for study, Balazs said.

He said Leadbeater spent hours removing the tumors, but 2½ months later they had started growing back.

Balazs speculates that the tumors may be the result of an infective process. He believes it's caused by blood flukes, or

internal parasites, which shed eggs that lodge in tissue which "responds into big, bulbous tumors."

Blood flukes were found in the tissue of the turtle that was operated on, he said.

WASS SAID THE problem may be linked to the green tur-

tle's diet, which is primarily vegetarian. Almost no tumors have been reported among meat-eating species of turtles, he said.

If eggs of an internal parasite are causing the tumors, the turtles may be getting them from a little snail or another animal that lives on the algae eaten by the snails, Balazs said.

# Turtle Tidbits

by  
Susan Scott



Photo by George Balazs

## Fins & Feathers

Almost all of us who have spent some time on Hawaiian waters have at least once mistaken the greenish discs floating on the surface of the water for debris—that is until the "debris" lifts its head, looks indignantly about and then disappears. These floating frisbees, the animals-in-a-box, are the sea turtles, one of the intact survivors of the Age of Reptiles, a period in the evolutionary history of the earth that occurred some 90 million years ago. Turtles are living fossils of that period, the only change being that they are now smaller. Their methods of living and reproducing have been quite successful even if sometimes viewed as a bit awkward by spying humans. Regardless of their evolutionary history or lack of grace, the sea turtles are unique and fascinating creatures.

Sea turtles, like whales and dolphins, breathe air with lungs similar to our own. However, unlike mammals, their reptilian heart is divided into only three chambers which creates a comparatively inefficient system of oxygenating blood. This characteristic is one which causes the "slow as a turtle" reputation although they can and do exhibit bursts of speed when necessary. Since newly oxygenated blood is continually mixing with oxygen-depleted blood, the animal is unable to cope with extended aerobic workouts. Turtles can literally claim a "bad heart" as an excuse for being slow.

There are seven different species of sea turtles in the world, all are restricted to living in the tropics and subtropics due to their inability to regulate their own body temperature. Tropical seas provide a constant environment for the animals who then have no need to hibernate. To gain extra heat, turtles often float about on top of the water. It is during these baskings that they can be spotted—but not for long. These cautious, shy creatures will usually dive when frightened and can stay under water for extended periods of time. Don't wait for one to emerge—large turtles can stay down for over two hours on one breath of air.

Sea turtles differ from their terrestrial cousins, the tortoises, in characteristics that are distinctly adapted to the marine environment. The ocean going branch of the family has a streamlined shell for swimming. Broad flat flippers have replaced stubby, round legs in another adaptation. These paddles are efficient only in the water however. They are the cause of the clumsy, laborious lumbering about that these animals do when on land.

Given the sea turtles proficiency in the water, they spend little time ashore. However, the females are nature bound to go ashore for the purpose of nesting. During the breeding season, (summer) males and females migrate long distances to find appropriate nesting beaches. They mate in the water; the male uses a sort of hook on his front flipper to hang onto the shell of the female. The stories about amorous, lusty male turtles are true. They are often indiscrimi-

cont'd on pg. 20

## SEA TURTLES

Are Protected in the Hawaiian Islands



Hawaiian Monk Seal

The green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata), and leatherhead (Dermochelys coriacea) are also protected by the same laws and regulations that apply to the monk seal.

Other sea turtles, including the Galapagos sea turtle (Chelonia agassizii), are not protected by the same laws and regulations that apply to the monk seal.

### Please Call:

National Marine Fisheries Service	503-8211
Bureau of Oceanographic Resources	503-8211
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	540-5402



nate—they will attempt to mate with crude decoys, other males, divers and even (if you can believe this) rowboats. Unreceptive females may bite pursuing males, leave the water or retreat to the "safe zone". The reserve is an area where females can go to escape aroused males. It is known how this territory is established among the turtle community, but females go there and males honor it.

Female turtles of all species can store sperm—the eggs they lay could be fertile from a mating that took place years ago. A gravid female will await a nocturnal high tide to crawl ashore and dig a hole for her eggs. This is no easy task. She must often dig several nests as the walls of those dug in drying sand often collapse. After laying and burying up to 250 eggs, she returns to the sea to begin the ancient cycle over again. She will come ashore again in 2 to 4 years.

The baby turtles emerge from their hole all at once after about two months incubation time and some organized digging. All scurry in unison toward the water making a good target for predators. These little turtles are easy pickings and make good snacks for crabs, birds and other predators. The mortality rate for the hatchlings is often, unfortunately, quite high.

Three of the seven species of sea turtles can be found in Hawaii, the most common being the Pacific Green Sea Turtle or Honu. It was named not for its shell color but rather for its green color of fat once coveted for soup. It is a gentle, shy creature that can grow up to a whopping 800 pounds. Nesting is primarily done in the French Frigate Shoals, a National Wildlife Refuge, since most of our beaches suitable for nesting have been taken over by humans. The adult Honu only eats algae and marine vegetation.

The Pacific Hawksbill and Leatherback Sea Turtles can be seen in Hawaiian waters but are not as common as the Honu. The Hawksbill is relatively small (100 pounds) and was the source of tortoiseshell for jewelry. Leatherbacks are the largest of all the sea

turtles, weighing up to 1500 pounds. This species eats jellyfish almost exclusively.

All species of sea turtles are protected in Hawaiian waters because of their endangered status. While sharks are the turtles' greatest marine predator, humans are its deadliest enemy.

It is illegal to take any sea turtle in Hawaii for any reason. It is an inexcusable crime against Earth to take, annoy or disturb a nesting female or her eggs. No species of sea turtle is considered safe at this time. The Honu takes 15 years to reach sexual maturity—at four year breeding cycles, the mathematics of recovery are quite simple. It will be slow.

Try to imagine: navigating one's way to the Cayman Islands in the fog by following the noise of migrating turtle herds. It happened in the 16 century. If we pay attention to these magnificent ocean animals, we can have them back again.

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# Oil Spill Suspect in Death of Young Green Sea Turtle

By Helen Altonn  
Star-Bulletin Writer

A young green sea turtle may have been a victim of the recent oil spill that fouled Oahu's Windward coast.

The turtle, found dead on Bellows Beach, had "a thick, black substance" in its intestines, said George Balazs, sea turtle biologist at the National Marine Fisheries Service's Honolulu Laboratory.

He said there was no evidence of oil fouling outside the animal's body and he can't identify the material in the gut until a laboratory analysis is completed.

BUT NMFS scientists are concerned about potentially fatal effects of oil on green sea turtles, an endangered species protected by state and federal laws, Balazs said.

He said the turtles feed on algae and "may not be able to discriminate between oil-fouled algae and clean algae."

They also feed on balls of tar that float on the surface from oil spills, "possibly mistaking them for natural food items like jellyfish and other invertebrates they sometimes eat," Balazs said.

Oil spills and tar globules are part of a broad problem of pollution — including plastic bags, styrofoam and other debris — that can kill sea turtles feeding and growing in coastal waters, he said.

BALAZS IS leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, a panel of scientists concerned with problems threatening green sea turtles.

The population depends on

only about 750 adult females which nest in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands every one to three years.

Adults and younger turtles feed and rest year-around in the main Hawaiian Islands. They are seen all along Oahu's east coast, including areas affected by the oil spill, Balazs said.

He said studies have shown that marine turtles have limited ability to avoid oil slicks and their respiration, skin, some aspects of blood chemistry and salt gland function "are significantly affected by oil."

The salt gland, necessary to maintain the turtle's internal water and ion balance, may stop functioning, he said.

TAR BALLS that are eaten also can physically clog a turtle's mouth and throat, he said. There are many records of sea turtles eating tar in the Gulf states where oil spills are common, he said.

Turtles also choke on plastic bags and balloons, which are released in masses at sporting events and celebrations and drift into the water.

Packing material and fishing gear that is dumped or lost by fishing and other oceangoing vessels are a great source of the plastic-debris problem.

Persons who find disabled or dead sea turtles should call the NMFS laboratory at 943-1221, or the state conservation hotline after hours, 548-5918.

Killing or harassment of sea turtles should be reported to NMFS special agents at 541-2727, or the conservation hotline.



**BAGGING IT**—Ken Blair, general superintendent of Pacific Environmental Corp., oversees the disposal of oil-soaked materials from the cleanup of the Sause Bros. oil spill plaguing the Windward Coast.  
By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

# Friday report <sup>8/1/86</sup>

HAWAII TRIBUNE HERALD

## Two men sentenced in turtle death

Two Hilo men charged with killing a green sea turtle were allowed to defer their pleas for one month under a plea bargaining agreement filed this week in Third Circuit Court.

William Kailimai, 51, and Victor Kaili, 42, were fined \$250 that can be worked off through performing community service.

The turtle reportedly got caught in a net Jan. 30, and was killed and eaten. The two fishermen pleaded "no contest" to a charge of destroying an endangered species.

The men told the judge they did not intentionally kill the turtle, but that it drowned in the fishing net before they discovered it was there.

Police investigators found the men with the turtle shell at Kealoha Beach Park. The turtle had been tagged by University of Hawaii researchers conducting a study.

State and federal laws protect the green sea turtle.

In another case, Gerald Silva, also known as Michael Texeira, 29, of Hilo pleaded "no contest" to burglarizing residences on Hualani Street, Kanoelehua Avenue and Ocean View Drive April 15. He will be sentenced at 8 a.m. Sept. 2.

Sione Finau, 46, of Hilo pleaded "no contest" to unlawful imprisonment, spouse abuse and terroristic threatening following an incident May 10 in Hilo.

Gerry S. Matas and Anthony N. Wong, both of Hilo, pleaded innocent to entering KK Place on Kilauea Avenue and taking money May 10. A trial was scheduled for Sept. 8.

Blaine Faris Jr., 23, of Hawaiian Beaches pleaded innocent to charges of taking palm trees from Hawaiian Tropical Botanical Garden and California and Hawaii Foliage. The incidents occurred in November 1984. A trial was scheduled for Sept. 26.

Roman Igdamin of Hilo pleaded innocent to using another person's car without permission March 1, and striking two women. A trial was set for Sept. 18.

