

Showing Some Aloha

Sea Turtle Conservation Efforts in the
Hawaiian Islands.

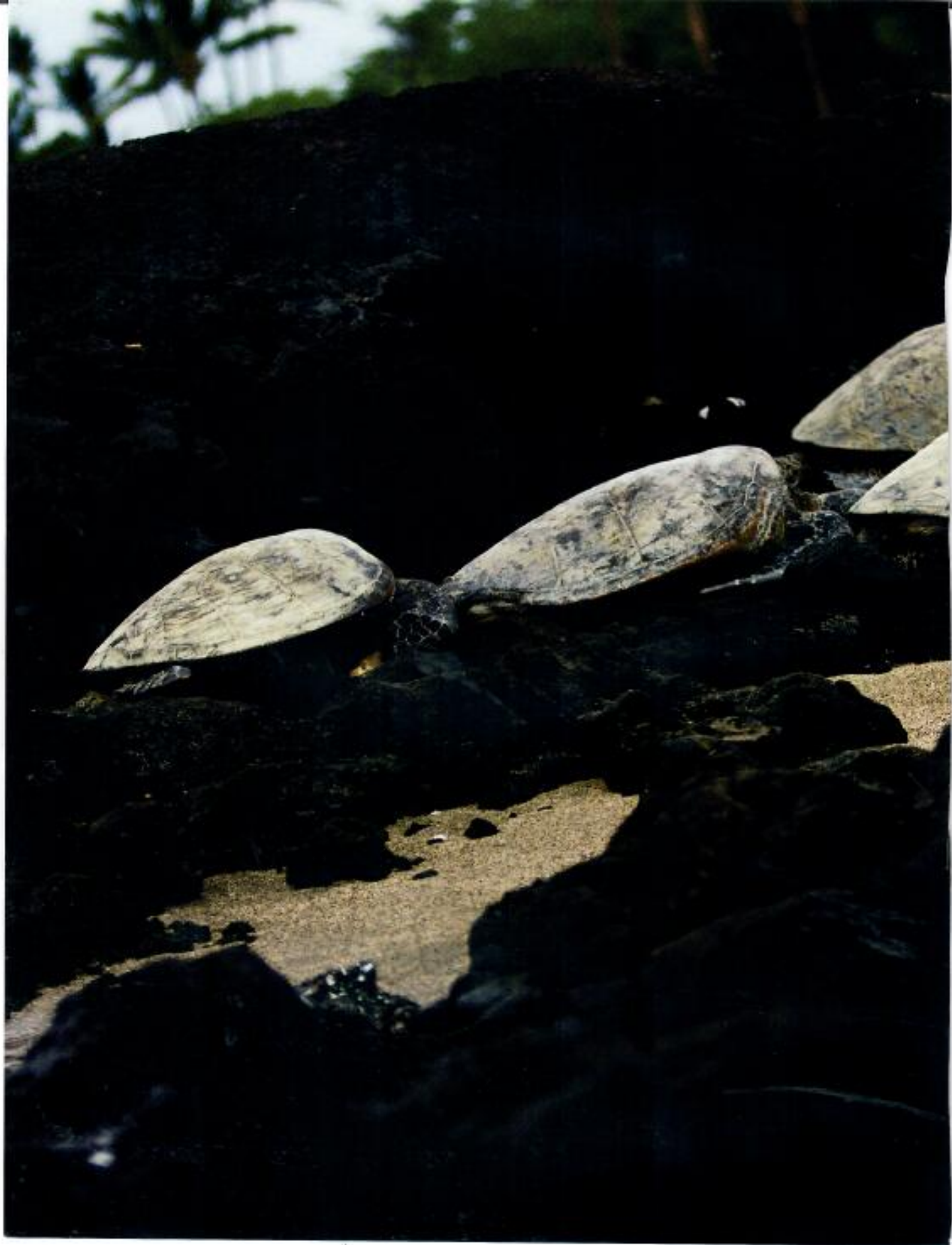


By Moriah Quinn



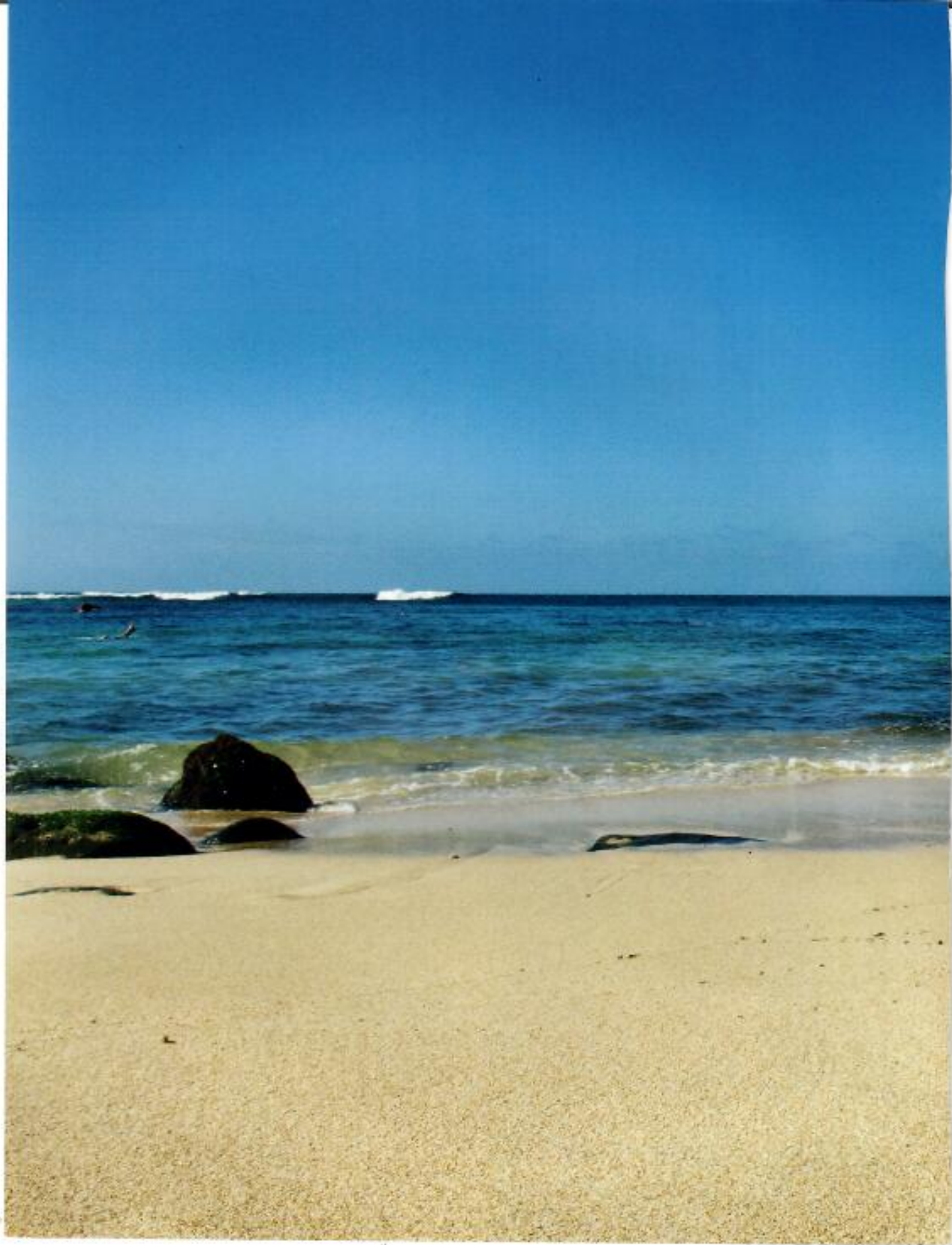


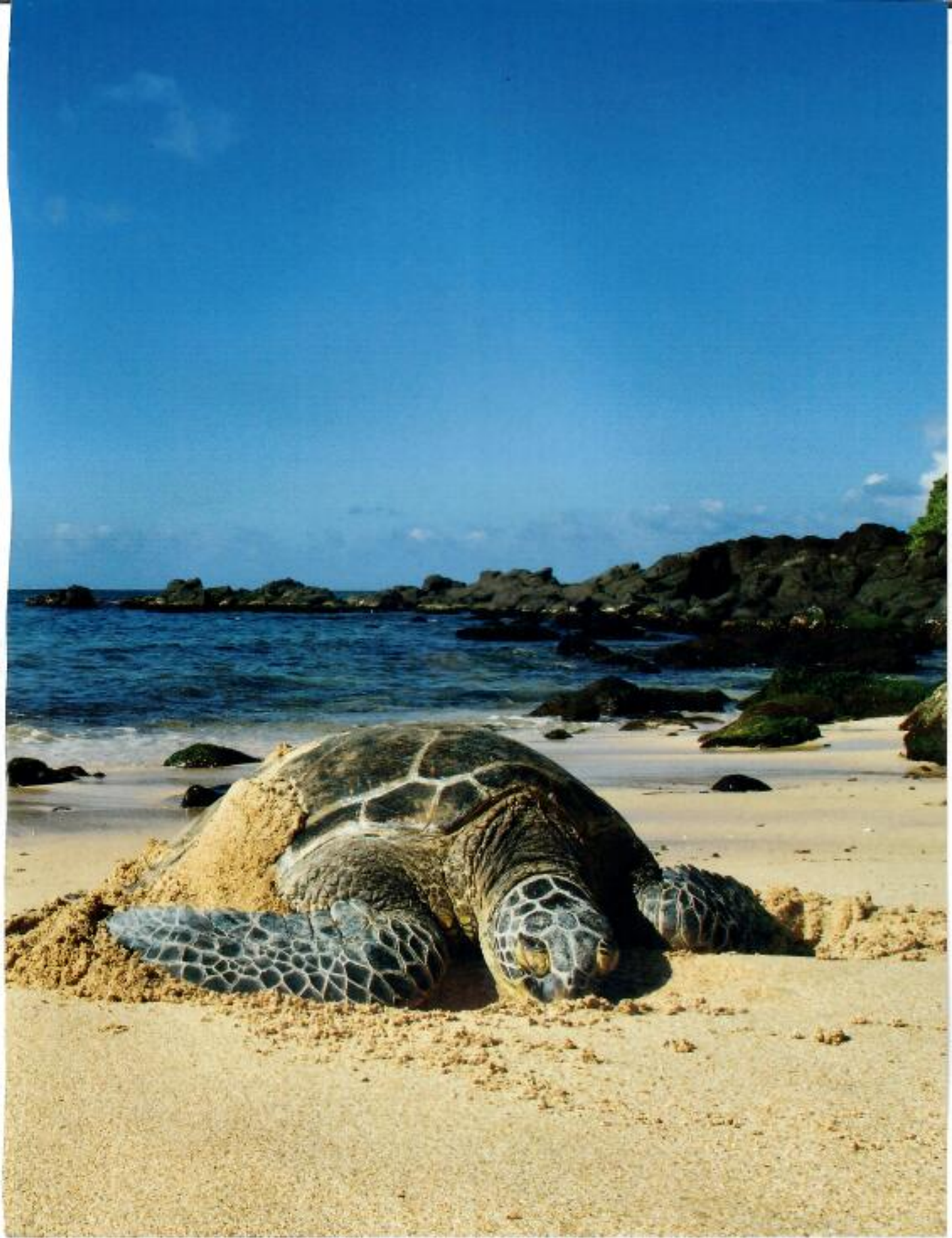


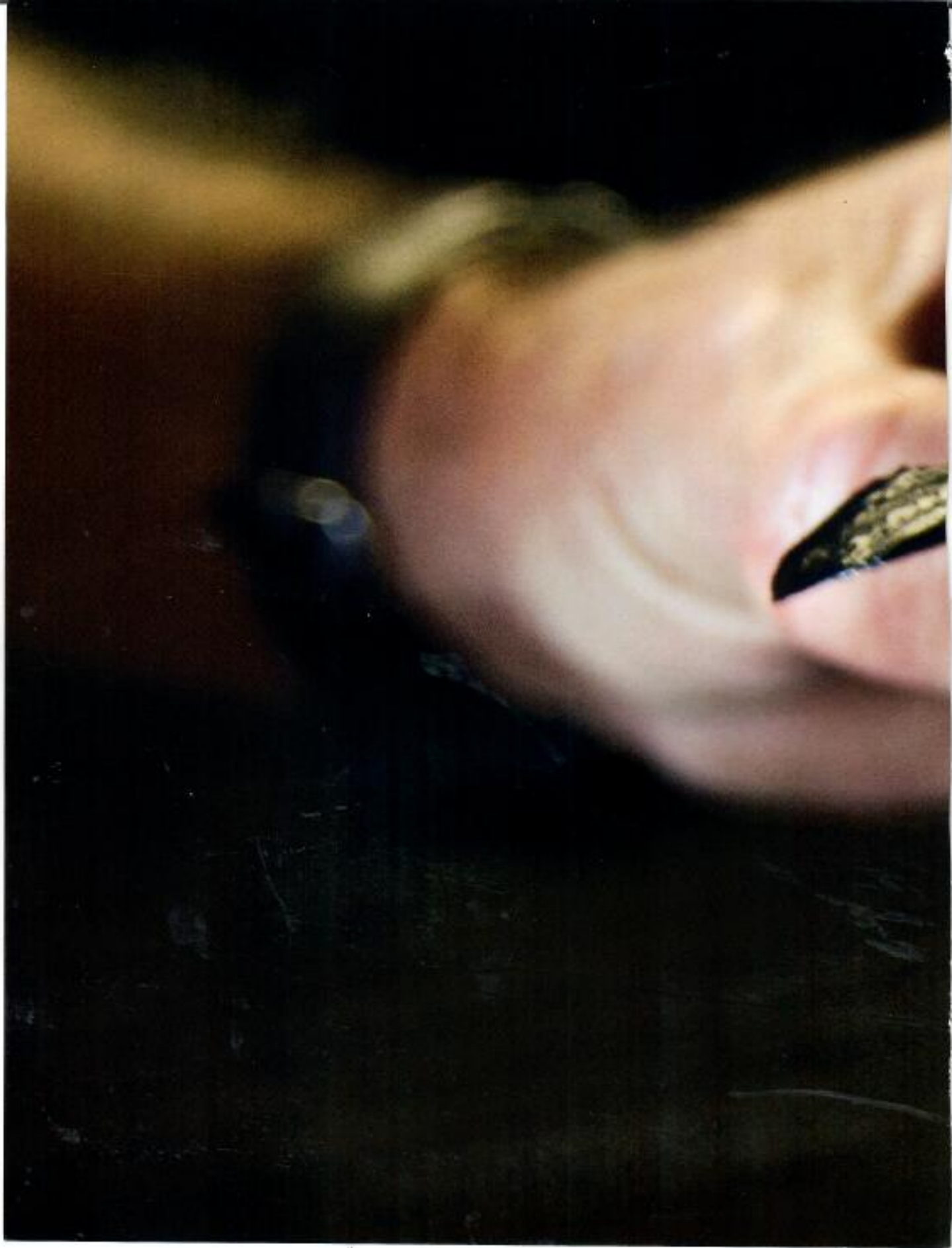




p. 1: A Hawaiian green sleep on Punalu'u Black Sand Beach on the Big Island. **Previous:** A Hawaiian green dives through the bubbles of a scuba diver off the south shore of Kauai. **Left:** At Anaehoomalu Beach, a Hawaiian greens rests on the rocks. **Next:** On the North Shore of Oahu, at Turtle Beach a Hawaiian green basks in the sun. p. 8-9: A sick baby olive ridley is being cared for at Sea Life Park on Oahu. p. 10: A Hawaiian green swims around the coral reef on the east side of Molokai.











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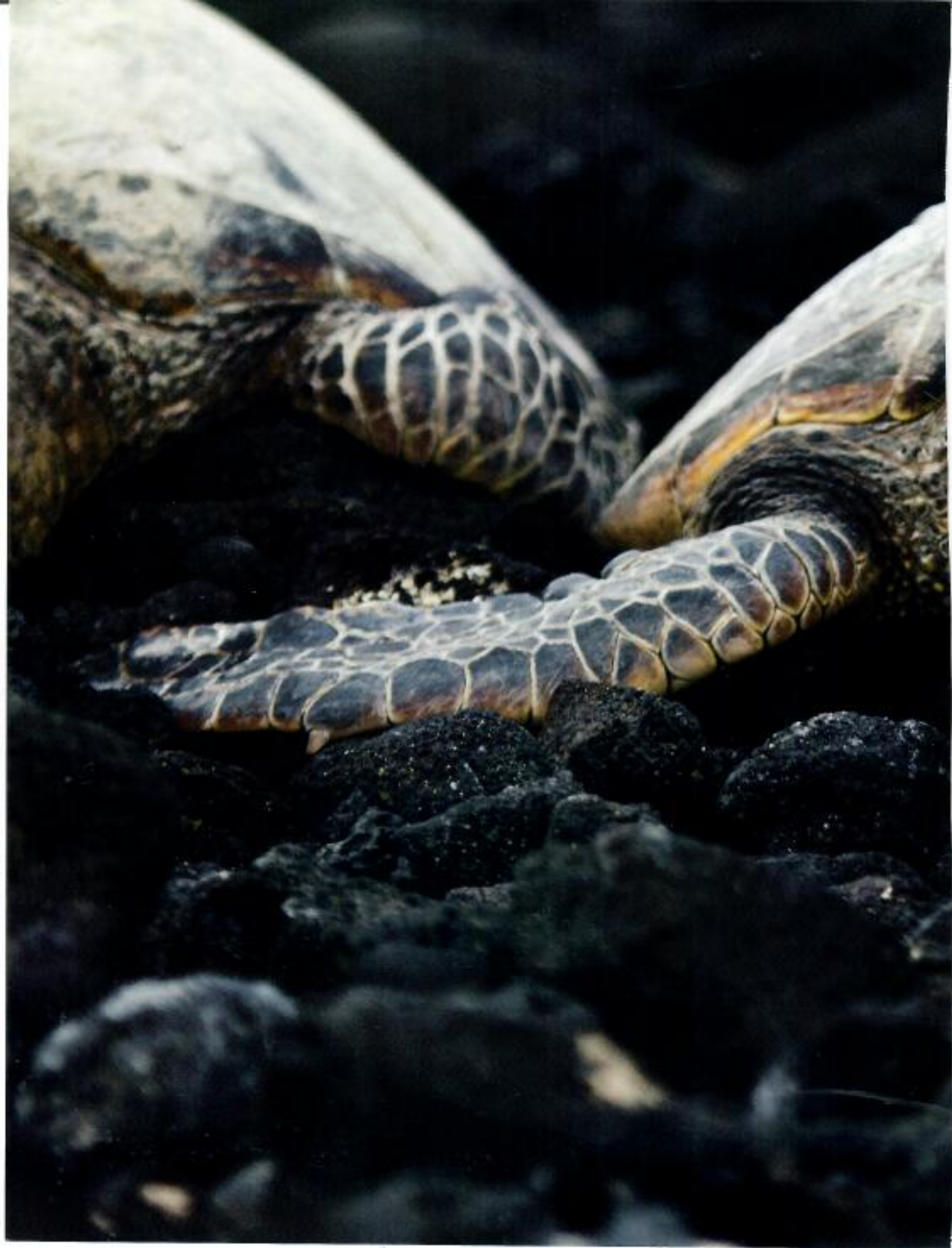
Photographs and Text
by Moriah Quinn

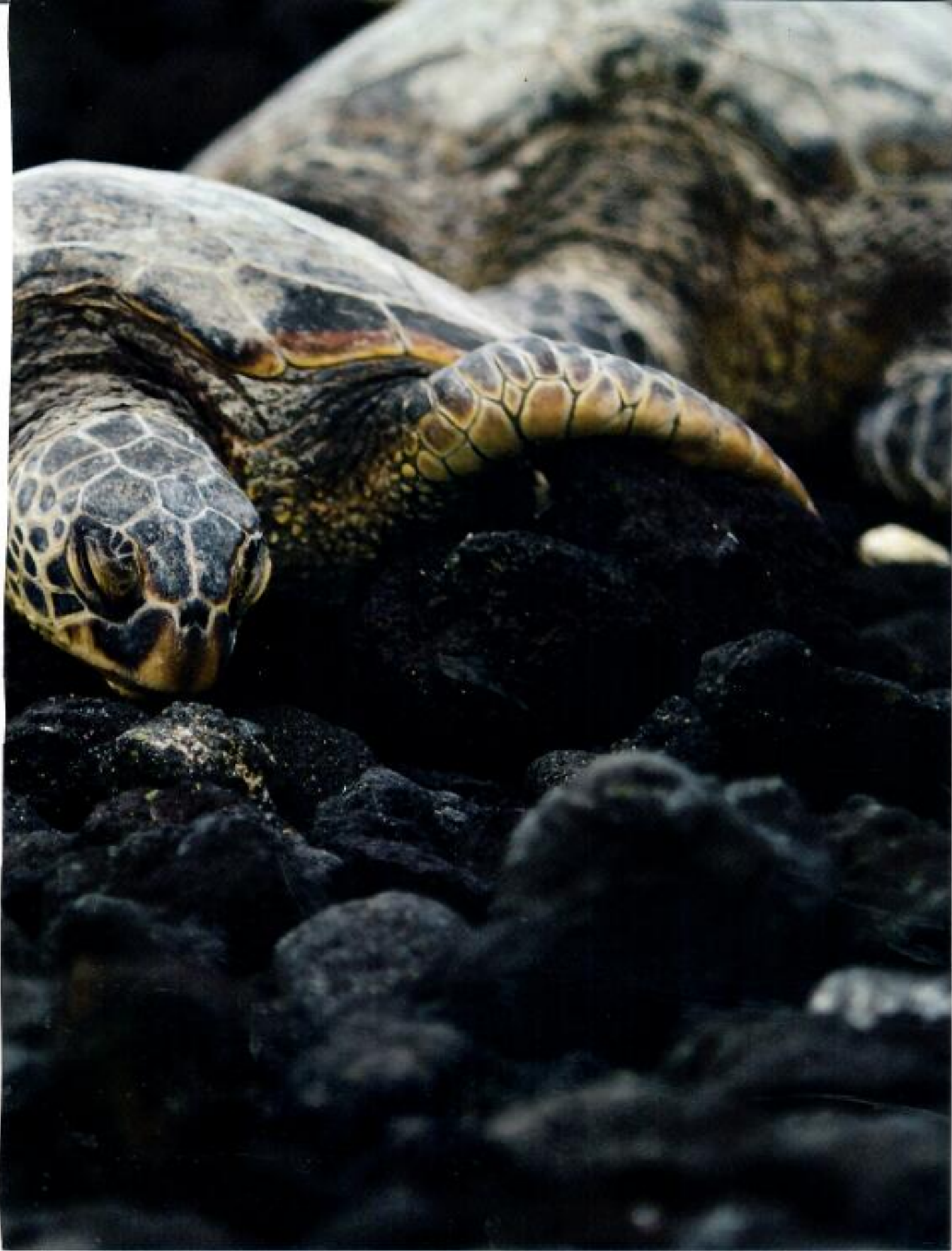
The Hawaiian word Aloha means more than just hello. It encompasses a whole way of life that is caring and loving. The Aloha spirit is alive in the islands and sets them apart from other places in the world.

Sharing Some Aloha is about giving love, admiration and respect for the sea turtles when you enter into their home, Hawaii.

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Culture

The native Hawaiian way of life is very strong throughout the Hawaiian Islands. In traditional Hawaiian culture, sea turtles were so sacred that only royalty were allowed to eat them. There is a legend about a magical turtle princess who transformed into a girl and would watch over the children in the village at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach on the Big Island.

Today, sea turtles are an icon of Hawaii and are commercialized, as a beautiful symbol while they are deeply admired and greatly respected. The Hawaiian green sea turtles are geographically a subspecies making them unique to the islands.

The islands would not be the same without sea turtles. They are gentle loving animals that represent the Hawaiian spirit, which is why people are so drawn to them.

