

Much ado for the turtle

The Honolulu Advertiser
6/4/95

A23



Advertiser photos by Carl Vitt

Kids and their parents, above, get up close and personal with the turtles at the sixth annual Conservation Day at Sea Life Park. Three-year-old Kekoa Kolo, above left, gets free admission to the park for bringing in aluminum cans for recycling. Nicholas Tsutsumi, 4, signs his name to a picture of a brightly colored reef fish.

Sea life is a hit for kids with cans

By Darren Pai
Advertiser Staff Writer

Emil Soto-Rivera was amazed. Only one out of every thousand green sea turtle eggs laid would survive and produce an adult turtle.

"It's got to be more than that, right?" asked the Pearl City Elementary student.

But it's not. And it wasn't the only thing Soto-Rivera learned during his tour of information booths at the sixth annual Conservation

Day event held at Sea Life Park yesterday.

In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's display on sea turtles, 14 other environmental groups were on-hand — including the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Earthtrust and the University of Hawaii Sea Grant program.

Children presenting a grocery bag full of aluminum cans — crushed for recycling — were given admission free. Their parents were

given a special discounted rate.

"It's important that kids learn about the environment, because we're the ones that are going to have to protect it," Soto-Rivera said, clutching a bag full of brochures and pamphlets gathered at the various booths.

Displays ranged from the enormous (a 45-foot-long replica of a humpback whale) to the high-tech (an interactive CD-ROM providing detailed

information about more than 200 species of Hawaiian marine life).

Tom Barrett, a Kalani High School student, returned to Sea Life Park after attending last year's event.

While climbing through the inflated humpback was fun, Barrett said the educational benefits were an equally attractive draw.

"People have got to be more aware, even with all that's being said now about the environment. I still go to the beach and see a lot of pollution," he said.