

# Fisherman catches crowd, turtle swims free

by Bill Sollner

A green sea turtle on the long end of a 30-pound-test fishing line was

responsible for a massive traffic jam and packing of the beach opposite Coco Palms from about 10 a.m. until 11:35 a.m. Friday

morning.

On the other end of the line, clutching a bamboo pole for dear life and reeling in the monofilament whenever the "catch" gave him a chance, was Yasuo Moribe of Wailua Homesteads.

The diminutive angler is a regular at Wailua Beach, and about a year ago he caught a record-setting ulua at the same location.

Crowds of local residents and visitors were attracted as the battle of man vs. sea monster dragged on. At one time there appeared to be 300 or 400 people standing by expectantly, hopefully, as Moribe pulled and hauled at his cane pole.

The pole was frequently bent 90 degrees, and from time to time Moribe welcomed the aid of Tony Basuel and Albert Kano, also regular fishermen at Wailua Beach.

The 30-pound-test line was spliced at several points where other ones that got away had broken it, but the line held for over an hour-and-a-half. By that time the "catch" was close enough in to shore that bystanders and kibitzers could identify it when it rose from time to time, to the surface.

Finally, perhaps sensing the line was weak and using the ocean floor for traction, the creature broke loose.

There was a sigh of disappointment from the crowd, and people started hopping across the hot sand for their cars which had been left parked on both sides of the highway fronting Coco Palms.

The show was over.

Anxious police officer supervised the startup of traffic.

Yasuo Moribe reeled in the slack line remaining, but there was n

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YASUO MORIBE hooked into another big one at Wailua Bay, Friday drawing a huge crowd. This time it was a green sea turtle.



IT WAS A BIG ONE, but Yasuo Moribe found out it was a turtle, which broke free yesterday at Wailua. (Photo by Bill Sollner)

### ★ Crowd ★

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sign of despair. Everyone figures he'll be back on the beach soon, trying to beat his own world record: a 118-pound ulua caught at the same beach last year. Yasuo weighed 119 at the time, but he says he's put on weight since then.

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