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## Meeting tomorrow

by Jellia Neal

The public meeting tomorrow to discuss whether to allow Hawai'i residents to take green sea turtles for subsistence will be held in the wake of two arrests on Kaua'i for illegally killing the turtles.

State Conservation and Resources enforcement officer Tony Nakamura said an anonymous phone call brought police to the bluff overlooking the waters off Princeville last Saturday. Joined by conservation enforcement officers, they arrested

John Klodes, 21, and Grant Olson, 19, of Hanalei for allegedly taking a mature green sea turtle with a shell length of 30 inches.

Nakamura said the pair caught the turtle while free diving from the shore, and butchered it before enforcement officers arrived.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Lihu'e Library Conference Room. It is sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is reviewing turtle protection laws for Guam, American Samoa, Palau, the Northern Ma-

rianas, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Hawai'i.

Natives of islands further south have requested permission to take the turtles, and in some cases gained it, claiming they need turtle meat for survival. And individuals in Hawai'i have also made a request, claiming the ban on turtle hunting, interferes with "native Hawaiian rights."

But the federal government allowed other Polynesians living in U.S. territories to take the turtle because there was little other pro-

tein available, federal officials said.

The questions facing the decisionmakers concerning Hawai'i, is whether native Hawaiians have other available sources of protein and whether the sea turtles, which have been protected since 1978, are now plentiful enough to allow limited taking.

## *Are turtles needed for food?*