

APRIL 2, 1992
KAILUA-KONA, HI.

Aloha George -

I WAS TOLD OF YOU AND YOUR MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH PROGRAM BY MARIE MORIN HERE IN KONA. SHE AND I HAD MET AS A RESULT OF A POSITION I APPLIED FOR WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE / KOLOKO-HONOKOHAU (KONA). DURING THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION I HAD WITH HER, I MENTIONED A DIVE I HAD MADE BACK ON MAUI (SEE ENCLOSED REPORT & MAP), AND SHE SUGGESTED I PASS THE INFO. ON TO YOU. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT THE ADDRESS OR PHONE # (EVENINGS) PROVIDED.

MAHALO -

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March 29, 1992
Kailua-Kona

The dive that 'Turtle Land' was discovered on took place in August 1987 around 10:00 AM. The day was sunny and the ocean calm. The site was an area of coastline approximately one-half to one mile east of Hookipa Park on the north side of Maui (see map). Myself and two other divers swam on the surface out from the shoreline and submerged when we saw the side of the lava formation closest to the coast. The top part of the formation at this point was about 20-25 feet from the surface with the sand and boulder bottom around 35-40 feet deep. The formation extended approximately 75 yards seaward and was approximately 50 yards wide. At the seaward end the depth from the top of the formation was about 55-60 feet from the surface with the sand and boulder bottom around 85-90 feet deep. The formation had numerous fractures, shelf areas and a small cave on the end closest to the coast.

I estimated 200 turtles of all sizes (shells from 1 foot to 3 feet plus in length) interspersed over the area of the lava formation. Some were swimming, some sitting in various places on top of the structure, some under ledges as well as in the larger cracks and fractures. I also observed perhaps a dozen or more individuals with evidence of GTFP, most of these were larger animals (shells from 2 feet in length or bigger), the tumors being located mostly on the neck, on top of the head or on facial areas of the turtles.

The turtles seemed to take little notice of us and either stayed in their habitat resting or slowly swam away if we approached closely. Most animals were solitary with only infrequent groups of two or three animals next to each other under ledges or out in the open. No observations of courtship, mating, aggressive or feeding behavior were noted.

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8/87

OCEAN

COASTLINE

WINDSURFING
AREA

HOOKIPA
PARK

BEACH

SURFING
AREA

PARKING
LOT

BARBED-
WIRE FENCE

HWY 36

LAND

APPROXIMATE
LOCATION OF
DIRTY ROAD TO
OCEAN

GRASS
FIELD

LOCKED
GATE

XXXXXXXXXX

GRASS FIELD

TO
PAHA

TO
HANA

Small Building

APPROX.
150 YDS
YDS. = YARDS

~35'-40'
DEPTH
AT SAND
BOTTOM

LAND
APPROX.
75 X 50
YDS.

TURTLE

*ENTIRE
FORMATION IS
UNDERWATER*

~50'-75'

SAND

~50'-75'

SAND

SAND

~85'-90'