In District Court, two men were sentenced by Judge Cyril Kanemitsu for driving under the influence of alcohol. They are:

Charles Gary Rosecrans, 35, of Hilo, one year's driver's license suspension, \$500 fine, 80 hours of community service.

Paul Christopher Long, 29, of Hilo, 90 days driver's license suspension, 14 hours of counseling, \$150 fine.

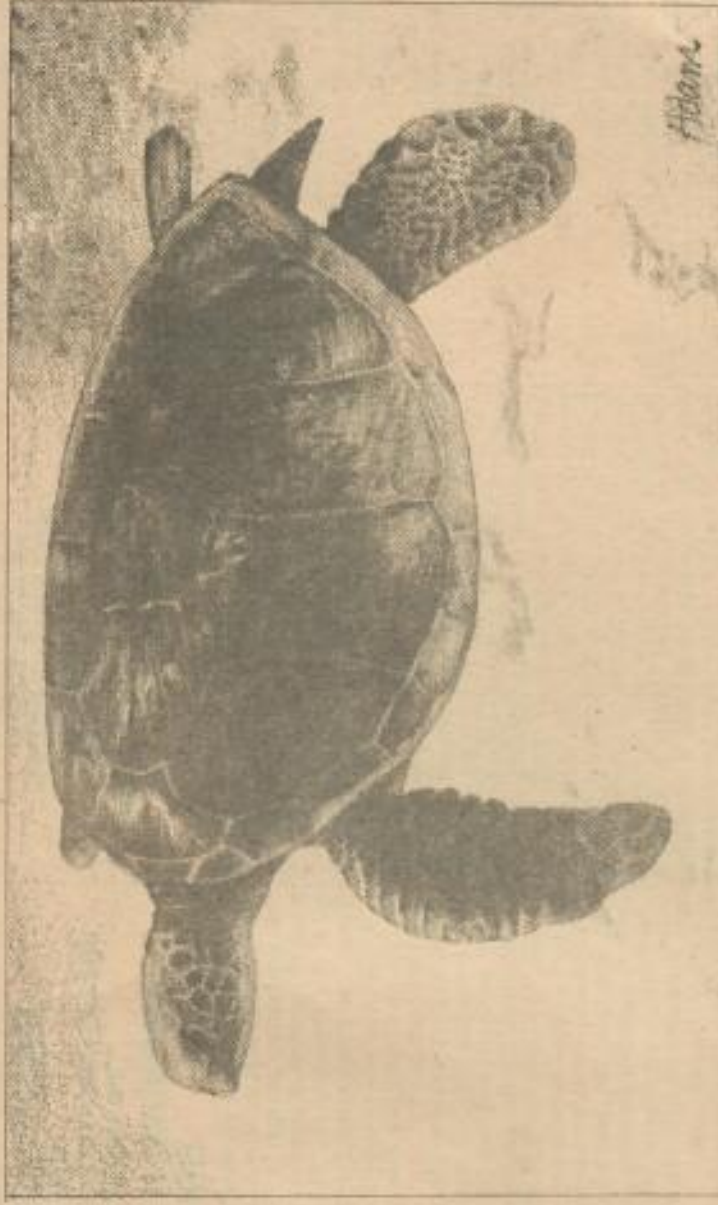
## Two men get probation in turtle killing

HILO — Two men who were charged early in the year with killing a green sea turtle Jan. 31 struck a plea bargain with the prosecutor's office and were sentenced this week to a month on probation.

One of the protected turtles — whose shell measured 3½ feet by 2½ feet — got caught in the net of the two Big Island fishermen and was butchered and eaten.

For that, Judge Shunichi Kimura sentenced William Kailimai, 51, and Victor Kalli, 42, of Keaukaha to a month's probation, a fine of \$250 or 50 hours of community service each and granted them deferred acceptance of their no-contest pleas. The law provides for a sentence of up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

State law protects the green sea turtle as an indigenous animal under the endangered species regulations. The men also could have faced federal



Hilona

### Green sea turtle

charges since the turtle also is a federally protected species. Under federal law, they would be subject to a fine of \$10,000.

Police investigators said they went to Kealahou Beach Park in the late afternoon of Jan. 31 in response to an anonymous com-

plaint. They found the men with the turtle shell and a University of Hawaii tag, which was confiscated. The tag was part of a turtle study program at the UH.

The state Land and Natural Resources enforcement unit

then look over the case that reached 3rd Circuit Court this week.

The men told the judge they did not intentionally kill the turtle, that it drowned in the fishing net before they discovered it there.

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MAUI NEWS

DEC 16 1986

### Turtle nests found

LIHUE — Wildlife officials say they are encouraged to find evidence of two large nests of endangered green sea turtles at a south Kauai beach.

The recent findings include the hatchings of more than 170 eggs at the site. The discovery on one of the main Hawaiian Islands is an exciting development because of the turtles' declining population, scientists said.

They say very little turtle nesting has been documented on the main Hawaiian Islands in recent years. Most nesting by green sea turtles occurs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The Kauai beach may be supporting a new nesting effort, officials said. The National Marine Fisheries Service's George Balazs said they plan to make contact with old-time fishermen in the area to determine if the sea turtles have nested there before.

## SEA LOG

PETE  
HENDRICKS



### Knowledge on turtles grow

Seagoing reptiles called turtles have been swimming the earth's tropical and semi-tropical waters for more than 75 million years. All of the eight species of this unique marine animal are threatened with extinction, due to extensive overhunting, international trade in sea turtle products and other human activities. People have taken turtles as well as their eggs for centuries, for food, leather and tortoiseshell products.

Turtles seen in Hawaii are the hawksbill, leatherback, and most often the green sea turtle. These sea reptiles rarely nest in the main islands, but swim far to the northwestern Hawaiian islands to breed and lay eggs in the sand of isolated beaches.

Little is known about the first year or so of the life of a sea turtle, from the hatchling scrambling down to the beach toward the open sea to the juvenile showing up in local waters to feed on limu, or seaweed.

Thanks to some recent breakthroughs in research techniques, we may know a lot more in a few years. It had been virtually impossible to tag a tiny hatchling for future identification, but scientists are now grafting a bit of tissue from the pale underside of the shell to the dark top of the shell.

The tissue patch then grows with the rest of the shell, to perhaps one inch in diameter on the adult turtle. In experiments to one year of turtle age, this technique shows great promise for future information on age, maturity and migration.

Thanks to support from Mauna Lani Resort, Kamae Leisure Corporation and Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, some turtles who probably would not have survived are returning to the ocean, and several other turtles in the large fish ponds are providing valuable research information.

I was present at the hotel recently as the young turtle in the photo (See page 15), just recovered from injuries, was released at the shoreline. The turtle had been rescued by a commercial fisherman and was in no shape to survive in the ocean, but several weeks relaxing and grazing the limu in the Mauna Lani pond did the trick. The turtle swam rapidly out the sandy channel upon release, obviously recovered and ready to go to sea.

George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service has studied turtles in the Hawaiian islands for many years. Balazs has tagged and released numerous turtles, with a significant number of later recoveries, each adding a bit to the knowledge about sea turtles. Balazs is interested in increasing the scientific knowledge base about sea turtles, working toward a better understanding of these creatures which may help in future species increases.

Balazs can be contacted at National Marine Fisheries Service, 2579 Dole St., Honolulu, HI, 96820-2396, phone 948-8192. Sea turtles are protected by both State and Federal laws. Enforcement hotline numbers are: State Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement dial 9 and ask for Enforcement 5420 (toll free), National Marine Fisheries Service 546-5670.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 10245-Honolulu, Hawaii  
PHONE: 734-8124  
Victoria Center Elaine Stroob  
WEST HAWAII TODAY  
NOV 27 1986

An injured turtle, rescued by a commercial fisherman, spent several weeks at the Mauna Lani relaxing and in grazing the limu. When released, the turtle swam rapidly out the sandy channel upon release, obviously recovered and ready to return to the sea. For the complete story, see the Sea Log on page 15.



As my sister Dale Souza and I sat at the table with the family the other night, we reminisced about our childhood days when Dad brought home live turtles from his fishing trips. We remembered vividly how the turtles had cried as they were being slaughtered. Of course, this was done in the days when it was still legal to catch turtles.

The waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands have been the home for two types of turtles through the years. The two are the honu (Pacific green sea turtle) and the 'ea (Pacific hawksbill sea turtle). These reptiles migrate great distances across the open ocean and return religiously to their nesting places to lay their eggs. One or two other varieties occasionally appear around the Hawaiian Islands, but they are not permanent residents.

In past centuries sea turtles were much more common around most of the Pacific Islands. But in recent years, sea turtle populations have declined rapidly due to the tremendous exploitation by modern man. The ancient Hawaiians were never guilty of abusing the ecological balance of the turtle. The Hawaiians took what was necessary for survival and no more.

The turtle was an important animal to the Hawaiians for food, ornaments and shell artifacts. A very important artifact that was made from the shell was the fishhook. The Hawaiians found the shell soft enough to be easy to work with but hard enough to withstand the "pull" of a large fish.

The Nahiku 'ohana (family) shared a few stories about turtle fishing that are worth repeating. One story centered around the popular Bergau family. Ephraim Jr. and Joe Ko'omoo told about the various turtle exploits of Ephraim Sr., a champion turtle catcher.

Ephraim Jr. told of how his father followed the tide to catch turtles. He also said that Ephraim Sr. was so good at catching turtles that each time out he was successful.

Joe Ko'omoo detailed the fishing equipment that Ephraim Sr. used. A 22' pake bamboo pole with a 1/4-inch head was used. A 28' length of line 1/4 inch thick was attached to the bamboo pole. On the line was a two-prong hook with the prongs facing opposite one another. A piece of lead was positioned just above the hook.

Most of the turtles at Nahiku were hooked from the surrounding rock banks where the fishermen observed the turtles' feeding habits. Since the Nahiku coastline had sufficient limu (seaweed) for the vegetarian turtles, the area served as an ideal location for these animals to congregate. For the turtle catcher, it was a perfect spot.