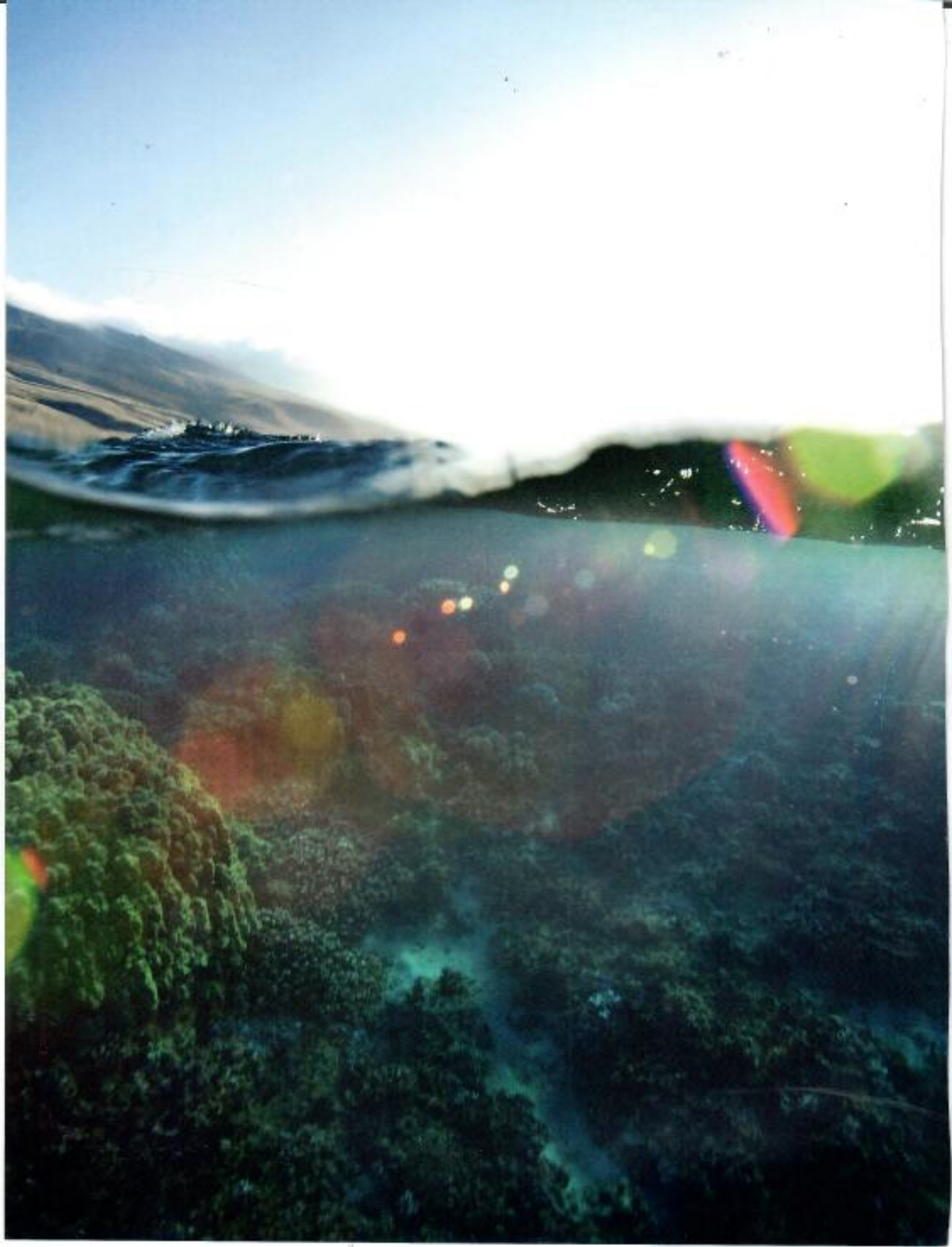




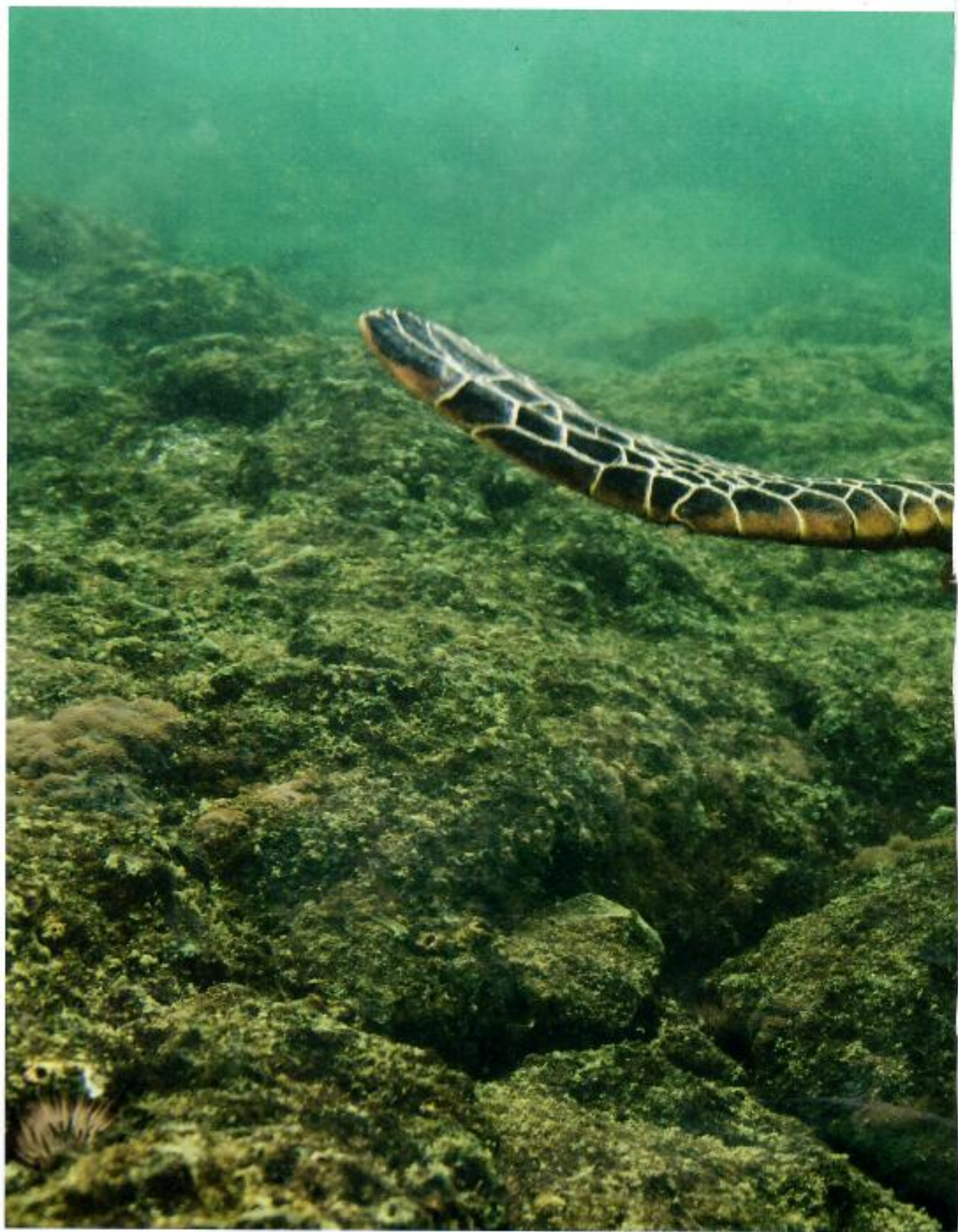
p. 14-15: As the sun sets, a Hawaiian green sleeps on lava rocks at Anaehoomalu Beach on the Big Island. **Previous:** Two Hawaiian greens sleep on Punalu'u Black Sand Beach on the Big Island. **Above:** A Hawaiian green resting at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach on the Big Island.







Previous: A fascinating variety of sea turtle souvenirs are available for tourists visiting the islands. **Left:** The coral reef of the coast of Molokai. **Next:** In Kahalu'u Bay on the Big Island, a Hawaiian green swims through the shallow bay.











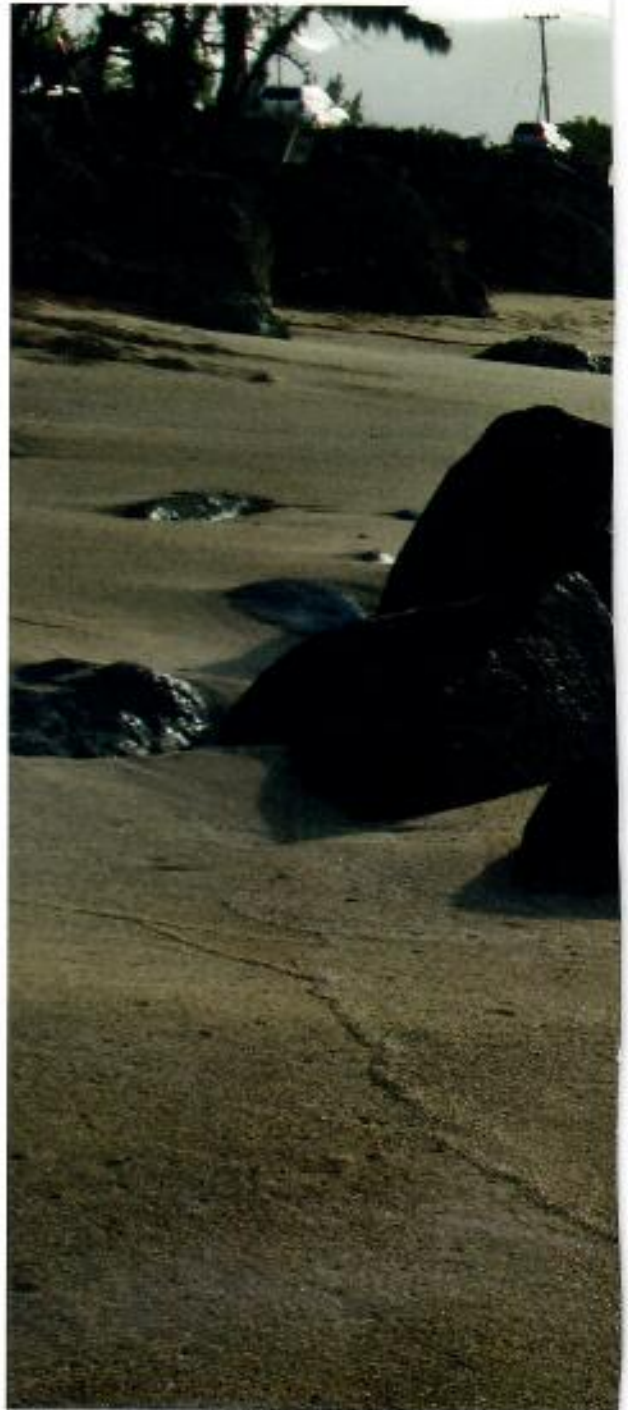
p. 26 Top: A Hawaiian green feeds on the algae growing on the rocks at Kahalu'u Bay on the Big Island. **p. 26 Bottom:** At low tide, the limu, Hawaiian for algae, that sea turtles feed on, is exposed at Turtle Beach, Oahu. **p. 27:** At Sea Life Park in Oahu, park visitors stop at the Hawaiian green sea turtle exhibit to photograph and look at the turtles. **Top Left:** Covering itself with sand, a Hawaiian green tries to keep cool while basking in the sun. **Bottom Left:** Laying too close to the waters edge, this Hawaiian green moves to stay dry. **Below:** Tourists stop at Turtle Beach on the North Shore of Oahu to see the basking turtles.



