

*Handwritten:*  
Hau's  
to PS  
Return a copy  
to me

COPY

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5834  
FAX #(808)243-5833  
November 9, 1998

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
Emily Gardner, Endangered Species Specialist

From: *Sh*  
Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist

Subject: Beached Green Turtle Near Kahului Beach Road  
(Outside of Kahului Harbor)

This morning, I received a report of a decomposing turtle on the shore next to Kahului Beach Road (before the Kanaloa intersection). At first, the caller asked if he could keep the turtle shell. I told him he couldn't keep the shell.

I inspected the carcass and found the turtle was shark bitten. Maggots were abundant on the shark-bitten hind area. The right front flipper, both hind flippers and tail appeared to have been bitten off. The left front flipper had a metal identification tag (U-787) with instructions to write HIMB University of Hawaii 96744. A plier was used to remove the tag. The turtle had tumors on its head and neck. Barnacles were present on its shell and head.

The shark bitten curve carapace length measured 78 centimeters. The curved carapace width was 93 centimeters. I contacted the DOCARE Office by radio and asked that they inform the County Public Works Department for assistance in removal of the carcass. Slide photographs of the carcass were taken. I wrapped the turtle with a piece of rope found on the beach and tried to mark the location of the turtle with some black plastic floats.

George Balazs of the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory was informed of this second tagged turtle. The recovered tag will be sent to them later.

c: DOCARE - Maui  
George Balazs, NMFS  
Margaret Dupree, NMFS  
Karen Rosa, FWS

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5834  
FAX #(808)243-5833

July 22, 1998

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
Emily Gardner, Endangered Species Specialist

From: *Sh*  
Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist

Subject: Hook Removal From Green Turtle in Makena (Near Maui Prince Hotel)

At 10:00, I met Mr. Chris Quarre from the Maui Ocean Center at a parking lot next to the Maui Prince Hotel. We swam out to meet the vessel Prince Kuhio.

Around 11:10, together with Chris, Mr. Todd Winn, Mr. Wil Copeland, and Captain Mike Peavy on the Prince Kuhio, we grabbed one of two green turtles seen with hooks. I tried cutting the hook with my pliers. The hook was too big and the pliers could not cut the barb. We swam the turtle to the back of the vessel and placed it on the swim platform. Captain Peavy used a bolt cutter to remove the stainless steel hook.

Due to the moderate choppy conditions, no measurements were taken and the turtle was released after the hook was removed.

I estimated the turtle to weigh around 90 pounds. It appeared to be very healthy. There were no tags, tumors or barnacles.

This turtle was not the originally targeted animal. The one I observed on Saturday was absent. That animal was more than 150 pounds.

I informed DOCARE, the beach activities center at the Maui Prince Hotel and the Pacific Whale Foundation prior to our attempt to remove the hook from the turtle.

c: George Balazs, NMFS  
Margaret Dupree, NMFS  
Karen Rosa & Kiti Jensen, FWS



# Oceanit Laboratories, Inc.

environmental & coastal engineering services • research & development

Attach  
memo  
to Nitta

Mavi

TO: Mr. GENIE NITA  
 COMPANY: NMES  
 PHONE: 973-2987  
 FAX: 808-943-1297

FROM: Bob Bourke  
 PHONE: (808) 531-3017  
 FAX: (808) 531-3177

DATE: June 23  
 TIME: 10am

PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE: 4

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL (808) 531-3017.

COMMENTS: Here is the text & data sheets  
 for the Turtle Observers for  
 Kānāpali North Beach.

Your comments please!

Mahalo  
 BB

## Ka'anapali Beach Turtle Survey

### Background

TIDES

The purpose of this survey is to show whether or not sea turtles crawl onto the beach and, if they do, whether or not they lay nests on the beach. The area surveyed will be the sand beach from the Kahikili Beach Park, north to the condominiums on Honokowai Point. The beach will be surveyed twice nightly from June through August 1997. One survey will be done between 10pm and midnight, and another just before sun-up, (4:30 - 5:30 am).

### Survey Instructions

Equipment to take on the survey walk: Camera, Turtle survey record sheet, Turtle sighting record sheet, flashlight.

The survey begins at Kahikili Beach Park.

