

Honu Rises

*Scaled, great limbs stretching from the
Blue-black deep, shining ebony
Layer upon layer of stone-hard shell*

*Sea bursts into mad turbulence
Peaks climb to rolling skyforms
An ancient back arches higher*

*Banded, crossed, leaping steams
From the depths. The old She-Turtle
Boiling up for the borning*

*Upon her arched shell myriads dwell
From her beak, blow-holes steam free
Clawed feet and legs claw the ocean under*

*Buoyed, she rides surf to shore
Beaches, marching inland, beyond high tide
Earth clawed aside, the nest made, eggs laid*

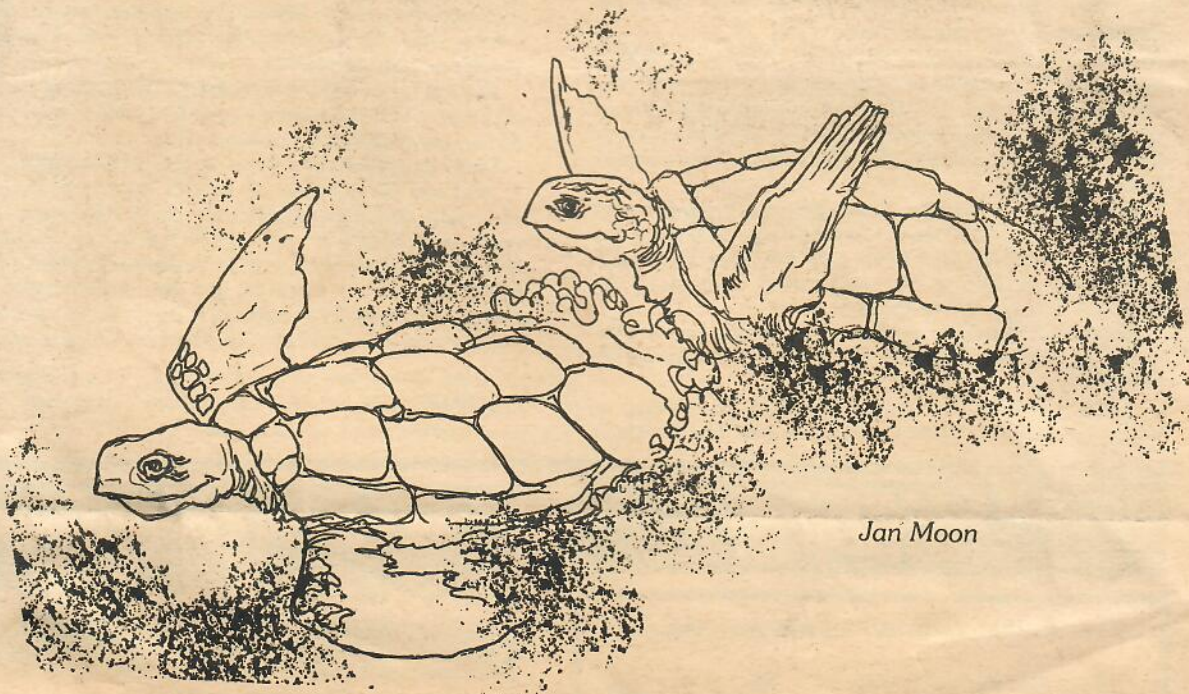
*Abandoned, the young must survive
Sun and predator birds, run or die.
An ocean closes over a mountain.*

*Hatched, young turtles race for the sea
Race for the sea or be devoured
Some few survive, mangled flesh of sacrifice*

*Peaks, suddenly climb to rolled back skies
New islands, new land rising
The land lives. The turtle lives.*

Aelbert Aehegma

(This poem appears in "Turtle Dance")



Jan Moon

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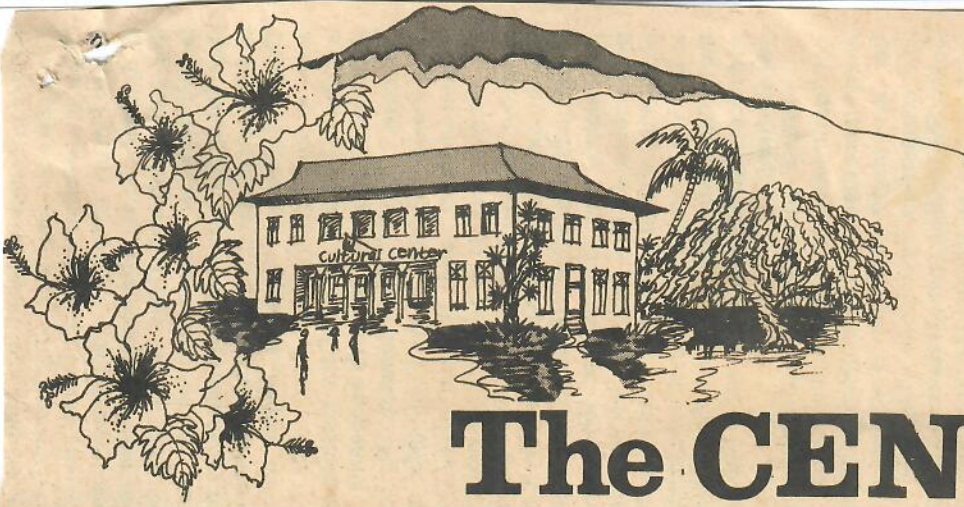
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Ha'aku'i Pele i Hawai'i
(Pele prevails on Hawai'i)