## The Endangered Honu and 'Ea

by Keli'i Tau'a

Watching from the banks, a fisherman would spot a turtle. Cautiously, he would let down line and allow the waves to pull the hook and lead out to the turtle. The turtle would swim over the line and toward the two-prong hook. As it moved over the hook, it would often snag the lower part of its body; this would guarantee a hana pa'a (hookup). Caution had to be taken not to pull on the line since that would cause the turtle to slip off the hook. Turtle fishermen also had to be sure not to hook onto the wings. Hooking a wing would almost always cause the turtle to slip off the hook.

After the turtle was securely attached to the hook, the bamboo pole had to be fastened to the rocks so that the fisherman could manipulate the turtle line with his hands. Ephraim Jr. reported that some of the catches were so large that a few other villagers had to come to a fisherman's rescue and help him pull the turtle in.

Legend tells of a friendly turtle who daily visited a young Hawaiian boy named Ka'eo and gave him a ride on his back. The turtle took him to many surrounding villages where many of the village boys could see the fun Ka'eo was having.

One day, as Ka'eo and his turtle friend were circling the Hana Coast, the jealous boys on the seashore threw large stones at Ka'eo and his turtle friend. The turtle, diving into the deep to protect himself, overturned Ka'eo and left him dumbfounded in the ocean. At other shorelines, the young jealous boys threw spears.

After this happened, Ka'eo consulted with his village lawai'a (fishermen) to see what he could do to protect himself in the future. The lawai'a suggested that he tie a rope on the turtle's back so that he could accompany the turtle on emergency dives.

When Ka'eo and his turtle friend encountered the jealous boys with their rocks and spears, he took a deep gulp and hung on for dear life as the turtle took his dive. As Ka'eo and the turtle resurfaced far away from the jealous boys, the two friends looked at each other and smiled as Ka'eo said to himself, "He who laughs first, laughs last." Aloha, a hui hou aku.  
... Keli'i

NAPA

# Marine Battery Power From NAPA

THE DEEP CYCLE  
MARINE BATTERY



THE DEEP CYCLE  
MARINE BATTERY

NAPA ECONOMY  
MARINE BATTERY



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*These are here on loan from Natl Marine Fisher  
 showing appreciation*

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bay beautiful.  
 Again so much thanks to our  
 already involved participants.  
 Dom Fagundes  
 Coordinator and Chairman

proposing to gather over 6,000  
 voter signatures for an initiative  
 petition. Of course any such  
 ordinance would be illegal  
 because the county does not  
 have the power to regulate or  
 legalize gambling since this  
 power is reserved for the legis-  
 lature. In my reading of the  
 county charter I cannot find any  
 reference in the powers of the  
 county council to propose any  
 question that can be put on the  
 ballot except an amendment to  
 the county charter. Does  
 Yamashiro propose to prepare a  
 Charter amendment to allow a  
 referendum on any question he  
 or other members of the county  
 council want decided by the  
 people? If he takes this route  
 then he has to propose an  
 amendment to the county char-  
 ter to give this power to the  
 council and the people would  
 have to decide this issue at the  
 next election. Only if they  
 approve can he put his question  
 of gambling on the ballot then at  
 the following election.

### Turtle trouble

Editor:  
 It's taken me some time to get  
 around to writing this letter, but  
 now that I am a resident here I  
 feel that I can do so with a clear  
 conscience.

What is happening at the  
 Mauna Lani Hotel? There are  
 sea turtles on display there in a  
 small pool as part of a marine  
 life exhibit. Turtles love to swim  
 and dive. The turtles at the  
 Mauna Lani have about 1-1/2 feet  
 of water at the deepest part of  
 their pool in which to swim and  
 dive. Where do they lay their  
 eggs?

Are the turtles sacrificing  
 their well being to be on display  
 there? Should they be returned  
 to the sea to live and reproduce?  
 Are they really happy at the  
 Mauna Lani?

I feel a real sympathy for the  
 turtles who are kept from their  
 natural habitat. There is not an  
 overabundance of turtles as it is.  
 Such a strange display they  
 have there. All that marine life  
 crowded into such small pools.  
 Let the marine life go back to  
 the sea.

Connie Elliott

### Against Mink

Editor:  
 I wish to bring to the attention  
 of the Hawaiian people the work

### hike

article on page 5 of  
 edition of Aug. 24  
 all income taxes  
 5 to 20 percent as  
 a passage of the  
 x reform act. It  
 is imperative that  
 te for State office

this will be required to make a  
 commitment to support reme-  
 dial legislation in order to avoid  
 such a windfall.

Since our government is  
 always looking for more money  
 to spend it will be a great  
 temptation to look for some  
 excuse to do nothing about this  
 situation and allow the state  
 government to invoke a 15 to 20  
 percent tax raise by default.

We, the taxpayers and voters,  
 cannot allow this to happen!

E.D. Crumacker

### Ship pollution

Editor:  
 Yes! The S.S. Constipation,  
 and S.S. Indigestion are still  
 pouring sewage into our beauti-  
 ful bay. It's obious now that

### doggie!

in regards to a letter I  
 our letters section Aug.  
 Jim Cole. I haven't been  
 West Hawaii Humane  
 in a very long time.

the last time I was  
 ried to adopt the little  
 they keep in the front  
 nd was turned down  
 aise and show dogs so I  
 v to care for them. I had  
 lar friend in mind that  
 ogs and would have  
 hat little doggie the life  
 EY"!

ther used to run the  
 helter in Hanapepe and  
 elective as to who would  
 ible for adoption  
 Some

## Man Charged in Spearing of Turtle

LAHUE, Kauai — A 23-year-old Kilauea man has been charged in connection with the spearing of a green sea turtle at Anini Beach Saturday, police said.

The man, identified as Brent Lee, released the turtle around 3 p.m. before he was stopped by off-duty police officers picnicking at the North Shore park.

Witnesses said the turtle had

been speared in the neck before it was released onto the reef.

Lee was charged with spearing an endangered species. He was released after posting \$50 bail. A District Court arraignment will be held at a later date.

Federal and state laws prohibit the harassment, possession and sale of the turtles.

If Lee is found guilty of the charge, he faces a maximum

penalty of 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine, according to conservation officers with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

In a separate incident, a dead sea turtle with spear wounds in its shell was found at Haena Beach Park last Wednesday.

A resident reported finding the dead turtle to state conservation officers.

12—Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Friday, August 1, 1986

## Friday report

### Two men sentenced in turtle death

Two Hilo men charged with killing a green sea turtle were allowed to defer their pleas for one month under a plea bargaining agreement filed this week in Third Circuit Court.

William Kailimai, 51, and Victor Kaili, 42, were fined \$250 that can be worked off through performing community service.

The turtle reportedly got caught in a net Jan. 30, and was killed and eaten. The two fishermen pleaded "no contest" to a charge of destroying an endangered species.

The men told the judge they did not intentionally kill the turtle, but that it drowned in the fishing net before they discovered it was there.

Police investigators found the men with the turtle shell at Keolu Beach Park. The turtle had been tagged by University of Hawaii researchers conducting a study.

State and federal laws protect the green sea turtle.

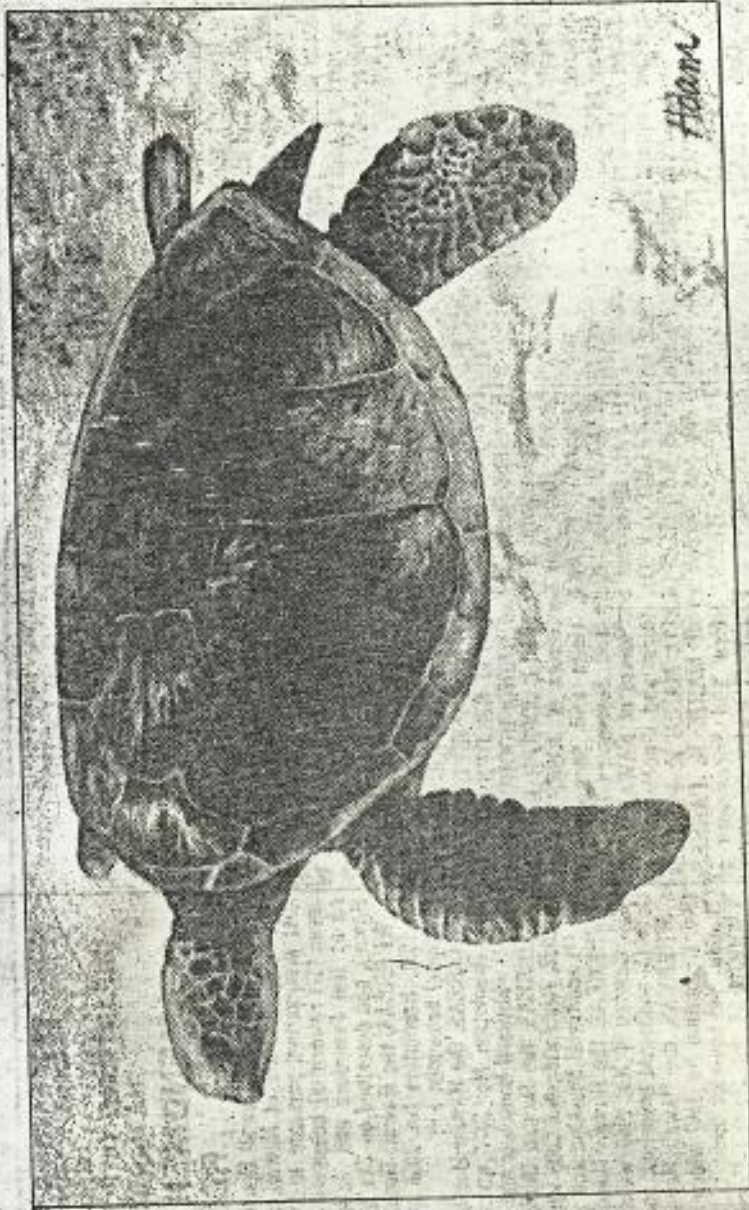
## Two men get probation in turtle killing

HILO — Two men who were charged early in the year with killing a green sea turtle Jan. 31 struck a plea bargain with the prosecutor's office and were sentenced this week to a month on probation.

One of the protected turtles — whose shell measured 3½ feet by 2½ feet — got caught in the net of the two Big Island fishermen and was butchered and eaten.