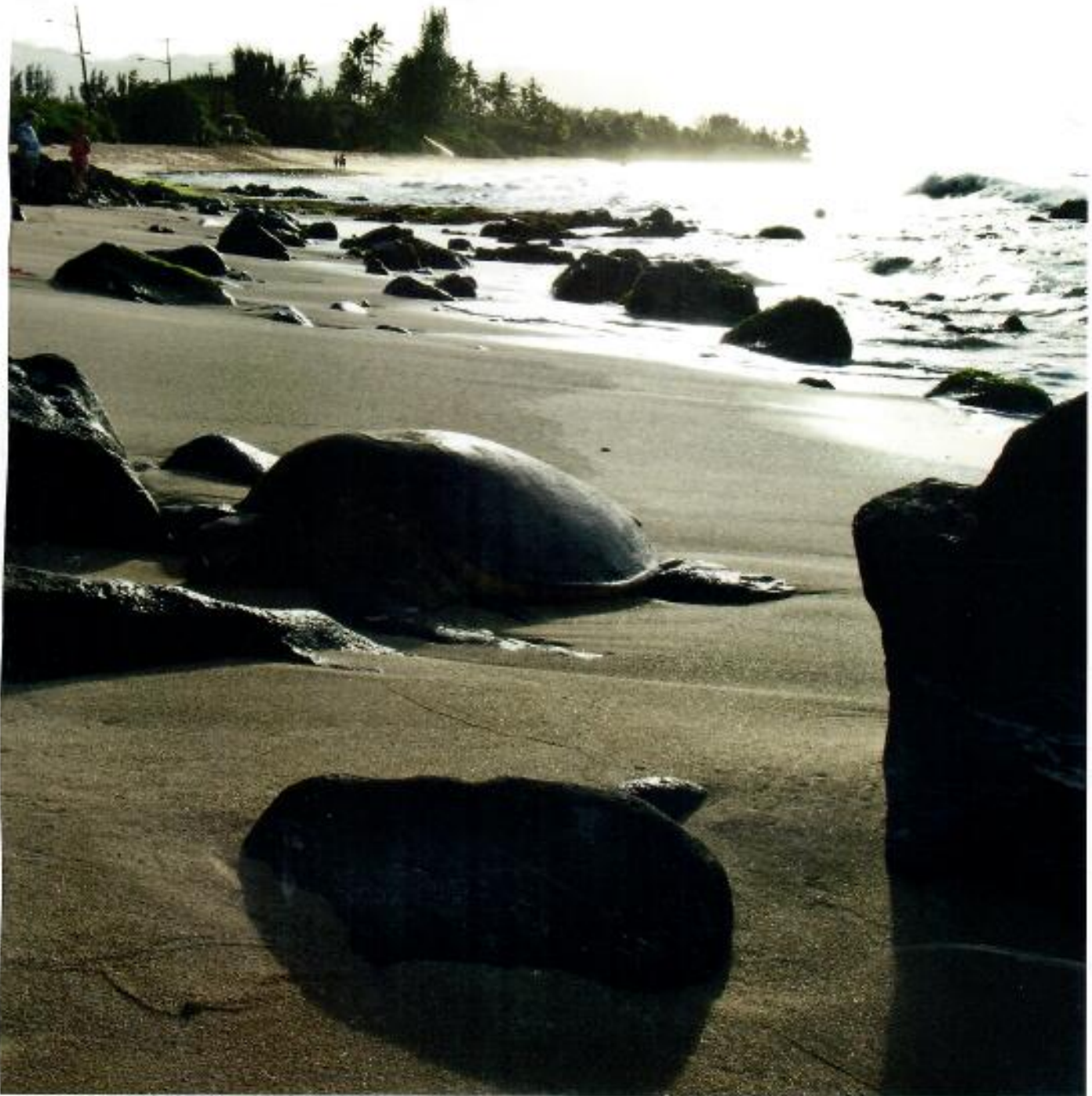
Respect

Tourism is a huge part of Hawaiian reality which creates conflicts with nature. Tourists that visit the islands invade the sea turtle environment and disrespect their homes. They also overwhelm the animals who feed in the shallow water, which ultimately denies them food. Cindi Whitehawk, a volunteer with Reef Teach, found a turtle with no food in its stomach at Kahalu'u Bay, a popular snorkeling location on the Big Island. The turtle starved to death shortly after it was removed from the water.

On the other hand, some people have realized this delicate balance between nature and humans and keep their distance. They know there are certain boundaries that should not be crossed and try to help keep them safe by protecting them and the space they live in.



Below: Hawaiian greens often blend in with the dark lava rocks, and don't get noticed, a natural camouflage which at times tends to harm them. **Next:** Kahalu'u Bay is a very popular tourist snorkeling spot on the Big Island. A group of young girls playing in the shallow water almost step on the Hawaiian green resting and are warned by the lifeguards.









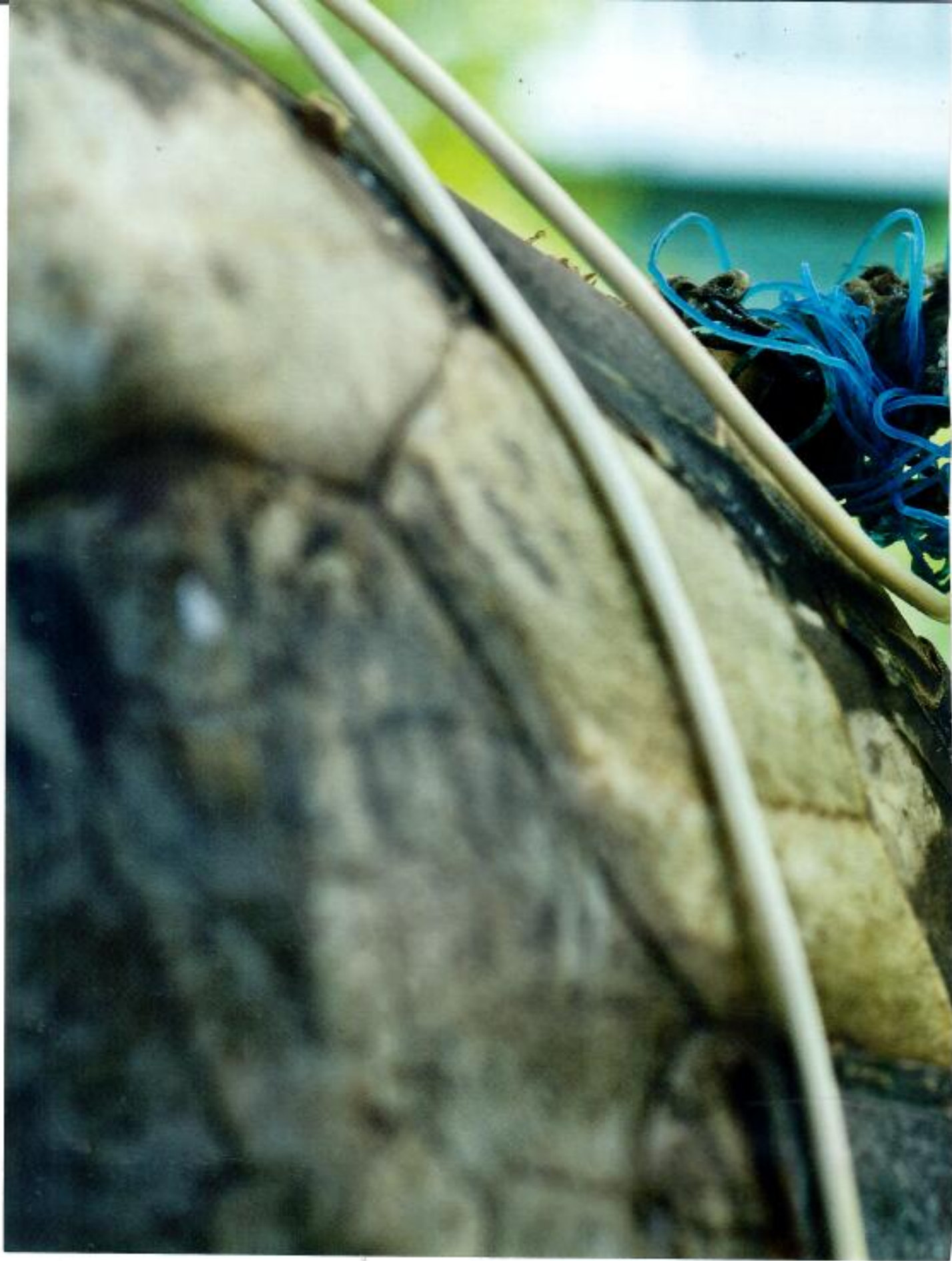


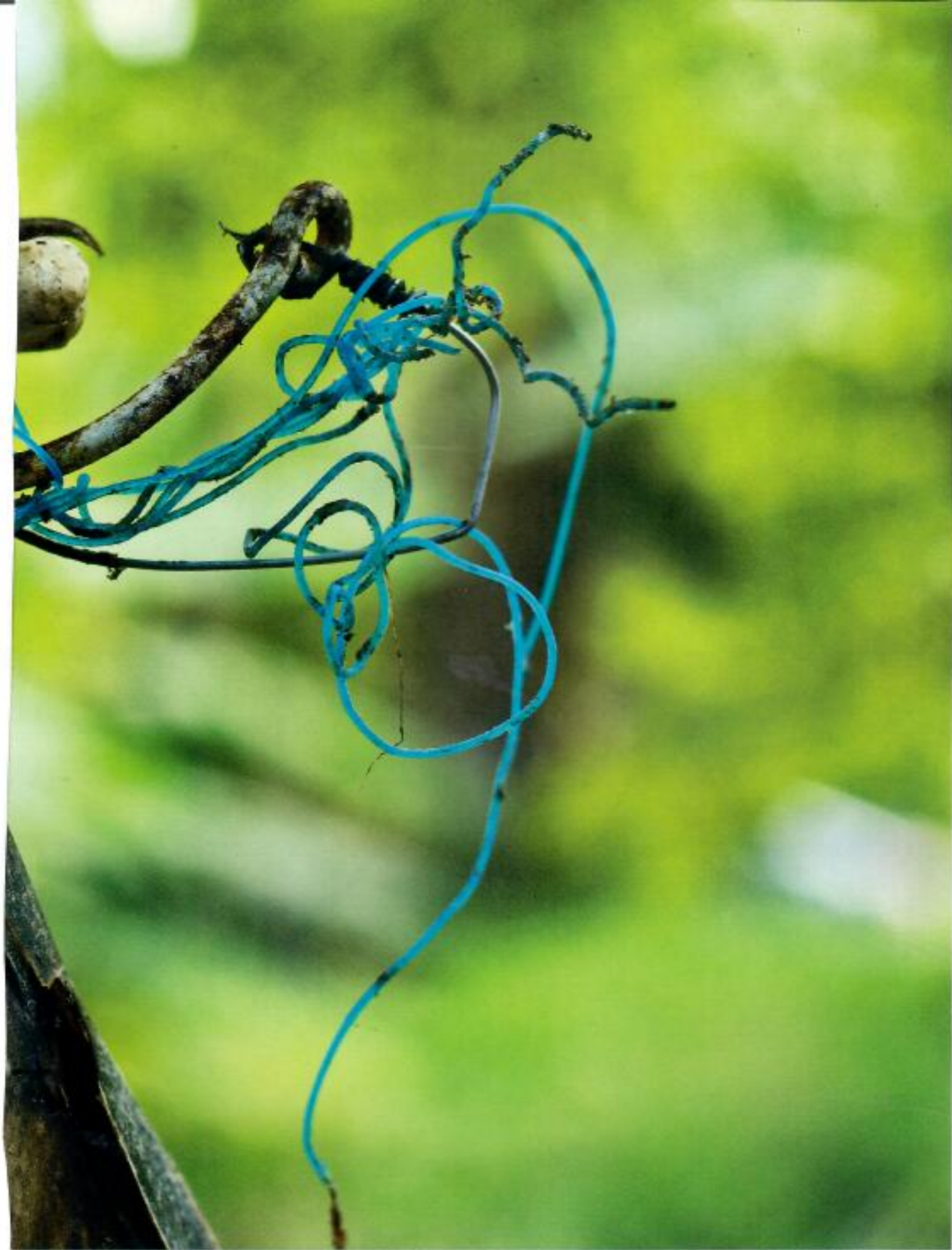


Previous: A tourist using snuba gets too close to a Hawaiian green, startling it and causing the turtle to swim away. **Above:** A baby hawksbill sea turtle eats a small piece of food. The sick hatchling has been staying at the Sea Life Park in Oahu for a week until it recovered and could be released back into the ocean.



