

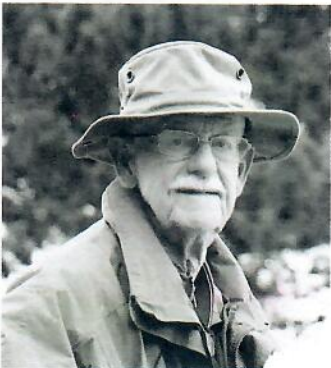


A green turtle takes a breath at the surface during sunset in Maui, Hawaii. © Renee Capozzola



### Bill Puleloa (1943–2022)

Bill was an aquatic biologist and an advocate for Native Hawaiian rights and traditional practices, having learned about his heritage from his maternal grandmother. He mentored dozens of young scientists, and he won the Mālama Kuleana Honua Award in 2012 for his lifetime of service and dedication to nature. Bill and his wife of 51 years, Linda, moved to the Marshall Islands in the 1970s, where their three children were born. While serving as director of fisheries there, he traveled throughout Asia and Oceania. Japan was a favorite, and he had many fond memories of visits to remote atolls in Micronesia, riding elephants in Cambodia, visiting rice paddies in Vietnam, and seeing relatives in Macao. Bill possessed true *pono* spirit and a heartfelt love of his people. "All humans are part of a shared resource," Puleloa said. "Our actions here on Hawaii—on Molokai even—do have an effect in other parts of the world. ... The more we respect our resources, the more special they become."



### Jim Stevenson (1933–2022)

A devoted lover of nature, Jim was a lifelong birder and photographer and he had a deep and abiding commitment to saving sea turtles. For three decades, he was part of the University of Central Florida's team monitoring the beaches of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, one of the greatest sea turtle conservation success stories in history. Attendees of the International Sea Turtle Symposia (ISTS) since the beginning, Jim and his friend of 42 years, Janet Hochella—the "J&J Turtle Team"—together won the ISTS Ed Drane Award for Volunteerism for their service aiding turtle projects from Topsail, North Carolina, south to Melbourne, Florida. In his youth, Jim was an avid hunter and fisher, and he served with the U.S. Navy, circumnavigating the globe on the *USS Heermann* from 1953 to 1957. He will be remembered for his boundless energy, enthusiasm, and inquisitiveness; for his love of sea turtles and commitment to nature conservation; and for his easy-going smile and steady hand at the tiller.



### Ricardo F. Tapilatu (1966–2022)

A talented marine scientist, Ricky dedicated much of his life to sea turtles. He was a PhD graduate of the University of Alabama, a Pew Scholar, and a Marine Turtle Specialist Group vice chair. As a professor at the University of Papua Indonesia, he spent decades engaged in efforts to protect the western Pacific leatherback, helping to document the long-term decline of this species and monitor its main nesting beaches. Ricky and his team studied incubation temperatures, hatching success, and sex ratios, and they modeled climate change impacts. He also built a local outreach and education program to engage community members in the work. A friend said of Ricky, "He had a childlike passion for protecting Papua's wonderful nature and a deep sense of adventure; he embraced 'carpe diem' with openness to new experiences and opinions and had the authority of a true leader. His crews at the leatherback beaches in Jamursba Medi and Wermon, true conservation heroes in their own right, all agree that sea turtles lost a major conservation warrior."