For that, Judge Shunichi Kimura sentenced William Kailimai, 51, and Victor Kaili, 42, of Keaukaha to a month's probation, a fine of \$250 or 50 hours of community service each and granted them deferred acceptance of their no-contest pleas. The law provides for a sentence of up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

State law protects the green sea turtle as an indigenous animal under the endangered species regulations. The men also could have faced federal



Green sea turtle

charges since the turtle also is a federally protected species. Under federal law, they would be subject to a fine of \$10,000.

Police investigators said they went to Kealahou Beach Park in the late afternoon of Jan. 31 in response to an anonymous com-

plaint. They found the men with the turtle shell and a University of Hawaii tag, which was confiscated. The tag was part of a turtle study program at the UH.

The state Land and Natural Resources enforcement unit

then look over the case that reached 3rd Circuit Court this week.

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Wednesday, August 27, 1986 A-3

Star-Bulletin

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PHONE: 734-8124  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

HAWAII HOCHI  
JUL 17 1986

## baby turtles released

Richard S. Shomura, Director, Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), announced that another flight to French Frigate Shoals took place July

15, to assist in recovery of the "threatened" green turtle and the "endangered" Hawaiian monk seal.

The Center for Environmental Education, a Washington D.C., based private conservation organization dedicated to protect ocean life and environment, payed for the flight which took green turtle hatchlings for release to the wild and brought back a weaned but underdeveloped female monk seal pup for rehabilitation.

The 46 turtle hatchlings came from Sea Life Park's captive turtle breeding program and were released at Tern Island, where they

crawled down the beach to enter the ocean, hopefully imprinting there, and returning someday to nest on that protected island. Tiny metal tags were placed on their flippers so that identification of them will be possible if they are resighted.

Recovery of the seal is part of a project being conducted by the NMFS Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. According to William G. Gilmartin, Program leader, female pups like this are brought to Honolulu for "fattening" and then reintroduction into the wild at Kure Atoll where the monk seal population is very depleted.

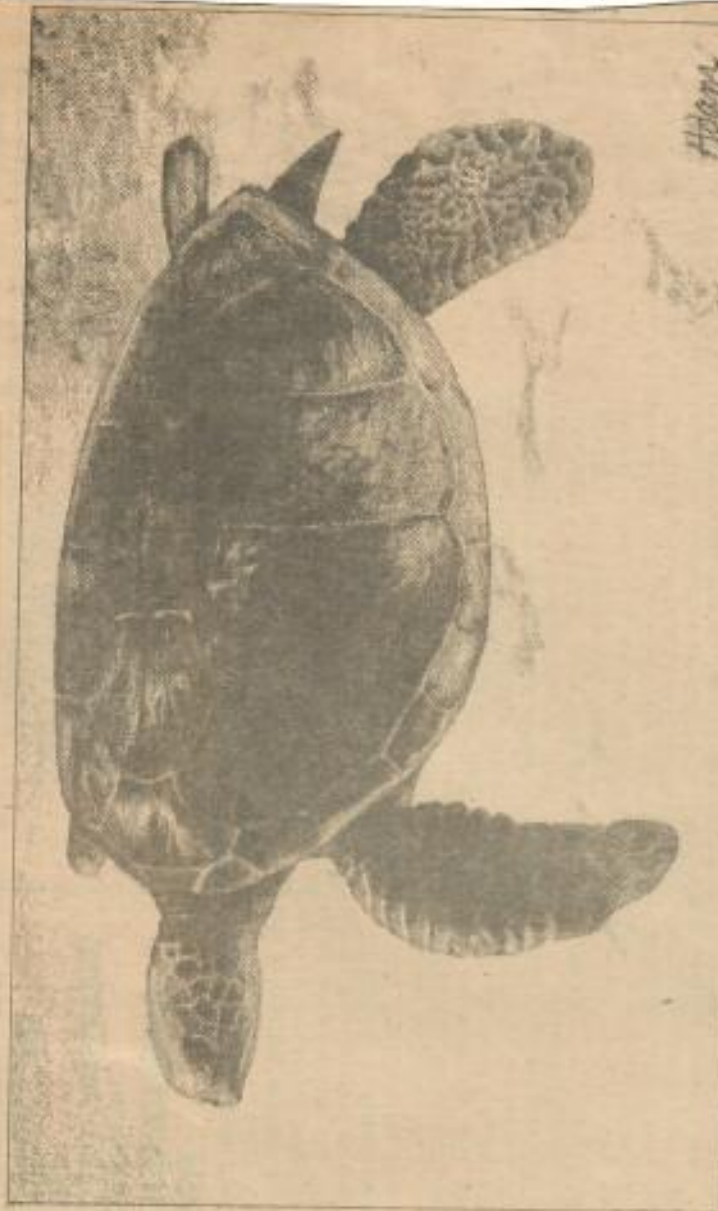
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Holman

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then took over the case that reached 3rd Circuit Court this week.

The men told the judge they did not intentionally kill the turtle, that it drowned in the fishing net before they discovered it there.

# Turtles: Don't touch

To the Forum:

I had no idea the picture of Margy Parker playing with a sea turtle in last Tuesday's paper would have created the responses I have received. It appears that not only have I angered Robert Macknowski but perhaps the federal Endangered Species Act was being violated.

As owner of Fathom Five Divers I have been aware that this act protects turtles from being killed and I have always approved of this protection. Now the full intent of this law has developed a new meaning.

Not only should turtles not be killed, but it is potentially harmful even to touch them. After talking with local and federal officials regarding this I can see that if turtles are bothered in any way in their natural habitat they may be driven from areas they naturally select. This would be a shame as the turtles are relatively abundant on Kauai and I, for one, enjoy having them around.

I have always been concerned for marine animals and their conservation. As an individual diver, I believe it is best to enter the water as a visitor and disturb

as little as possible. All my underwater hunting is done with a camera as I try to capture the beauty and grace of its creatures. I have never liked the first question usually asked of a diver exiting the water, "What did you get?"

At Fathom Five we have a policy that no live shells or other living animals are removed only to sit on someone's mantle.

I would like to make it clear that Margy Parker who is a new, enthusiastic diver had no idea she was in any way violating any laws or causing harm to this turtle. She also shares my concern and interest for these animals.

It was also reported that I have a scientific permit to tag turtles. This is true, but when the photo was taken it was Margy's first dive after certification and the objective was pure enjoyment. We were not engaged in any tagging procedures. This project has yet to be initiated on Kauai.

This whole issue brings to light the importance of understanding our marine conservation laws and the reasons behind them.

Sincerely,  
Terry O'Halloran  
Koloa

UNITED STATES  
COURTROOM

CASE OF THE  
TURTLE vs CAMERA



Please point to the weapon  
that was used to shoot you,  
Mr. Turtle.

## The Forum

# Turtle flap 'picks nits, splits hairs

To the Forum:

I just read the article in Friday's Garden Island about the Turtle encounter. I wish to address Mr. Macknowski on the subject of prosecuting Margy Parker and Terry O'Halloran. I don't know any of the parties involved but it sounds to me as though you are making a mountain out of a molehill.

I think you are picking nits and splitting hairs. Though you may be technically correct, I don't think this "crime" is worth pursuing. I don't think this is the kind of publicity your organization needs. This isn't the case to use to make your example.

Catch someone in the act of killing a turtle or trying to shoot it from land and you will have my support, but to cause a lot of trouble to a couple of folks for having an interaction with another living thing with which we

share the world seems petty, even if it is within the letter of the law.

To file a suit in the local courts because the federal government declines to prosecute makes it seem as if you think this is a major crime, and you won't rest until the "bad guys" are in jail. It doesn't seem to me that major; the folks didn't hurt the turtle or scare it into a panic.

I think you are more upset than the turtle. How can you claim to represent the turtle when you weren't even there? You don't KNOW the circumstances surrounding that picture. Don't be so quick to get on a high horse and accuse folks.

You'll get a lot more respect from me if you let this matter drop. I might even be able to forget that you brought it up in the first place.

Very sincerely,  
Jurgen Sharp  
Kapa'a

## Learned about the endangered species

To the Forum:

With regard to the turtle riding incident published January 8 in The Garden Island, perhaps there can be some positive fallout. My wife Jean and I, as I'm sure Terry, Margy and Julia Neal, have learned something about the Endangered Species Act. When responsible members of a community unknowingly and unintentionally break a law, perhaps that law needs more vigorous publicity.

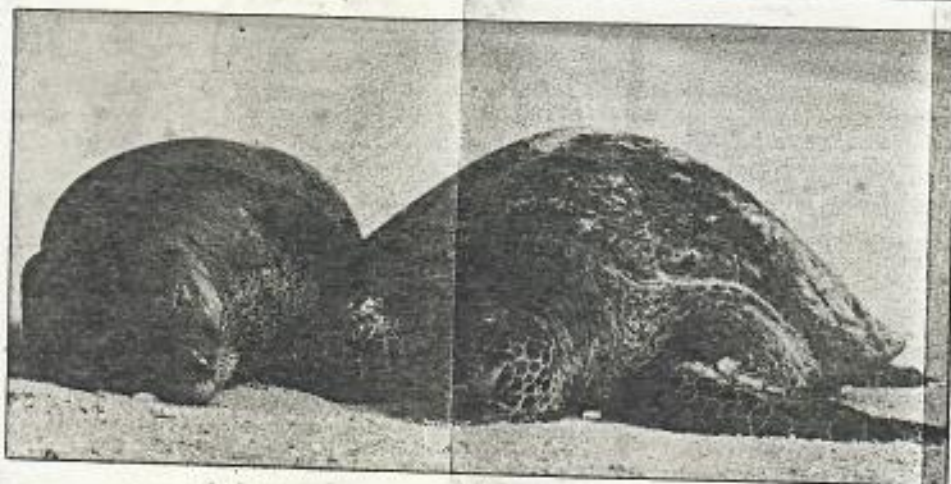
May we suggest a more positive approach for Mr. Robert Macknowski, President of the

Kaua'i Guardians Hawai'i, to take in this matter. Take the time and effort you would spend in trying to prosecute Terry and Margy, and apply it instead to establishing a fund dedicated to publicizing the Endangered Species Act and why it exists. You have our pledge of \$25 to get the fund rolling, should you do so. Certainly the negative approach of litigation you are now taking can only enrich the lawyers and not help the turtles.