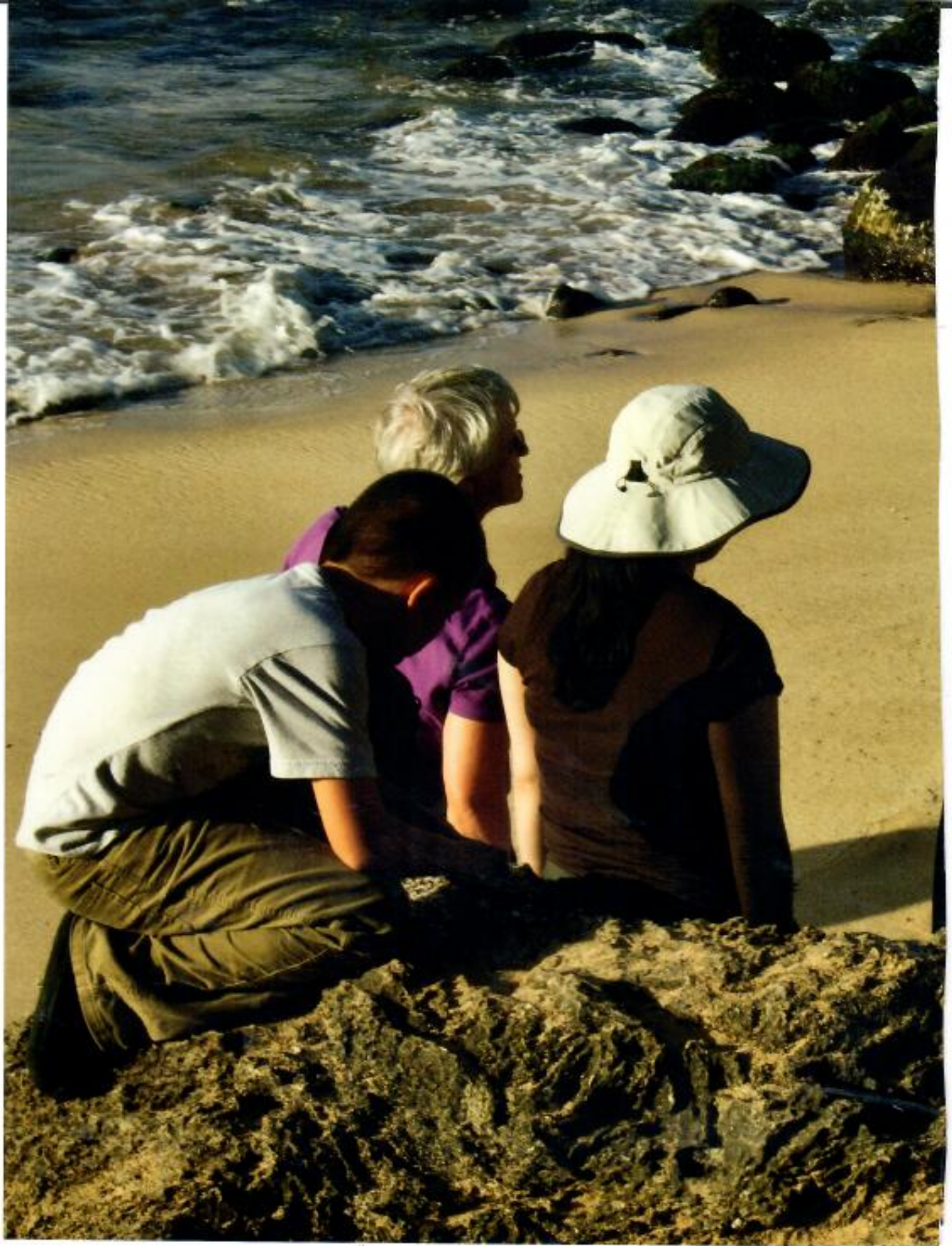
Above: Eating the algae off the rocks, a Hawaiian green feeds at Kahalu'u Bay at high tide on the Big Island. **Next:** While participating in a beach clean up, Cindi Whitehawk found this turtle shell with a fishing hook and wire through its shoulder.