1. Log in at the Park key station and note the time on the survey record sheet.
2. Walk along the beach just above the high rush of the waves from one end to the other looking at the sand for signs of turtle tracks. Do not use flashlight during the walk unless needed for your own personal safety due to darkness.
3. Log in at the mid-point (tree trunks) and end-point key stations and note the end-point time in your turtle survey record sheet. Return to the park by way of the dirt road behind the sand dunes.
4. During the walk count the number of people along this stretch of beach. Make note of any major "party" or unusual activity on the beach or in the sand dune area.
5. If any turtle tracks (but NO turtle) are seen on the beach these should be documented with several photographs taken from 5, 10, and 15 feet away from the tracks. Note the location of tracks along the beach make a sketch of where they go up and down the beach and call Bob (808-256-2057) or Rich (874 0264) immediately. *Eugene Nitta the next day*
6. If a live turtle is seen out of the water on the beach do not attempt to take a flash photograph or approach the turtle. Document the sighting location on both data sheets. Call Bob or Rich immediately. In the morning after the turtle has returned to the ocean, take pictures of the turtle tracks.
7. Following each daily survey, purchase a morning paper, place it on the ground unfolded front page up, and take its picture with a camera height of about 4-5 feet above the floor.

Nesting turtles frighten easily. It's against Federal law to harass sea turtles by approaching too close, by startling them with bright lights or camera flash.



Oceanit Laboratories, Inc.

environmental & coastal engineering services • research & development

# KA'ANAPALI BEACH TURTLE SURVEY RECORD SHEET

DATE	START TIME (PARK)	am	pm	END TIME CONDOS	RETURN TIME (PARK)	# TURTLE TRACKS	# TURTLES	# PEOPLE	COMMENTS	INIT
/ 197	..	am	pm	..	..					
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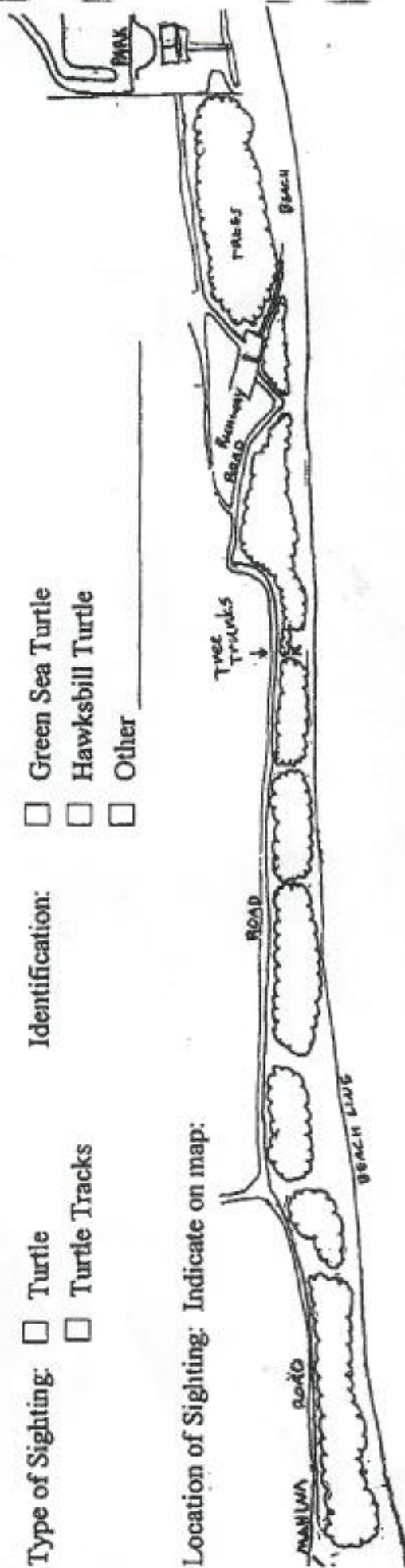
Reminder: Take a picture of the newspaper front page at the end of every night shift.

# TURTLE SIGHTING RECORD SHEET

Guard Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

- Type of Sighting:  Turtle  Green Sea Turtle  
 Turtle Tracks  Hawksbill Turtle  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Sighting: Indicate on map:



Turtle Tracks drawing:



Photographs of Turtle Tracks. Photo Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

**CAUTION: Do not photograph or approach any turtle out of the water.**  
 CONTACT: Bob Bourke 1-808-256-2057 or Rich Green 874 0264 as soon as possible.

Date: Thu, 26 Jun 1997 08:02:23 -1000 (HST)  
From: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
To: Eugene Nitta <enitta@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Kaanapali Survey- Bob Burke

Gene- I read it this morning and do indeed have some important comments for you. First, the twice nightly to look for tracks and evidence of digging is totally unnecessary. One walk, at first light is completely adequate. By not relaying this to Burke, he/his company could draw the assumption that you/we/nmfs agree that two are needed- hence "approve." After all, he has given the document to you for review.

Second item- take a "pitcher" of the morning paper? This sounds ridiculous, even when spelled correctly. The purpose of this in the survey protocol needs to be stated. Again, later the company Burke works for may say that NMFS received a pre-copy of the "protocol" hence must have "approved." So something should be said to him about this.

