

JOHN WAHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

JOHN C. LEWIN, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

92 MAY 7 A 8:24

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPT. OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

P. O. BOX 3376
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

FILE # 5-12-17

May 4, 1992

In reply, please refer to:
File: CDD/EPI

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MAY 27 1992

Div. of Aquatic Resources

TO: Honorable William W. Paty, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources

FROM: John C. Lewin, M.D.
Director of Health

SUBJECT: DISEASED TURTLES

This is in response to your memorandum of April 6, 1992 concerning diseased turtles. Our Zoonoses staff has reviewed available epidemiology texts, journals, and other information sources.

Staff found no reports of adverse human health effects from handling turtles affected with tumors.

The 1990 edition of the Control of Communicable Diseases in Man, published by the American Public Health Association, does list and discuss several virus-associated neoplasms of humans. The reservoir of all the infectious agents associated with those neoplasms is human, and possibly non-human primates.

Since wild turtles may be carriers of Salmonella bacteria, simple sanitary precautions such as the use of rubber or plastic gloves when handling turtles (with or without obvious abnormalities) should preclude any risk to your personnel.

c: Dr. Bruce Anderson

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MAY 11 1992

Div. of Aquatic Resources