Very truly yours,  
Jack and Jean Barton,  
Owners  
South Shore Activities



## Currents



**BEACH BUDDIES** — A green sea turtle and a Hawaiian monk seal rest on a remote beach in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, several hundred miles northwest of Honolulu. Both of these animals may also occasionally be seen in the waters around the main Hawaiian Islands and they are fully protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Hawaii state law. For further information write: National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 3830, Honolulu, Hawaii 96812.

### From page A-11

open sidewalk arbor on Waikiki Beach across from the Pacific Beach Hotel. Simply ask to play and wait for your turn. No gambling allowed.

**Jazzercise**, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, Building B, fourth floor showroom. Every Mon., Wed., and Fri., 9:15 a.m. and Tues. and Thurs. at 5 p.m. \$4 per class. Call 625-0684 or 261-3098 for information.

**Wheelchair Tennis Classes**, beginning or advanced begin-

ning tennis for handicapped in wheelchairs, Ala Moana Tennis Center, every Mon. night, 6-9 p.m. Free. Maxwell Neves. 521-7664.

**Honolulu Marathon And Racewalking Clinic**, Kapiolani Park Bandstand. Every Sun., 7:30 a.m. Free. 734-7200.

**Free Bragg Exercise Class**, meet exercisers from all over the world on the lawn at Fort DeRussy fronting the beach, Waikiki. Daily except Sunday, 9-10:30 a.m. Free. All ages welcome. Bring a beach mat or towel.

## CLASSES

**Culinary Capers**, series of 3 classes held at the Kapiolani Community College Diamond Head Campus, 4303 Diamond Head Rd., Mokiha 105. The 1st will feature Kahala Hilton sous chef Erich Koberl's "Paste with Panache" Mon., July 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; the 2nd will feature Martin Wyss of Swiss Inn preparing lavish, but light fish and veal Wed., July 16, 9:30 a.m.-noon. The final class Sat.,

July 19, 9-11:30 a.m. will have Hale Vietnam chef Mark Fu using fresh herbs and spices to create Vietnamese appetizers and salads. \$10 fee per class. Limited to 20. Call 735-8211.

## HIKES

**Kamananui Valley**, 5-mile walk conducted by the Moanalua Gardens Foundation with guides versed in Hawaiian culture and the historic and natural features of the valley. Every 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday of the month, 9 a.m. Free. Call the Gardens for reservations one week in advance. 839-5334.

**Nuuanu Rainforest**, 3-hour hike from the heart of Downtown to the tropical setting of upper Nuuanu valley. Highlights of walk include Royal Mausoleum and Queen Emma's Summer Palace plus views of ancient Hawaiian 'auwai (water channels). Uphill grade, 5-miles. Return via public bus. Meets in front of the Cathedral at the top of Fort Street Mall every Fri. at 10 a.m. \$1 donation asked by the Clean Air Team which leads the hikes.

Beautiful residential avenues of Honolulu, 2- to 3-hour excursion past the affluent neighborhoods of The Gold Coast, Diamond Head, Black Point and Waiialae-Kahala ending at the Kahala Hilton Hotel. Return is possible via city bus or hotel shuttle van. Meets at the parking circle in front of Waikiki Aquarium every Sun. at 2 p.m.

**Shoreline stroll to Farmers Market**, the Clean Air Team will lead this three-mile hike from the front of the Army Museum at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki, past the Hilton Lagoon, Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, Magic Island, Ala Moana Beach Park and Kowalo Basin, ending at the Farmers Market. Meet at 2 p.m. every Sat. afternoon beside the Japanese battle tank. \$1 contribution asked.

**Hike to the Top of Diamond Head**, hike to the 760-foot summit of Oahu's most recognized landmark for a 360-degree view at the top. The Clean Air Team leads walks every Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Meet at the front entrance of the Honolulu Zoo. Hike runs 3 miles and approximately 2 hours. Bring a flashlight. Participants are also encouraged to collect a small amount of trailside litter. Free.

## KIDS

**Animal Quackers**, outdoor show featuring a group of ducks, Paradise Park, 3737 Manoa Rd. daily 11:55 a.m. 2:30 p.m. Park admission required. Call 988-2141.

**Fat Freddy**, a penguin with a big appetite, and his friends perform at Sea Life Park, across from Makapuu Beach. Daily every two hours 10-4. Park admission required. 259-7933.

**Preschool storytime**, for children aged 3-5, Waikiki-Kapahulu Library, 400 Kapahulu Ave. (corner of Ala Wai Blvd.), Tues., July 8, 10 a.m. No registration required. Free. Call 732-2777.

**Films for children**, free at Waikiki-Kapahulu Library, 400 Kapahulu Ave. (corner of Ala Wai Blvd.), Wed., July 9, 10:30 a.m. No registration required. Call 732-2777.

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WEST HAWAII TODAY

JUN. 26 1986

## Injured sea turtle is doing well on O'ahu

"A young green sea turtle which was found injured near Kailua-Kona is in Honolulu and recovering, thanks to the efforts of several concerned citizens," said Richard Shomura, director of the Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce.

The turtle was found by personnel aboard a dive boat operated by the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, who had noticed that the animal was unable to submerge and had a hole in its shell just behind the head. The hotel personnel turned over the turtle to Russell Yim, an agent with the Hawaii State Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement.

All sea turtles in Hawaii are protected, and illegal taking or possession can result in imprisonment and fines of up to \$10,000.

"When we were notified", said John Henderson, NMFS Fishery Biologist, "we decided to fly the turtle to Honolulu for treatment. We called the Pacific Gamefish Research Foundation in Kona, and one of their board members, Otis Butler, helped get the turtle to the Kona airport in time for a direct flight. Mid Pacific Airlines agreed to fly the turtle for us free of charge."

According to Dr. Patrick Leadbeater, Honolulu veterinarian, to whom the turtle was taken "the hole appeared to have been made by a spear or arrow." Said Leadbeater, "air had gotten into the animal's body cavity, making it too buoyant to submerge and feed. We treated the turtle with antibiotics and removed some damaged shell and muscle tissue from the wound. After we were confident that there was no infection, we patched the hole with a biologically compatible foam plug and a coating of fiberglass resin. If the air inside the cavity was coming from the hole, the turtle can biologically rid itself of the gas in a couple of weeks. But, if the lungs are damaged and are leaking air into the body cavity, it will take a much longer time to heal."

"We have recovered many turtles during the last few years with spear holes, and most of them died," said William Gilmartin, Leader of the NMFS Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. Gilmartin believes the effort by many concerned people to get this turtle treated quickly will pay off and the turtle will survive. "Even though these turtles are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act and State law as well," Gilmartin added, "the illegal taking of turtles makes recovery of the population extremely difficult." Gilmartin said the public can be a big help with this by reporting incidents in which turtles are injured or collected by poachers to enforcement officers at NMFS (548-5670) or the State (548-5918, or outer islands, ask operator for toll free Enterprise 5469).

F-8 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Wednesday, May 14, 1986

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**TURTLE**



**TURTLE MEAT ALSO AVAILABLE  
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6-25-86  
Honolulu  
Advertiser

## Wounded green turtle patched up

A young green turtle shot by a poacher with a spear gun off the Big Island around Memorial Day is recovering in Honolulu — with a fiberglass patch on its shell.

"Chances are good it will make it," biologist John Henderson of the National Marine Fisheries Service said yesterday. "We're hoping."

Scientists plugged the hole in the turtle's shell with "biologically compatible" foam, then coated it with fiberglass resin, similar to repairing a dinged surfboard.

The turtle is "still unable to dive, so we feed it squid," Henderson said.

"It's still got air in its body cavity," he said, "but hopefully it will start to stabilize and get its equilibrium."

The turtle, he said, can

biologically rid itself of the gas in a couple of weeks.

The young turtle, about 18 inches long, was found near Kailua-Kona by a Mauna Kea Beach Hotel dive-boat crew and placed in Mauna Lani Bay Hotel's pond for safekeeping.

"We decided to fly the turtle to Honolulu for treatment," Henderson said.

The turtle was treated with antibiotics; the damaged shell and muscle tissue were removed.

"After we were confident there was no infection, we patched the hole," Henderson said.

He said most turtles found with spear holes die.

If this one recovers, it will be tagged and released, possibly in the area it was found.

A-3 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Wednesday, June 25, 1986

## Quick Action by Many Saves a Sea Turtle

A young green sea turtle injured by a spear gun may survive because of quick action by many concerned people, a fisheries official says.

The turtle was found near Kailua-Kona by a dive boat operated by the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, said Richard Shomura, director of the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Personnel on the boat rescued the animal after noticing it was unable to submerge and had a hole in its shell just behind the head.

The turtle was turned over to Russell Yim, with the Hawaii State Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement. He notified Francis Ruddle at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, which held the turtle in a hotel pond.

The Honolulu Laboratory was notified and decided to fly the turtle to Honolulu for treatment, said John Henderson, NMFS fishery biologist. Otis Butler, board member of the Pacific Gamefish Research Foundation in Kona, helped get the turtle to the Kona Airport and Mid-Pacific Airlines flew the turtle free of

charge, Henderson said.

VETERINARIAN Patrick Leadbeater said the animal was too buoyant to submerge and feed because air had gotten into its body. The wound was treated and patched with a foam plug and a fiberglass coating, he said.

The turtle is recovering at the NMFS Kewalo Research Facility. When it is well enough, it will be tagged and released.

Many turtles with spear holes have been recovered during the last few years and most have died.

# Rare Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle saved

By Will Hoover  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Thanks to the efforts of several Islanders, a rare 60-pound sea turtle that was dying has taken a breather instead.

The two-foot-long turtle, beached and wheezing, was spotted in the sands of Haleiwa by Debra Hutchins on May 5. Hutchins promptly dialed state and federal wildlife officials. They retrieved the reptile and transported it to Sand Island, where it continued to gasp for air inside an empty water tank.

Turtle expert George Balazs, with the National Marine Fisheries Service, took

one look at the creature and realized it was a threatened species — a Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle.