Third and last, I strongly recommend that item 5 have included that NMFS and FWS ALSO be immediately notified following any sighting of tracks or nesting or turtles ashore. If needed, my 942-1276 number with phone recorder for strandings can be one of the contact numbers at NMFS for this purpose.

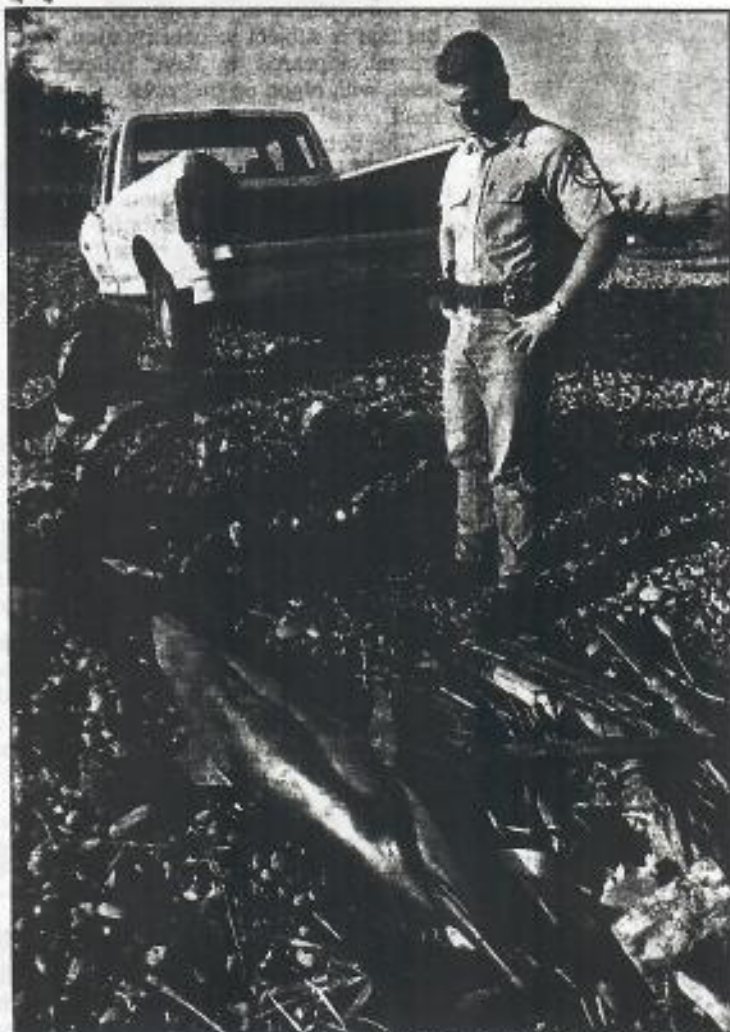
```
*****  
*           George H. Balazs, Leader           *  
*   Marine Turtle Research Program           *  
*   National Marine Fisheries Service       *  
*           Honolulu Laboratory              *  
*           2570 Dole Street                  *  
*   Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396 USA         *  
*           Tel:(808) 943-1240                *  
*           Fax:(808) 943-1290                *  
*Email: gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu*  
*                                           *  
*****
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now that the Goodfellow Brothers Inc. construction firm has been awarded an \$8.6 million contract.

Administration officials reported that the bid was nearly \$4 million under the \$12.5 million cost

for more play equipment, picnic tables, barbecue grills, benches and bicycle racks.

In any case, he said, the money will provide the county additional leeway in the event of unexpected expenses and cost over-runs.



The Maui News / EUGENE TANNER photo

Larry Pacheco, a conservation officer with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, looks over a dead spinner dolphin that washed up on shore on the Paukukalo side of the Kahului Harbor breakwater this morning.

## Dolphin, turtle perish

KAHULUI — An injured spinner dolphin washed up on shore near the Kahului breakwater this morning and died shortly after. Just a few feet away, a young green sea turtle with a rope wrapped around its front left flipper was also found dead.

Officers from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources responded to the site on the Paukukalo side of the breakwater after the dolphin was spotted by a local fisherman, who called police.

DLNR Conservation Officer Larry Pacheco said his office was contacted at about 6:30 a.m. and when they arrived at the scene, the dolphin was still alive, flapping weakly on the rocky shoreline, but

See DOLPHIN on the next page

THE MAUI NEWS

(over)



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## race

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ld affect the number and lo-  
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of Latinos and African  
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ight be someone who is  
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## Dolphin and turtle found dead at Kahului Harbor

Continued from Page A1

died shortly thereafter.

DLNR biologist Skippy Hau said the animal appeared to be a spinner dolphin, but that is subject to confirmation. The animal appeared to have injured its beak, with blood on the rocks around its head.

The dolphin was wrapped in a blue tarp and loaded into the back of a DLNR truck. Hau said he would contact the National Marine Fisheries Service to see if a necropsy needs to be performed.

Hau said the beaching of sick or injured dolphins is not too common, but it does happen. Pacheco said the dolphin might have run into something, causing the injury to the beak.

The green sea turtle found nearby had apparently been dead for a couple of days. It was not clear how the rope, a couple of feet long, became tangled on the flipper. Green sea turtles are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Hau said the turtle will be disposed of at the county landfill.

Also helping to retrieve the dolphin and sea turtle this morning were DLNR Conservation Officer Scott Shero-Amba and volunteer officer Joe Arias.

## OBITUARIES

### Eugene Tagawa, 59

Eugene Kazuo Tagawa, 59, of Lahaina, died April 2, 1997, at his residence.

A funeral will begin at 1:45 p.m. Saturday at Nakamura Mortuary. Burial will follow at Maui Memorial Park. The family requests casual attire.

Mr. Tagawa was born June 13, 1937, in Lahaina. He was employed by the County of Maui for 29 years and retired as a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his wife, Il Suk, and a son, Eugene James Kazuo of Honolulu.

## CORRECTIONS

■ **Block grant.** The County Council meeting to consider a Community Develop Block Grant request for the Maui Redevelopment Agency is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Friday, April 11. The wrong date was given in a story on Page A3 Monday.