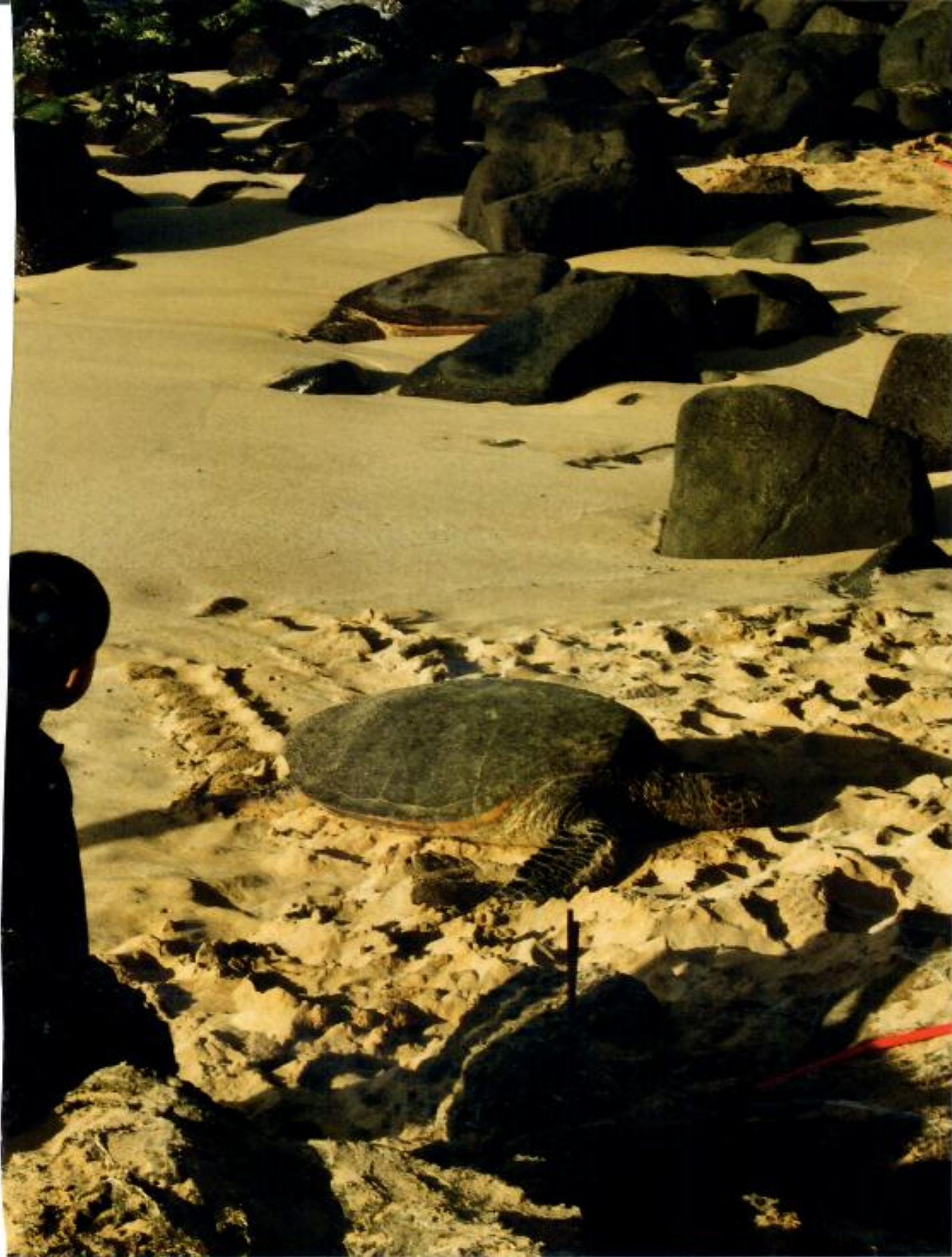


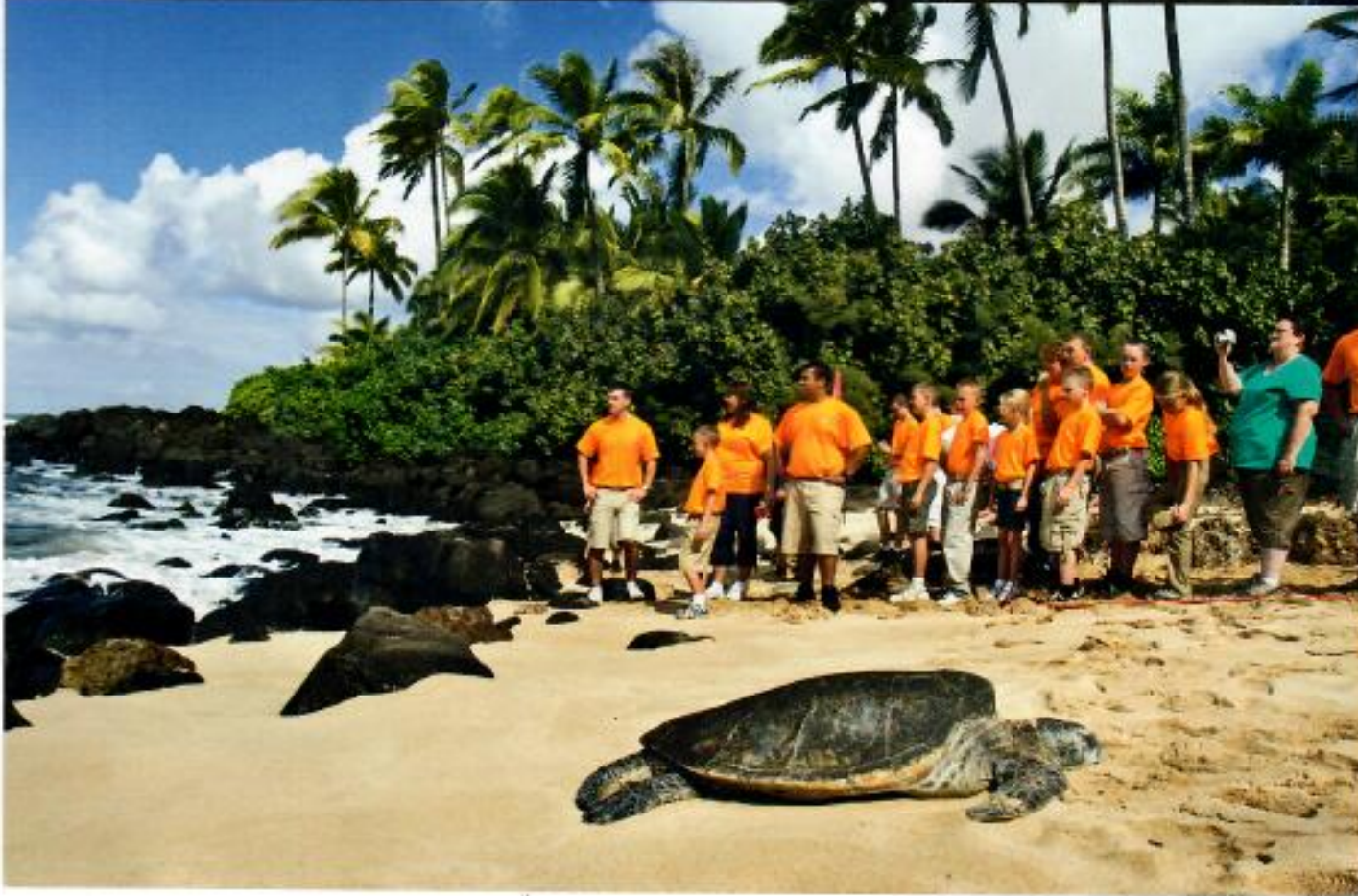


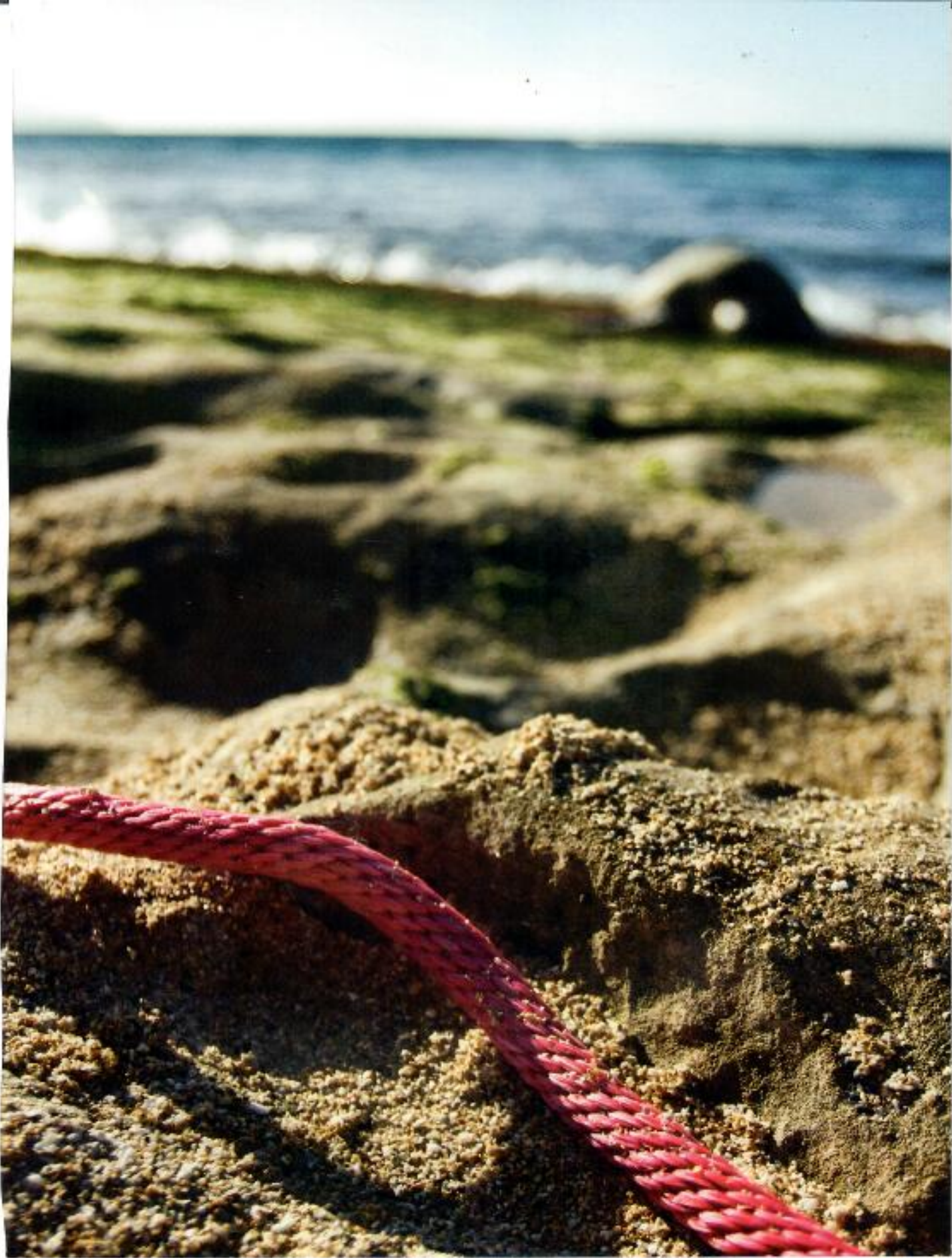


Top Left: Cindi hangs the turtle up in a tree to keep it safe while it dries out so she can send it to an aquarium to be used for educational purposes. **Bottom Left:** Lefty, a Hawaiian green that lives in Kahalu'u Bay on the Big Island lost his right flipper from fishing wire. **Next:** Tourists watch this Hawaiian green from a distance, giving it space at Turtle Beach, Oahu. **p. 44 Top:** Turtle Beach is a popular tourist spot in Oahu because the Hawaiian greens come up and bask in the sun. **p. 44 Bottom:** The Honu Guardian educates a group of tourists visiting Turtle Beach, on Oahu.





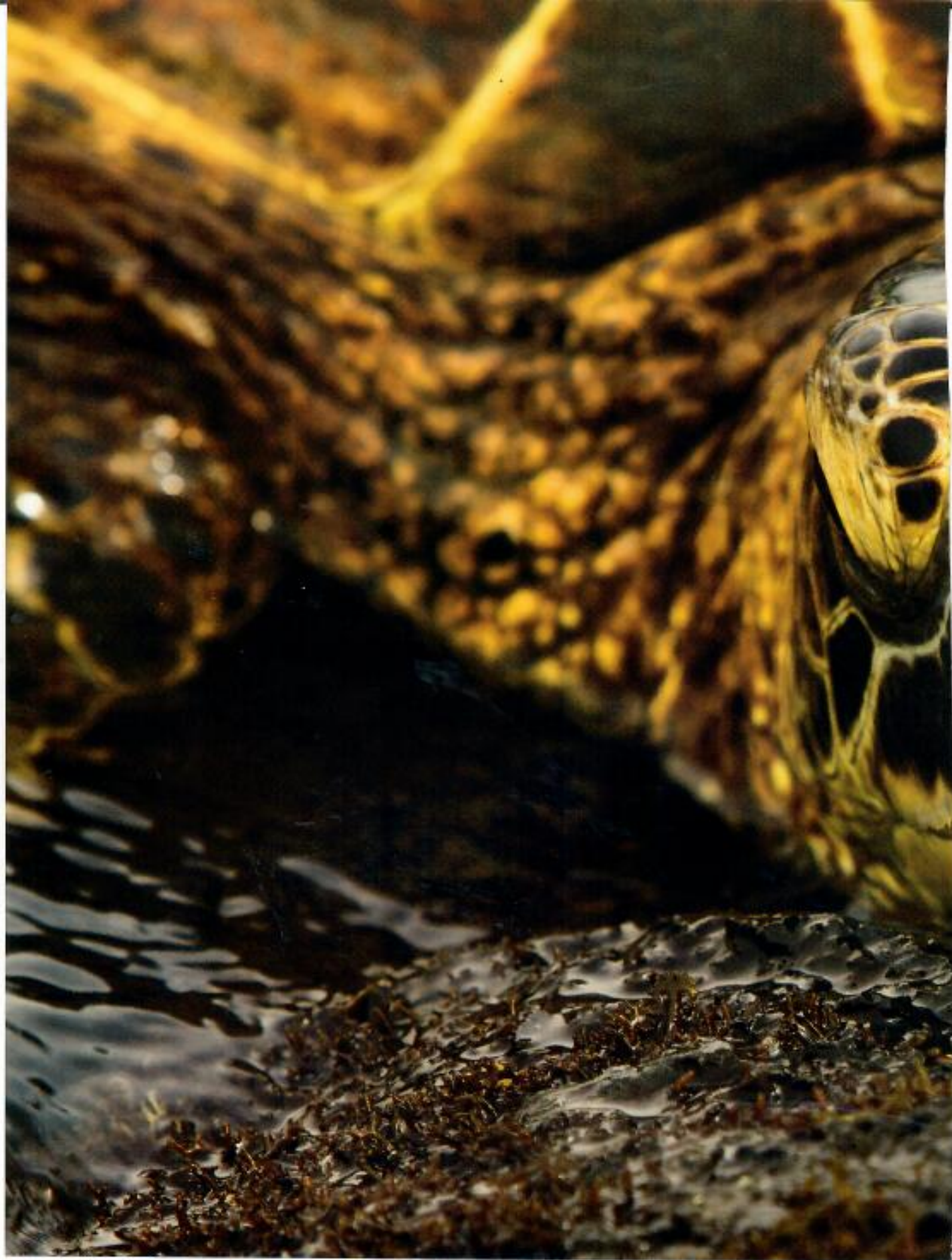








p. 45: The Honu Guardians lay out ropes to create physical boundaries for the tourists to keep a distance from the Hawaiian greens at Turtle Beach, on Oahu. **Top Left:** A Hawaiian green swims around the shore at high tide on Turtle Beach, Oahu. **Bottom Left:** Tourists watch a Hawaiian green swimming through the wave at Turtle Beach, Oahu. **Above:** One of the volunteers for Malama na Honu at Turtle Beach, Oahu. **Next:** A Hawaiian green rests his head on a rock at Kahalu'u Bay, on the Big Island.





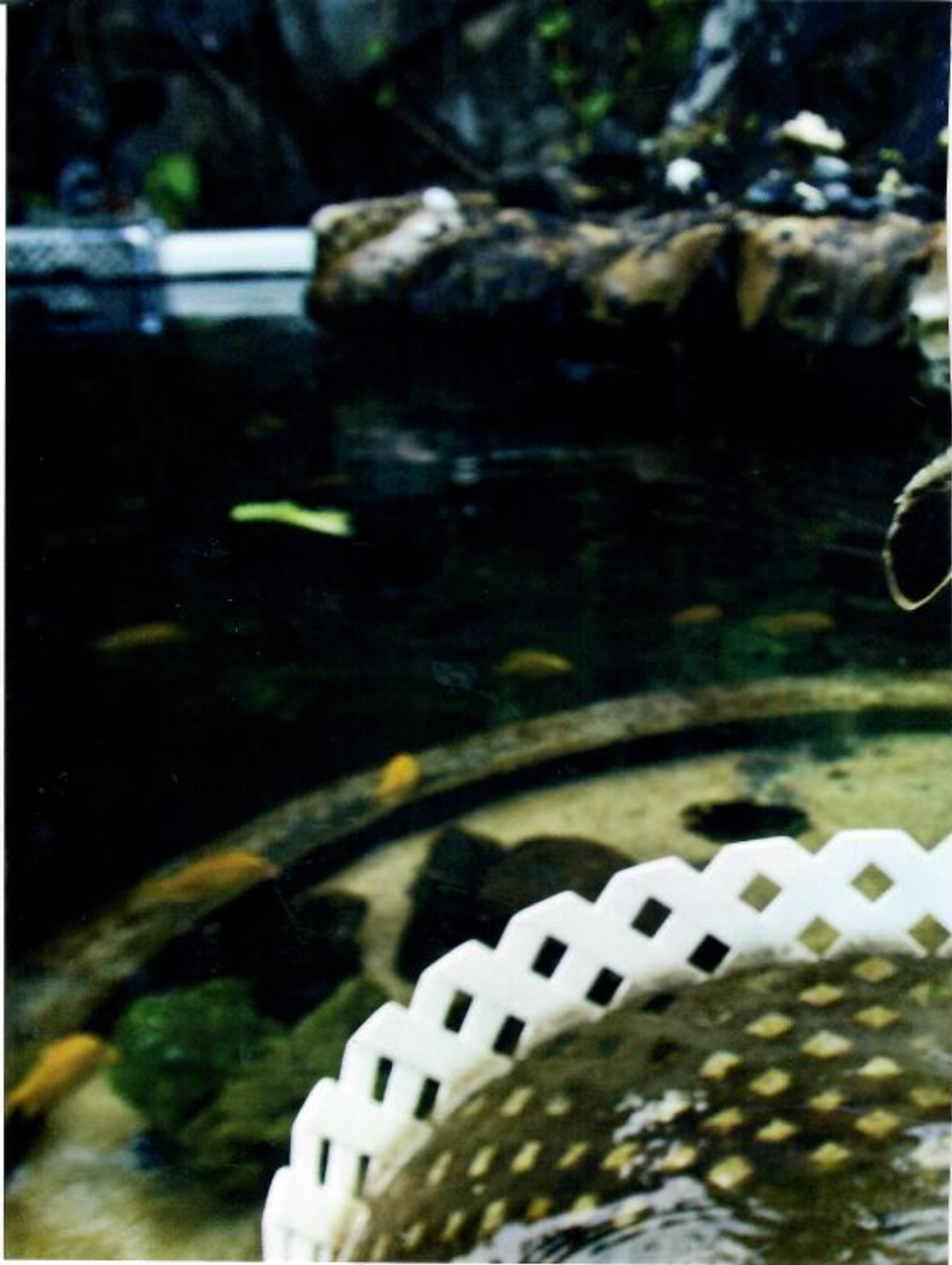


Education

Malama na Honu and Reef Teach are both volunteer-based programs that protect the sea turtles on Oahu and the Big Island, respectively. Sea Life Park is an interactive educational animal park that hosts a Hawaiian green breeding program. Both programs focus on education. Most people don't want to harm these animals and once they are made aware they can stop their potentially damaging behavior.

But first they must learn.

Concerned citizens, marine biologists and students have gathered to educate the tourists to help fix the problems sea turtles are facing. The high standards of conservation on the islands has made a great impact. Hawaiian green sea turtles have had the greatest come back besides the grey whale, says Don Heacock, Hawaii's Aquatic Biologist.