"It was essentially a doomed animal because it couldn't get a decent breath of air," said Balazs. "It had a large growth blocking its breathing passage."

Balazs contacted veterinarian Patrick Leadbeater, who voluntarily performed two operations to remove the tumor from the weakened turtle.

"As far as we can tell, the operations were a success," Leadbeater said Friday. "He's swimming normally now. He's got some sutures to remove, so he'll probably

be around for another three weeks."

Meanwhile, the turtle may return the favor by providing researchers with information that could help save others of its kind. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., is studying the results of the turtle's surgery, said Balazs.

"We're trying to find out why we're seeing these kinds of tumors more often in turtles," he said. "But for this turtle, I'd say the future looks hopeful."

"We'll keep him for about a month, and we'll tag it and likely release it. If we don't have a good research reason to keep it, the place for him is back in the ocean."

## Turtle adoptions delayed for health, home study

By Tom Kaser  
Advertiser University Writer

Remember Quasimodo and Stumpy, the two large loggerhead turtles that a University of Hawaii graduate student said would have to be destroyed if no one adopted them by June 29? And then the South Carolina Department of Wildlife said it would take them?

Well, the two over-the-hill reptiles are still here, but now they're in the good hands of Sea Life Park, the Waikiki Aquarium, and the Hawaiian

Humane Society. They may not stay here, but nothing is going to happen to them that is not in their interest, says Humane Society Executive Director Alexandra Wade.

Although the South Carolina Department of Wildlife has consented to take Quasimodo and Stumpy and release them into an ocean preserve where there are other loggerheads, Wade and representatives of Sea Life Park and the Waikiki Aquarium want to check out a few other things first.

They're concerned, for exam-

ple, about what's causing the shells of each turtle to deteriorate. They are arranging for University of Hawaii turtle specialists, and the Wildlife Disease Center at the University of Georgia, to determine whether the condition is treatable or whether it could spread to other turtles if these two are released into the ocean, Wade said.

They've also since learned that Stumpy — so named because her left front flipper ap-

pears to have been bitten off, probably by a shark — is not an Atlantic loggerhead but a type of loggerhead found around Japan. Thus, adds Wade, "our thinking now is that she should stay in the Pacific."

Until their health and home status is resolved, Stumpy is at Sea Life Park and Quasimodo is at the Waikiki Aquarium. Wade said she expects a final determination on their health and home to be made by the end of August.

# SOS by 2 stranded old salts

By Tom Kaser  
Advertiser Staff Writer

"Wanted: a good home for two 200-pound loggerhead turtles . . ."

So begins a touching little notice in the current issue of Seawords, the monthly newsletter of the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawaii Manoa campus.

It's an adoption notice for Quasimodo and Stumpy, two over-the-hill, not-too-good-looking Atlantic sea turtles whose services are no longer required.

The notice continues that the turtles are not indigenous to the Hawaiian ecosystem and therefore the National Marine Fisheries Service will not allow them to be released into the ocean around Hawaii.

"Neither Sea Life Park nor the Waikiki Aquarium can take them," the notice says, "and if a home is not found by June 29 they will be destroyed. Please call 537-2042 and talk to Gordon if you have a possible home for them."

Gordon is Gordon Bauer, a UH graduate student who obtained the animals free from Sea Life Park a year ago and has been using them since to find out if turtles can detect magnetic fields. Quasimodo and Stumpy did not so indicate.

"That doesn't mean they didn't detect the field," Bauer says in the animals' behalf. "It just means they didn't demonstrate that they detect-

ed it.")

Bauer is now finished with that research and is about to go to Alaska to work on a whale research project, and he doesn't know what to do with old Q & S. They're not very attractive, they're not native to Hawaiian waters, and neither Sea Life Park nor the Waikiki Aquarium wants them.

Stumpy is a female who was "probably very lost," Bauer suspects, when she was caught off Molokai several years ago. She was an unusual catch because loggerheads aren't found in Hawaiian waters. Her front left flipper was probably bitten off by a shark, for all that's left is a stump — hence her name.

Quasimodo, a male, was caught in the Atlantic in the 1960s and acquired by the Waikiki Aquarium. He's named after the main character in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" because his spine is curved and somewhat humped, and his shell is deteriorating from a leprosy-like disease. Several vets have looked at the disease, Bauer says, but they aren't sure what it is.

But wait, there is some belated good news for Quasimodo and Stumpy. Bauer appealed to the National Marine Fisheries Service that the two turtles are healthy and should be given a chance to return to the ocean if no one else wants them — and the fisheries service

has recanted from its order prohibiting their release in Hawaiian waters.

But what Bauer is really hoping for is that they will be adopted, preferably by a research institution or a zoo. He has just heard second-hand that Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo might be interested, "but then they probably don't know how ugly these two specimens are," he adds.

If the pair ends up being released rather than adopted, Bauer will worry.

"I'm just not sure how they'll do out in the wild. They've been in captivity for a long while and Stumpy is missing a flipper. They might not be fit enough to survive."

Loggerheads are Atlantic sea turtles that, like the Galapagos land turtles at the Honolulu Zoo, are big and have big heads. Their beak-like mouths can bite humans, although Bauer says Quasimodo and Stumpy have never tried that sort of thing.

"They're very gentle animals and they don't ask much. About the only thing they don't seem to like is when we lower the water in their tank and scrub the algae off their back. Then they're like dogs resisting a bath."

He said the pair eats about three pounds of fish a day, which he obtains from "reject" fish fed to porpoises in other UH marine projects.



Gordon Bauer and fellow UH researcher Paula Borden in the tank with Stumpy and Quasimodo, loggerhead turtles who will soon be homeless. The turtle in the back with Bauer is Stumpy, who's missing a front flipper.

Advertiser photo  
by T. Umada



## Turtles may go home again

Quasimodo and Stumpy, the two loggerhead turtles no longer needed by the University of Hawaii for marine research, soon may be returning to their native Atlantic waters, thanks to the Hawaiian Humane Society and a yet-to-be-found airline.

According to Alexandra Wade, executive director of the Humane Society, the South Carolina Department of Wildlife has agreed to take the two reptiles — both of which have deformities — and release them

into a preserve where there are other loggerheads.

The preserve is on the South Carolina coast and its inhabitants are free to venture out into the Atlantic, but they seldom do for any length of time, Wade said.

The only hurdle left is to find an airline — and Wade is working on it — that will agree to fly the two turtles to South Carolina at no charge.

Quasimodo and Stumpy have been used by UH graduate student Gordon Bauer for research.



The  
Saturday  
Reader

# Car Ship Saves

## 'Looked Like the Biggest

By Murry Engle  
Star-Bulletin Writer

C. Nicholas Dunn awoke on the sixth morning after being shipwrecked 80 miles off Costa Rica, intending to kill himself. Luckily, he decided to struggle on.

"Just then, three miles away, appeared the 720-foot Venus Diamond of the Hachiuma Steamship Co. Ltd. out of Kobe, Japan," Dunn said.

"It was built to carry 5,000 cars, but empty, looked like the biggest parking garage in the world coming straight at me. I

had only one flare, so I took a mirror, and started directing flashes at the bridge. It kept coming.

"I was crying, 'I'm gonna be saved.' When it got within a fourth of a mile, I realized it was going to run me over. I dove for the flare gun.

"WHEN IT WAS within 30 feet, I shot the flare at the bridge wing. Nothing happened. I hadn't cocked the gun. Then I shot it over the railing, in front of the bridge window.

"I saw no one. It passed like a ghost ship, a bow wave flip-

# Desperate Sailor

## Parking Garage in the World'

ping the raft, knocking me 20 feet. I got back in and watched the ship go, thinking I was going to die. After a mile, it began to turn.

"To slow down, they'd had to change fuel oil. I cut away from the L'Escargot (his wrecked, capsized trimaran). They lowered a ladder and a rope."

This week, at the Sheraton Princess Kalulani, where he is resting and planning to buy a 40-foot catamaran, he said he'd never forget the rescue ship's crew or the Jan. 28 arrival in Honolulu.

WHEN HE GOT aboard the Japanese ship, Dunn said, "I threw my arms around the chief officer and sobbed. They put me in a Mitsubishi pickup and we drove surreally, at breakneck speed over the circular lots up 16 car decks."

After a bath, egg-drop soup and a weigh-in at 14 pounds less, the ship notified his mother in Key West and headed for Honolulu.

Dunn, a commercial pilot from Key West, Fla., left Seattle in November for that sail of

Turn to Page A-5, Col. 4



Nicholas Dunn  
"Luck saved me."

# Shipwrecked Sailor Says Rescue Was Case of Luck

Continued from Page One

a lifetime on his 26-foot trimaran, L'Escargot. It was to be a five-month trip, down the West Coast, to Mexico and Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, up to Jamaica, the Cai-mans, maybe over to Cuba and back to Key West.

In Newport Beach, Calif., he stopped to re-rig and add a satellite navigation system and then he was on his way, sailing and renewing friendships from other voyages. With two 45-foot boats, he formed a convoy.

CROSSING THE Gulf of Te-huantepec, for the roughest part of the cruise, he took his last fix on Jan. 22, 120 miles off Costa Rica's coast.

"The autopilot was broken, so that night I tied the tiller to keep on course, so I could get dry, eat, sit on the bunk and try not sleep, but I did."

He awoke in the dark hull, falling naked out of the bunk, with the boat canted at a 90-degree angle and water rushing in.

He opened the hatch, dove through, swam from underneath the overturned boat and shot up on the underside of the wing between the main hull and a pontoon, "which I straddled but kept getting washed off."

Settling to 20 degrees, the boat revealed a missing deck panel, one pierced pontoon and the main hull, both under water, the other pontoon exposed. Dunn said it apparently had struck a submerged object.

"I hoped there was enough air in the hull that I'd be able to live in it. It was eerie, swim-

*"The cook said that as I climbed back on the dinghy, a 17-foot hammerhead shark was circling me. If I hadn't shot the flare when and where I did, the deck officers, taking a sunsight, wouldn't have seen it."*

ming through the upside down cockpit, more so when I lost a contact lens. I swam with the good eye closed so I wouldn't lose the other. It was life or death to go back in. I wouldn't have enough air to get back if there was no air in the hull."

