

Punalu'u Turtle and Beach Monitor Program

Mission Statement:

We are a Community Based Volunteer Program, whose primary mission is to provide a safe and harassment free space for basking Sea Turtles, disseminate informational handouts to interested public and be available to answer questions regarding the Honu. The secondary goal is to perform minor beach cleaning and beach safety monitoring.

In Partnership with:

Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
County of Hawaii (Lifeguard and Police)
NOA
University of Hawaii

Hours of Service (shift):

Turtle and Beach Monitors will be on duty from 4:30p till dark, daily

Future Considerations:

Summer Nesting Season Beach monitoring for potential nesting
Shift Hours: Daylight (looking for signs of nesting)

Daily Crew: At least one PBM on duty
 Two PBMs is good
 Up to 4 PBMs

Crew Uniforms:

To give our Monitors a more professional appearance, identifying apparel (uniforms) will be worn

Uniforms will be provided by the Owners of the Punalu'u Beach Apparel Shop

Uniforms will consist of:

Hat (Cap), T-Shirt, Hooded Sweater

Crew Equipment:

Uniform	Chair	Rain Gear	Bull Horn
# Counter	Garbage Bag	Cell phone	Flashlight

Crew Requirements:

- Serve at least one (1) shift a month*
- Attend a one hour training session*
- Be able to answer basic Honu and beach questions*
- Present a positive and welcoming attitude and demeanor*
- Sign in and complete daily log (see daily log)*

Daily Log: Pick up daily log at the shops and Record:

- Date*
- Name(s) of Monitors*
- Weather Condition/Temperature of the Day*
- Number/location of Turtles on the beach at start of shift*
- Number of turtles climbing out or returning to water*
- Amount of Tourist viewing the Turtles*
- Drop off Daily log at Enriques Residence.*

Training/Educational Session:

In attendance:

- Police Representative*
- County of Hawaii Fire Department (TBD)*
- DLNR*

Video of:

- What good spacing looks like*
- What crowding the turtle looks like*
- What a negative conflict looks like*
- Presenting a positive and welcoming attitude and behavior*

Approaching and addressing the encroacher:

Approach with a positive demeanor and voice

Example: Excuse me...our turtles are on the endangered species list and federally protected, can you please stay at least 20' away from them. Thank you

Addressing the encroacher with the bullhorn:

Example: Aloha visitors on the beach, our turtles are on the endangered species list and federally protected, can you please stay at least 20' away from them. Thank you

Be able to answer basic Honu questions:

What species of Turtle are we looking at?

Green Sea Turtle: Honu

Are there more than one species that frequent this beach?

Yes.

What is the name of the other species?

Hawksbill turtle - Honu'ea

How can you tell the difference?

Hawksbill turtle has a beak like a hawk and the edges of the shell are jagged vs rounded

Why do the turtles come on shore, are they sick or nesting?

Turtles like to bask and prefer sunny days

Do these turtles nest here? No

Which species nest here? Hawksbill (Honu'ea)

Where does the other species nest?

The Green Sea Turtle or Honu nests on the French Frigate Islands, 250 north of the island of Kauai. They mature around 25 years of age and begin the trek.

When is the nesting season?

Summer months -

How old are these turtles?

The honu average about 10-20 years old

How big do these turtles get?

The adults can get up to 550 lbs

When do the turtles come out to bask?

Prefer sunny days, but unpredictable

How long do they stay out?

No pattern to the time spend basking

How much can you be fined for turtle harassment? \$25,000

Be able to answer basic Punalu'u Beach questions:

What does the name Punalu'u mean?

Immersed in Springs

Where can I see the springs?

All along the rocks on low tide, in the bay itself while swimming

Is the spring water drinkable?

Yes, best drank right at the source.

How is the black sand made?

Black sand is formed by the explosion of hot lava entering the ocean.

How to address a disrespectful or non-compliant person:

Maintain a positive attitude and demeanor at all times.

Remind them Honu are an endangered species protected by federal law and ignoring the rules can result in a hefty fine?

Have partner video situation if resistance continues. If they are non-responsive and still disrespectful, Call the Police.

Calling Police:

Non-emergency #:

911

Avoid as much as possible:

Raising your voice

Having a aggressive body posture

Getting to close into their space

Do not get into a physical confrontation

Note incident on your daily log

Daily Routine Checklist:

Pick up daily log in sheet at the Apparel Shop

Sign in on the Daily Log

Describe weather Conditions

Note the number of turtles on Beach

Note the location of each turtle

The Counter: Decide which partner is going

to be the Counter and Set up the Counter's Viewing

Station:

Depending upon where the turtles are located,

Select the best place to set up your viewing station (chairs) with the following in mind:

a. must be able to see and count all turtle visitors without double counting them

b. keep in mind, tourist approach the beach from two (2) areas (Pavilion, Shops)

c. With multiple turtles on the beach, pick the location that most visitors will be attracted to and do your counting from there

d. Do your best to be as accurate as possible knowing it is impossible to be accurate.

e. Note time a turtle:

Leaves beach and the location Crawls on to beach and the location