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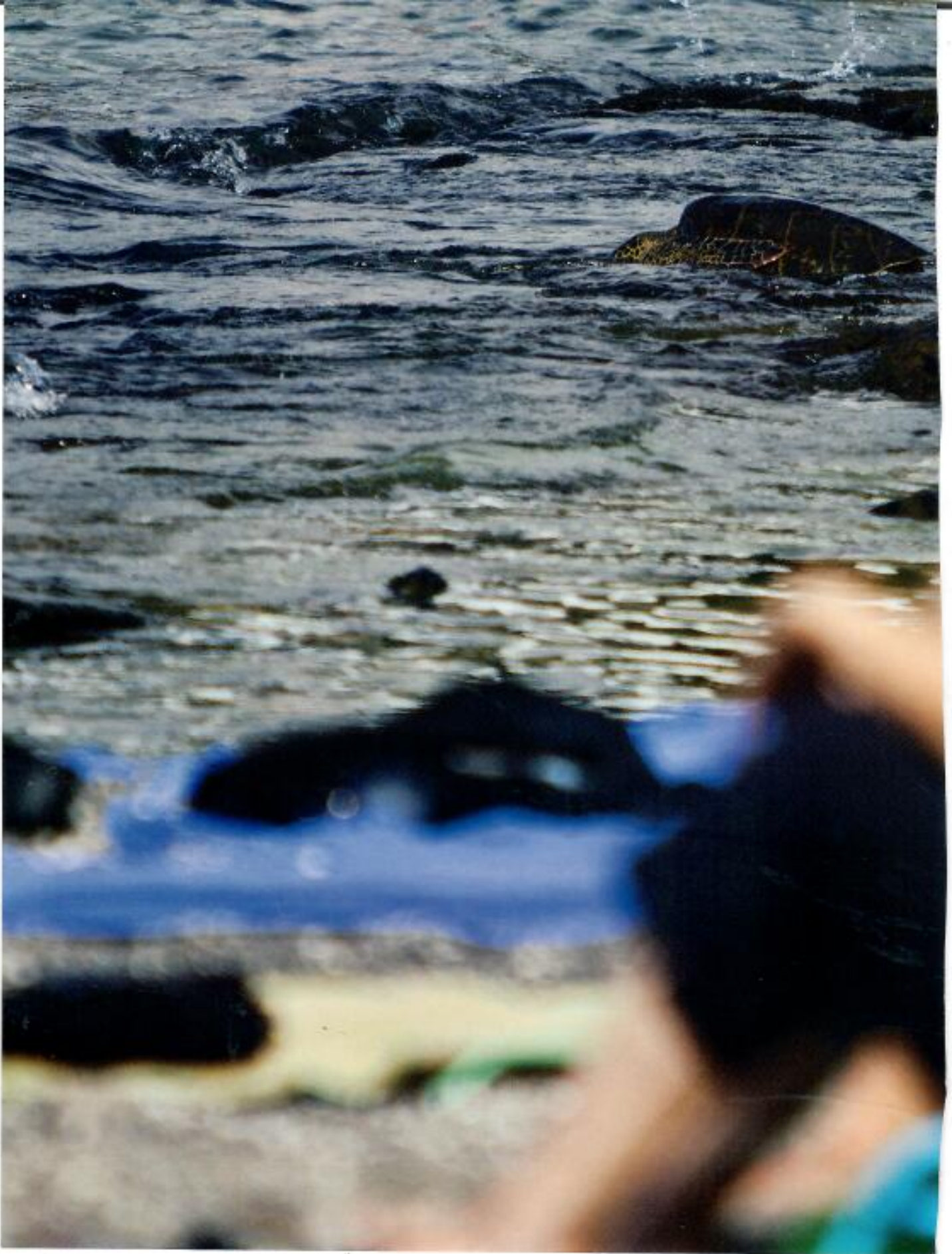
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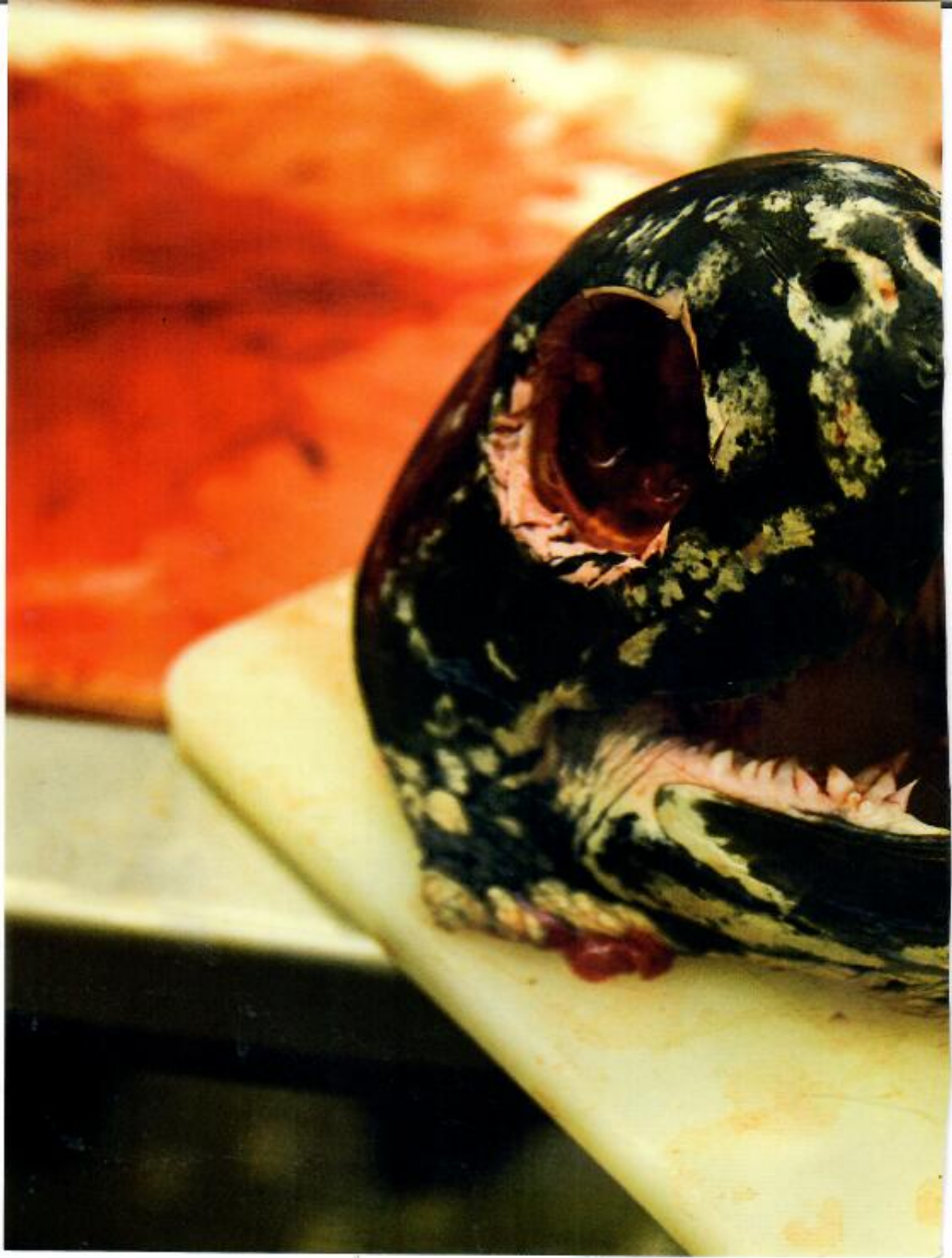
p. 50: Sea Life Park in Oahu has a Hawaiian green breeding program. The turtles in these tanks are 6 months old. **Previous:** One of the 6-month-old Hawaiian greens in the touch pool at Sea Life Park in Oahu. **Top Left:** Reef Teachers show tourists their snorkeling etiquette pamphlet at Kahalu'u Bay, Big Island. **Bottom Left:** The Reef Teachers at Kahalu'u Bay, Big Island, keep track of all the different visitors they have at the bay. **Above:** Kahalu'u Bay on the Big Island is a very popular tourist beach that is home to many Hawaiian greens. **Next:** The Hawaiian greens that live at Kahalu'u Bay rest in the shallow water, exposed like rocks.







Left: Little is known about the juvenile leatherback because they spend that time period of their lives out in the deep ocean. To learn more about the turtles, biologists conduct a necropsy (an examination and dissection of a dead body). They begin the dissection by opening the leatherback up from its underbelly. **Next:** Every part of the leatherback is used for science to educate. The eyes are sent to a specialist in Florida to determine the age by dissecting the lenses. **p. 62 Top:** The esophageal papillae that are pronounced in leatherbacks, which help the food go down the throat and squeeze excess water out the nostrils. **p. 62 Bottom:** This juvenile leatherback has glands on the side of its body that are different than adults. **p. 63 Top:** Findings and discoveries are discussed, comparing it to previous text that have been written. **p. 63 Bottom:** Using an ultrasound, they look at the different fat layers in the neck. **p. 64:** Taking some skin samples for further testing and research. **p. 65:** Measuring and documenting a dissection in the shoulder of the leatherback.







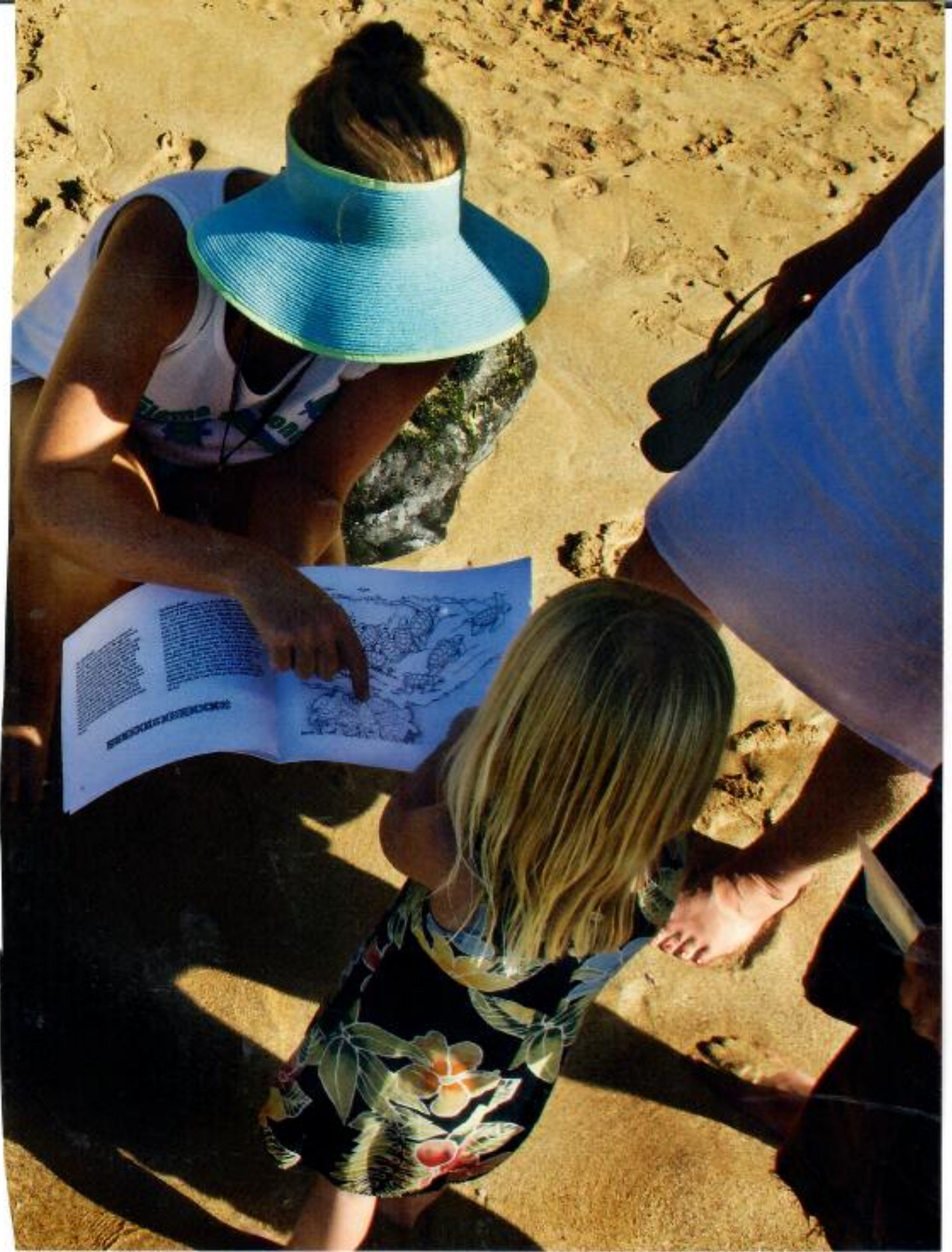
Top Left: Marine Biologist Marc Rice, an instructor at Hawaii Predatory Academy (HPA) on the Big Island, is head of the Sea Turtle Research Program. **Bottom Left:** The high school students at HPA work hands-on with sea turtles doing conservation and research projects in Hawaii as well as on some international trips. **Next:** At Turtle Beach, Oahu, the Honu Guardian, gives a coloring book to a young girl to teach her more about sea turtles and the ocean environment, which is written in Hawaiian and English. **p. 70-71:** Tourists posing for a photo next to a Hawaiian green at Turtle Beach, Oahu.