INSIDE, HE jammed under the chart table, squirmed into a foot of air in the bilge, and squatted in water up to his shoulders. He found a waterproof flashlight, stored water bottles, and got dungarees and a sweater. Swimming out, he lost the other contact lens.

"With the sun coming up, I decided to get the dinghy I'd left partially inflated in a pontoon. I'd sealed it in good." Diving repeatedly, he opened the hatch, ripped it off and, with a screwdriver, scratched on the date, his position and "SOS."

By midafternoon he'd gotten the bouyant raft down, out, around and up, blown up and stashed with water, four oranges, a can of chili and a "space blanket, which was not nearly as effective as adver-

tised," Dunn said. He'd been diving 12 hours.

Warmed by the sun, he settled in for the night, only to have a sea turtle with horns on its back start nipping his backside. As he threw him downwind, the seas picked up. He couldn't sleep for bailing.

AFTER THE DINGHY tipped over, he got it upright and started diving again to get a wetsuit and a flotation foul weather suit, left over from an aborted sail to Alaska.

Coming up from one dive, he saw a freighter a mile off. He shot five of his six flares, but it went on over the horizon.

"In the suit, salt water sores formed the second day all over my body," he said. "It was cumbersome and not very warm. I never slept long. Nightmares began the second night. I'd be in a Mexican hotel looking forward to a hot shower, good food, a warm bed. Then a wave would crash. I was shivering uncontrollably."

During the next days, he overturned, bailed, ate sparingly, scared away a shark and began drifting away from the shipping lane. It was then he almost gave up.

"Luck saved me," Dunn said. "My dinghy had been recovered from the sea by a boat off Mexico. The Japanese captain changed course at midnight rather than noon, or they would've missed me."

"The cook said that as I climbed back on the dinghy, a 17-foot hammerhead shark was circling me. If I hadn't shot the flare when and where I did, the deck officers, taking a sunsight, wouldn't have seen it."

# 'Easy' rescue fails; capsized

By Jim Borg  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Carl Nicholas Dunn stood on his capsized trimaran and fired a flare at the approaching freighter.

He was almost disappointed, he recalls. His rescue would be almost "too easy," coming after only a day adrift in the eastern Pacific.

He fired four or five more flares.

But the freighter, about a mile away at its closest point, kept going, and a heavy feeling of dread washed over the sailor. With only one flare left, he watched the ship disappear over the horizon.

"I was more than heartbroken," he said.

"Nick" Dunn, a 40-year-old commercial seaplane pilot from Key West, Fla., was sailing his 26-foot trimaran from San Diego to Florida when it capsized about 80 miles off the coast of Costa Rica on Jan. 22. His ordeal ended six days later, when a Japanese automobile carrier rescued him under almost miraculous circumstances.

"I'm a very lucky man,"



Carl Nicholas Dunn  
"More than heartbroken"

Dunn admitted after the ship, the Venus Diamond, dropped him off Thursday afternoon in Honolulu.

Dunn was sailing at night through bad weather toward the Panama Canal when his boat collided with what he believes to be a submerged log.

He was thrown naked into

the rough seas, but managed to get his 5-foot rubber dinghy into the water. The trimaran did not sink, but turned over, and Dunn tied his raft to it.

By swimming underwater through the submerged hatch of the boat and groping around the cabin, he salvaged a half-gallon container of water, four oranges and a can of chili.

One of Dunn's contact lenses had washed out when he was thrown overboard. And in fear of losing the other, he kept that eye closed, relying on his poor 20/200 vision in the other to spot supplies.

Another ship appeared, about 4 to 5 miles away, but Dunn chose not to risk his last flare.

"At night, it was very cold," he said in an interview. "After the first night, I realized I would die of exposure if I didn't get my survival gear."

A day-long effort was required to retrieve his foul-weather clothing, stowed in a hard-to-get-to locker with a stuck latch.

The next few nights might have been bearable but for the heavy seas and 20-mph winds.

"Every half hour or so a wave would break over the raft

# sailor spends week at sea

and fill it with water, and I'd have to bail with half a canister I had my flares in," said Dunn. "Uncontrollable shivering."

In a recurring dream, he said, his boat would be anchored in a quiet cove near a Mexican village. The owner of the hotel would come down and invite him to stay in one of his hotel rooms, which were warm and dry.

"I'd get this great sense of well-being, and then I'd wake up and I'd be lying in six inches of cold water."

His emergency locator transmitter, called an EPIRB, went dead on the fourth day, twice its expected life. (These signals can be picked up by satellite and transferred to a ground station.)

Dunn had sunscreen and lip-screen, so he did not burn, but sores developed on his hands and feet from saltwater exposure.

The appearance of sea turtles at first delighted him. "I welcomed them for company, but they started to bite and I decided a little hole in that raft and it'd ruin my day."

He hit at their eyes with broken oars and they went away.

A 5-foot shark visited one night, but also went away.

As morning broke the sixth day, Dunn said, he decided to kill himself rather than spend another cold night in the open raft.

"The idea was growing in me that if I was going to be out here for 30, 40 days, what a lousy way to go. And maybe I should find a way to end it quick."

But as the day grew warm, he said, he reconsidered.

The captain of the Venus Diamond, Dunn was told later, routinely changed course every noon to stay on a great-circle route over long distances. On Jan. 27, for some reason the captain could not explain, he changed direction at midnight.

Dunn spotted the ship the next day when it was three miles away, heading directly for him. With a mirror, he flashed sunlight at it.

"I was all choked up," he recalled. "I was going to be saved. Then I noticed she hadn't slowed down and I thought,

'Oh, shit, she doesn't see me.' I dove for the sail bag and got my flare gun and shot almost directly up at the bridge. I was in quite an agitated state."

The flare gun misfired. Dunn pulled the trigger again, and the flare shot almost vertically at the bridge.

Seconds later, the ship's bow wake overturned the raft and threw Dunn into the water. The open sail bag donated its contents to the depths.

On the ship's bridge, Dunn heard later, one of the officers glanced up after taking a sextant reading. He saw something flash by the window.

"If I'd have fired the first time, he wouldn't have seen it," Dunn said.

Dunn righted the dinghy and watched the ship grow distant. "I was staring at it, trying to concentrate my mental powers on it," he said. "When I realized she was really making a turn, I probably filled up the boat with water worse than the waves cracking over the top."

A 10-foot hammerhead was circling when they picked him up.

## Ka'u man nabbed on drug charges

A 22-year-old Pahala man was arrested and charged with promotion of detrimental drugs Friday morning by Ka'u police executing a search warrant.

Larson Mondina was allegedly in possession of about 15 ounces of dry marijuana. Police also recovered 292 practice ammunition charges and may also file theft charges.

A Ka'u police spokesman said yesterday that Mondina had not been connected to other drugs seized as a result of the raid. The haul included two vials containing a powdery substance believed to be cocaine, 70 marijuana plants up to four feet in height, and 113.5 grams of dry marijuana and marijuana seeds.

Hilo police yesterday released pending grand jury action a 41-year-old man held since Friday on assault charges after a dispute at an Iiwipolena Street home.

The man allegedly stabbed a 52-year-old man in the left arm with a knife. The victim was treated and released at Hilo Hospital for a deep gash that severed an arm tendon, a police spokesman said.

The suspect may also face harassment charges stemming from a dispute with a 25-year-old man at the assault scene.

A 38-year-old woman was arrested and charged with obstructing government operations Friday morning on Waiianuenue Avenue. The arrest apparently came after police took a 2-year-old girl in the woman's care into protective custody.

Three 16-year-old girls were arrested and charged with promotion of a detrimental drug Friday morning after being found in possession of a small amount of marijuana. The three were arrested on Kawili Street at 7:58 a.m.

Hilo police are investigating a burglary and car theft reported Friday morning on Pookela Street. Two carburetor kits, 12 tires and a 1976 Datsun pick-up were taken.

HAWAII TRIBUNE HERALD FEB 2, 1986

## Turtle killing is investigated

State conservation enforcement officials are investigating whether to prosecute two Hilo-area men who allegedly dissected a green sea turtle at James Kealoha Beach Park on Friday afternoon.

Hilo police said federal authorities might also consider prosecution under endangered species regulations.

The two suspects, aged 41 and 51, were found by police with a green sea turtle shell measuring 3½ by 2½ feet. The turtle carcass had been disposed in the sea.

The turtle was found with a University of Hawaii tag, according to police.

February 2, 1986

The Sunday Star-Bulletin & Advertiser

2-2-86

## Hilo men may face federal, state probe in slaying of turtle

HILO — Two Hilo men who allegedly were found carving up a large green sea turtle Friday afternoon at Kealoha Beach Park may become the subjects of a federal or state investigation, a Big Island police spokesman said yesterday.

The men, ages 41 and 51, were questioned by police who were responding to an anonymous complaint about the killing of the turtle, which is a federally protected species.

Lt. Newton Lyman said the two, both residents of Keaukaha — the seaside district southeast of Hilo — were not arrested.

Police went to the park about 4:45 p.m. Friday and found the men with a turtle shell that measured 3½ feet long by 2½ feet wide. The remaining carcass had been disposed of in the sea, the men said.

Lyman said the turtle was found with a University of Hawaii tag, which was confiscated.

Police turned their report over to two members of the enforcement unit of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The state officers told Lyman they may invite federal officials to join the case.

A citation by the National Marine Fisheries for taking a threatened species can bring a fine of up to \$10,000. Under state law, cruelty to animals is a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum fine of \$1,000 and a year in jail.

Last year, a 22-year-old Kapahulu man who shot a green sea turtle off Waikiki was convicted of cruelty to animals and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service caring for animals.

# More on Nets

— by Rick Gaffney —

■ The November Conservation Line, entitled "The Gill Net Menace," drew a large amount of response—most of it favoring the HAWAII FISHING NEWS stance that gill nets ought to be banned to protect Hawaii's fishing resources.

There are a few corrections I must make. Specifically, I indicated that Hawaii had a law regarding the overall maximum length of gill nets. I was wrong; there is no maximum length at present, and that is scary—there certainly should be. More, in discussing enforcement I implied that the Division of Aquatic Resources handled enforcement. In fact, the Department of Land and Natural Resources actually has an enforcement division, and the understaffed division has to keep up with not only fishing law violations, but also hunting violations and other "natural resources" law problems. They aren't even close to handling the broad problems that exist across the fishery, and they are spread too thin.

