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# Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is a research unit of the University of Hawaii which oversees and maintains facilities for faculty in several departments: Botany, Zoology, Oceanography, Microbiology, and Psychology. The primary laboratory site is Moku-o-Loe (Coconut Island) in Kaneohe Bay. Projects conducted at HIMB frequently accommodate undergraduates in MOP and provide an excellent training center for marine skill acqui-

sition. In FY 77 Marie Wuerker and Alan Kam both pursued opportunities here. Although little used as a formal classroom-teaching facility, weekend field trips to HIMB are part of Oceanography 201, a course required of all MOP students.

ALAN KAM WITH A TURTLE AT A HAWAII INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE BIOLOGY HOLDING PEN



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apply their knowledge in situations which involve marine affairs decision-making.

## Alan Kam

Student Research Assistant

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Alan Kam, a spring 1977 Marine Option Program graduate, has been working at HIMB with George Balazs as a research assistant on the green sea turtle project, which is funded by the MAC office and the UH Sea Grant College Program. Alan notes that the turtle population has been decreasing as the human population begins to infringe upon the turtle's habitat, with the result being that French Frigate Shoals has become the last viable reproductive population in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Alan's work involved the capture, tagging, and release of turtles at Bellows Beach on the windward side of Oahu as well as on Kauai, the Big Island, and Midway Islands. He is currently continuing his work of tagging and recovering turtles, as well as doing a population study.

When asked to comment about MOP, Alan said, "The Marine Option Program is an organization that is able to develop individual talents with particular emphasis on our marine environment, namely Hawaii and the sea. Students from all over the mainland and Hawaii come to partake of an education that is relevant to their interests in marine activities." He added, "Through the leadership of the staff, MOP students are guided towards realizing their ideals and goals." He feels that since the ocean can be viewed from different perspectives, whether it be for recreational or commercial use, there is a vital need for understanding the potential of our marine resources, and to provide for better planning and management. "MOP," he says, "helps to build leaders, as students develop expertise in marine-related areas." Thus, in terms of the future, Alan feels that MOP students could readily

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## MARINE OPTION PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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