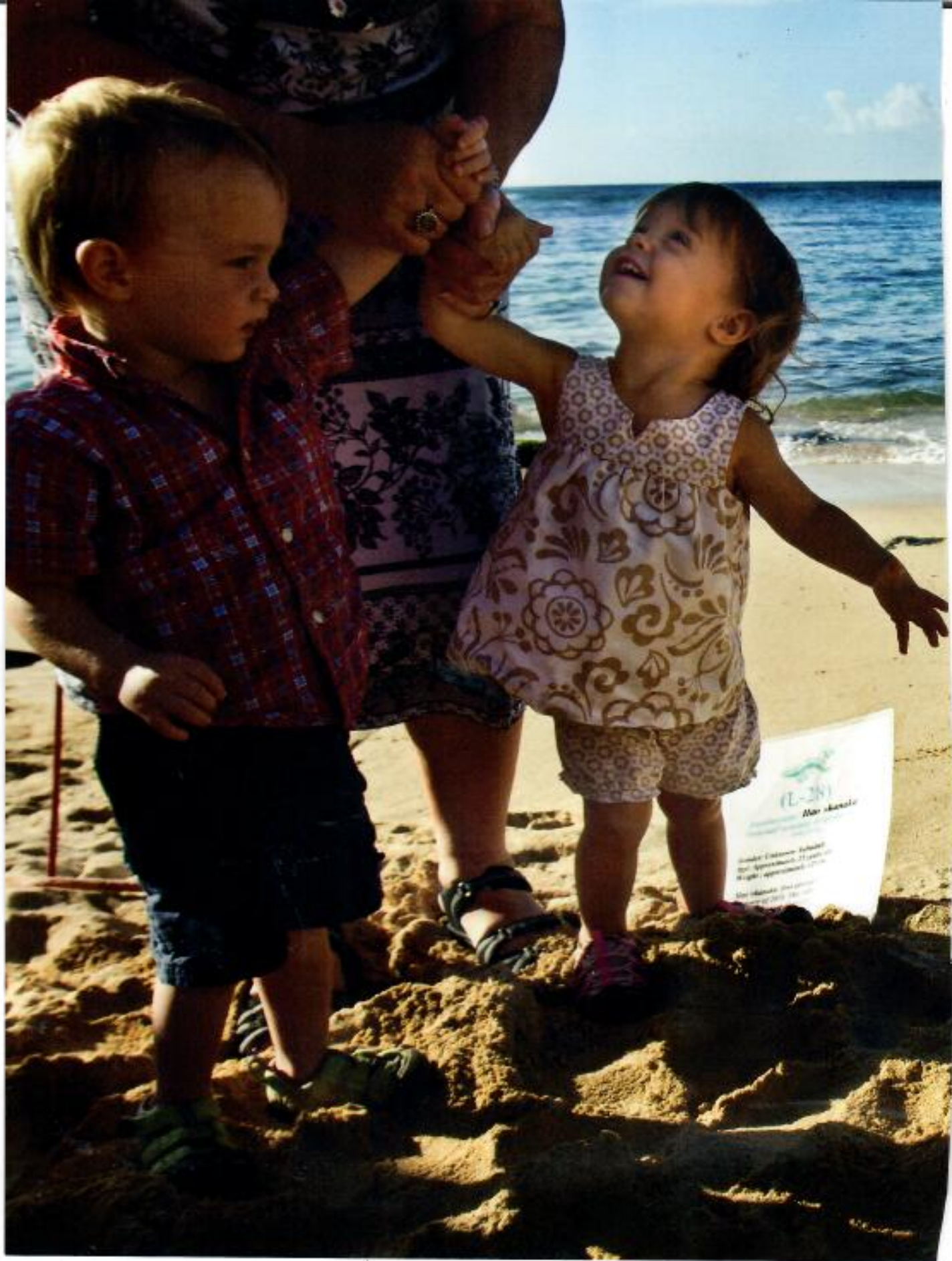




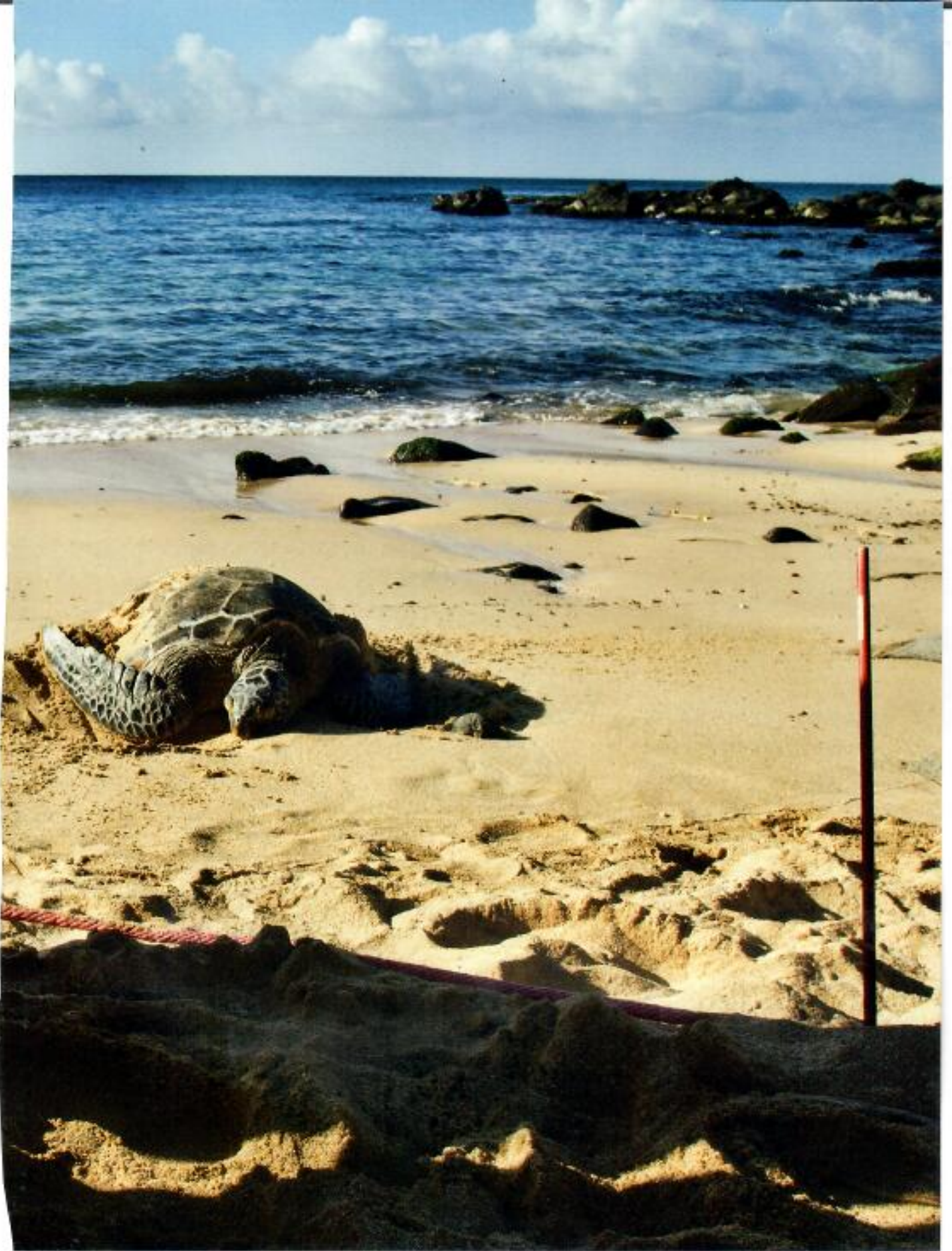









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Sea Life Park

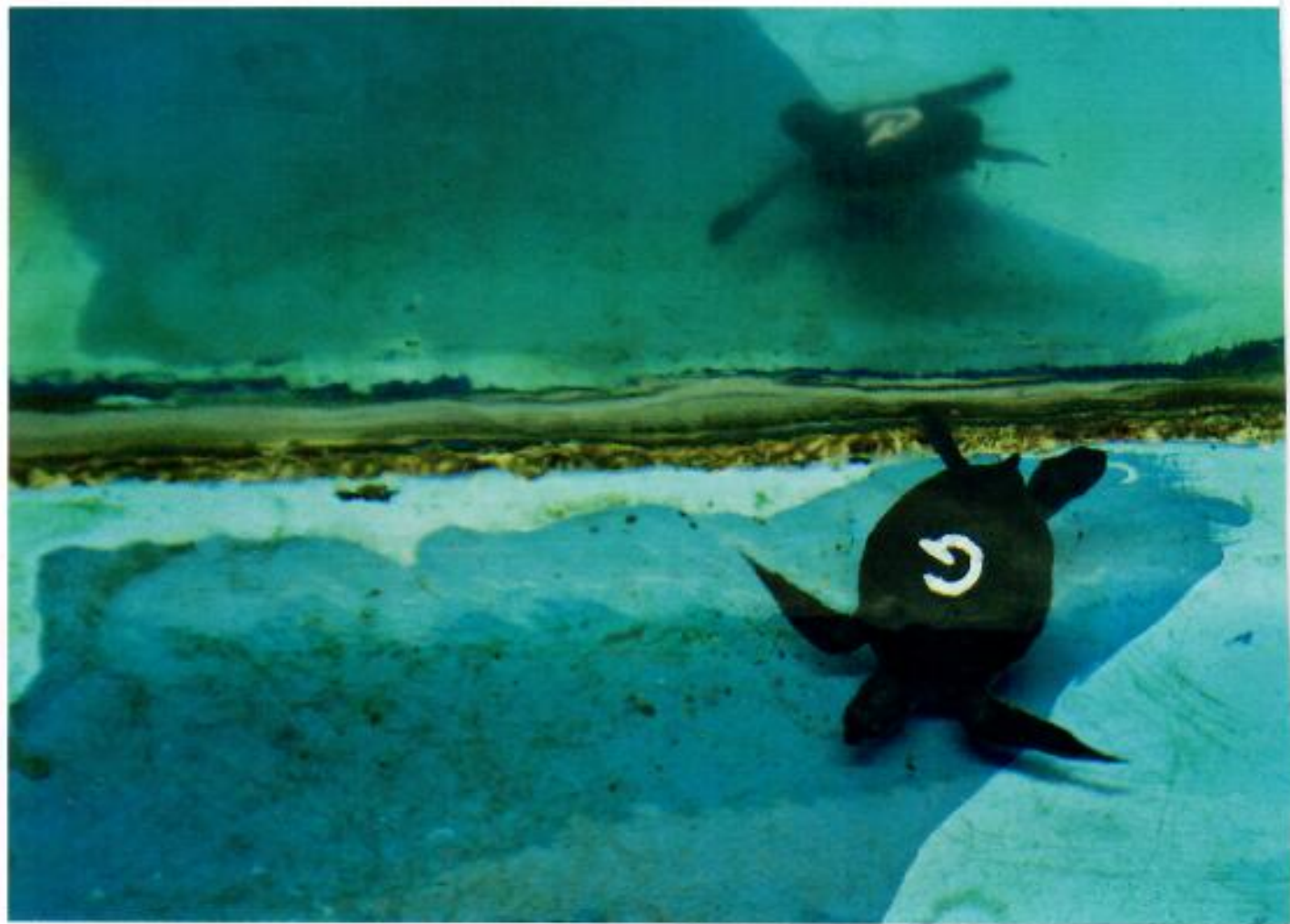
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I have wanted to tell this story about sea turtles for years because of my passion for their majestic beauty, strength, curiosity and overall importance as a species. Hawaii is the perfect location to explore this because sea turtles have been protected for over the last 30 years and are now thriving on the islands.

My hope is this book will educate people on the important role Sea Turtles play in our society and environment by showing the strong connection these animals have with humans and the environment. I want people to understand and appreciate this by showing respect for the animals by reducing the man-made threats that they face.

Photography is a very powerful medium and tool that I feel allows me to make this statement and hopefully strike a change within the viewers.



Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to my instructor Paul Myers for all the time he has given helping me achieve my vision. Your guidance made this book possible.

These photographs were possible because of the help of all the organizations I worked with in Hawaii, thank you.

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