I also learned that there are recent changes in Hawaii's fish and game regulations concerning gill nets. Specifically, these changes limit the length of time that a gill net may be left "unattended" to 12 hours, and that limitation apparently applies as well to bullopen type nets, which used to be set and left for days—fishing continuously the whole time. But what does "left unattended" really mean?

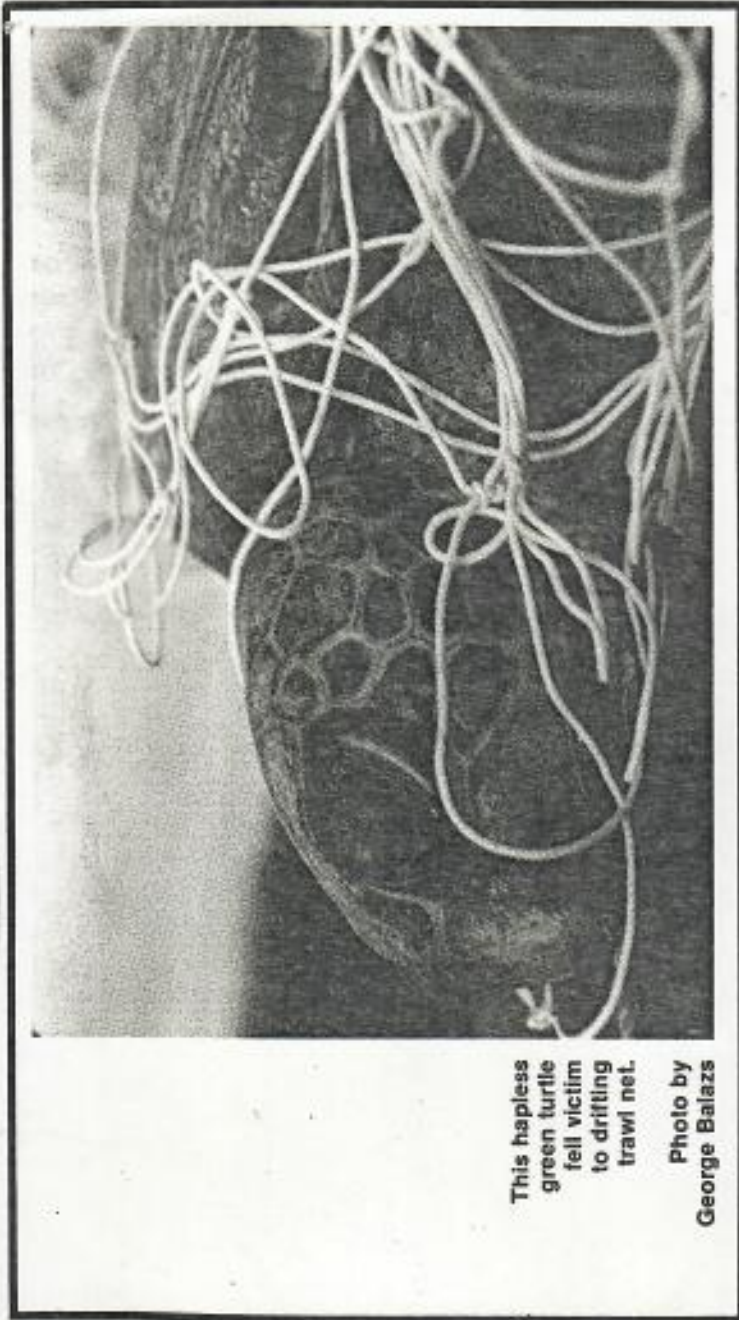
At the same time that HAWAII FISHING NEWS came out strongly supporting the nationwide efforts to ban gill nets, no less respected a publication than *Saltwater Sportsman* featured a lead story on the same subject—the crying need to ban gill nets. Rip Cunningham's editorial in the November issue is worth a read to gain some insight on the problem nationally—and the suggested solutions.

Undoubtedly this is not the last word on gill nets, especially with the legislative session rolling into view

bit later, and the anglers went bananas. Capt. Mike DeRego watched mate Darin Oshiro jump up and down on the back deck and yell, "Awesome, just awesome" in between the first few gaffs!

The net was found again the next day by Capt. Ray "Bombay" Corder on the PACIFIC BLUE. Nick Lapapa and friends from Chicago enjoyed catching 12 mahimahi and one ono.

the beginning of an overall improvement effort at Kewalo Basin. Plans are in the works for new piers to be put in or for existing piers to be improved.



This hapless green turtle fell victim to drifting trawl net.

Photo by George Balazs

this month. Changes in Hawaii's laws regarding the fast proliferating use of gill nets will certainly be considered before the session is too far along. Actual passage of legislation is another matter.

One caller pointed out that bullopen nets are particularly effective in capturing turtles, which can then be tagged and released for further scientific study when they are recaptured. That's great—to a point. It is quite possible that being entangled in a gill net may harm some turtles enough so that they become shark food or worse, that they simply die of exhaustion or drown.

There is information about the use and abuse of gill nets in a growing number of publications these days. For instance, in his "From the Sea" column in the Honolulu Advertiser, Mike Markrich recently editorialized about the need to better protect Hawaii's marine resources from overharvest and abuse. It is time for the fishing community to learn all it can about this

important issue, band together for the common good and see to it that the 1986 Hawaii Legislature begins the process of protecting Hawaii's waters from the gill net menace.

By the way, most offshore fishermen are aware of the massive increase in propeller and rudder entanglements with nets in Hawaii's waters in the last few years. Most offshore fishermen call this unwanted netting "cargo net." It is not! For the most part it is trawl and gill net that is doing all the damage; local fishermen just don't recognize the heavy polypropylene mesh for what it is. And besides—cargo is shipped in containers these days; cargo net, while still used occasionally, is virtually a thing of the past.

If you think about how much this net shows up in island waters these days, you get a pretty good idea of just how much the use of netting has proliferated in the Pacific Ocean in recent years; much of the use involves gill nets.

... Rick



# HOLO TYLE

SMALL FRY



SAMA



FOR LETTERS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED  
DURING JANUARY 1986 A NINE-PIECE  
ASSORTMENT OF PLASTIC BAITS FROM  
HAWAIIAN TACKLE COMPANY

NEHU



Dear Chuck,

I am 15 years old, and I'd like to share this catch with HAWAII FISHING NEWS' readers.

It was Sunday, August 11, 1985. My dad, Gary, my uncles, Everette, Freddie, Danny and Benjie, and I went to Barking Sands to "bang net."

After three series of banging net we happened to see a huge school of akule moving left and right, sometimes splitting up. Soon we set six sets of nets in two tubes and swam about 200 yards out. My father stayed on land to act as a navigator. After some complicated signals from my father, we dropped the net in the water. And hana pa'a! The akule hit the net square on target.

After we picked the net up, we found that we had caught about 400 to 600 lbs of akule; and that was it. I enjoy reading your fantastic articles.

Mahalo and Good Fishing,  
Sean Buza  
Kekaha, Kaua'i

Chuck,

Enclosed please find pictures of Korey Amioka with his papio and a portion of our catch from a recent outing to the outer islands.

At 12 years old, Korey has been a regular member of our "holohalo" gang and has had more than his share of the action!

Korey is a regular reader of your fine publication, and I thought he might be happy to see his picture with the catch. Keep up the good work and all of the interesting articles and helpful hints!

Thanks,  
T. Amioka  
Honolulu, O'ahu



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### ***Killing Turtles***

If Bonnie Eyre and the other paddlers and swimmers think the endangered green sea turtles have diminished in number because the spear fishers have lightened them off, think again!

The decrease in number is due to the slaughter of these beautiful *umakua* (guardians/family gods) by a few uncaring people who would rather see the turtles on their dinner tables than gracing our shore waters.

There's a cage at the Honolulu Zoo that is labeled "The World's Most Dangerous Animal." You look into the cage and a mirror shows the truth!

*Sheila M. D. Lo*

## COURTS

### Man Who Speared Turtle Is Sentenced

A Kapahulu man who speared a green sea turtle off Waikiki Beach in July has been ordered to perform 100 hours of animal care after being convicted of cruelty to animals.

District Judge Marilyn P. Lee imposed the sentence Tuesday on Roland P. Kai, 22, after finding him guilty of the misdemeanor.

Kai testified that he shot the 18-pound turtle, a federally protected endangered species, for food.

Lee suspended a one-year jail sentence and ordered him to perform the animal care as a community service.

Deputy City Prosecutor Ann Ikehara said Kai's work will be done at the Waikiki Aquarium or Honolulu Zoo.

Zoo officials saw Kai on July 12 passing the zoo carrying the bleeding turtle under his arm. When an official told him that killing the turtle was illegal, he turned it over to the zoo, where it died two days later.

Police arrested Kai as he reached his home.

He also has been cited by the National Marine Fisheries Service for taking a threatened species.

## *Turtle shooter is sentenced to 100 hours of animal care*

The man who shot a green sea turtle in the head with a speargun off Waikiki Beach in early July has been ordered to spend 100 hours of community work caring for animals.

Roland P. Kai, 22, of Kapahu-lu, was convicted Monday of cruelty to animals and given a one-year suspended jail sentence.

District Court Judge Marilyn P. Lee ordered the jail sentence suspended on the condition that Kai spend 100 hours performing community service work specifically related to the care of animals. She said he must also remain free of convictions or offenses for one year.

Kai was arrested in July after he was seen walking away

from the beach carrying the injured 18½-pound green sea turtle under his arm.

The turtle was taken to the Waikiki Aquarium where it was treated for a 1¼-inch-deep speargun wound in the back of its skull. It died a week later.

Deputy City Prosecutor Ann Ikehara said, although Kai pleaded not guilty, he admitted in court Monday to shooting the turtle. Ikehara said Kai told the court that he felt he was free from guilt since he had planned to eat the turtle.

The National Marine Fisheries Service also cited Kai for taking a threatened species. The citation can bring a fine of up to \$10,000, but the average is usually \$250 to \$1,000.