The Maui News apologizes for the er-

4/4/97 AH

# Injured dolphin beached on Maui coastline

Star-Bulletin staff

WAILUKU — An injured spinner dolphin was found along the coastline outside Kahului Harbor yesterday but died within 35 minutes of discovery.

The dolphin, about 6½ feet long, was lying along the high-tide debris line, across from the county's horseshoe pit.

It was discovered by a fisherman who notified the police at 8:15 a.m. yesterday, law enforcement officers said.

The officers applied wet towels to the dolphin to keep its skin moist. It died at about 8:45 a.m. The dolphin had a gash over its left eye and

was bleeding from the mouth.

"It looks like he ran into something," said Larry Pacheco, a state conservation enforcement officer.

State aquatics biologist Skippy Hau said the dolphin apparently came in during a high tide. Hau said he was unable to determine the cause of death.

Spinner dolphins are frequently seen swimming near Honolua Bay in northwest Maui and Lanai.

It was found about 50 feet from the ocean.

Nearby was the 2-foot green sea turtle that had been dead for a couple of days. A rope was attached to the left front flipper.

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
March 4, 1997

To: Turtle File  
From: *Sh*  
Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Turtle Observation

Ms. Suzy Friedman (Ph.#669-5369) reported a "green" turtle about a foot long with white markings on its flipper and shell in Kapalua Bay. I asked if they looked like bumps or tumors. She did not think they were. It would be very difficult to tell what it is unless I see it. She also said it did not appear to have difficulty swimming.

Yesterday, she observed the turtle around 17:00 feeding on algae on the bottom. She was also concerned that there were too many people not giving enough room for the animal. I explained that the turtle might be comfortable with people in this very popular swimming area. By having her able to watch it indicates the turtle has become accustomed to people and is not threatened by their presence.

Last week, I collected algae specimens from inside the Bay and did not see any turtles.

c: DOCARE - Maui  
G. BALAZS

Received  
3/17 #384

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW FORAGING SITE FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
SEA TURTLES ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI

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R.G. Mahurin

Box 358

Lahaina, Maui, HI

96767

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ms mod Dec 9 1976

The study breaks down when more than five  
turtles are present, but the information  
may be of use.

## ABSTRACT

The following is a traditional study in Biology based upon observation of native Hawaiian turtles on the island of Maui at a new foraging site on the West Side. These data suggest native Hawaiian turtles are indeed a threatened species in need of protection, not only from man, but new environmental pressures. Greater efforts are needed to educate the public about sea turtles, whose natural feeding habits offer a ready opportunity for poaching, which is documented in these data. Some data suggest sea turtle feeding patterns change in response to temperatures, with nightly drops into the 60's prompting extended morning feedings. Whatever the cause, research at multiple sites in near shore waters documents the rapid occupation of certain feeding and resting sites with no historical record of such use.

This study was not planned, but its importance has become self-evident as the authors have spoken with various interests within the community, ranging from strict conservationists to disregard because of a supposed correlation between the presence of large sea turtles and shark attacks. The same correlation can be made between the number of surfers and shark attacks, or drug use among surfers and shark attacks.

Chance prompted this study, which accounts for the lack of data during the early phase of the work. All observations were made at two sites 300 meters apart just south of Launiupoko park on the southwest side of the island of Maui. The beach itself is unremarkable, with boulders of all sizes forming a steep shoreline and a finger of rock bisecting the two ends of the foraging site. There is a high bank that limits access to the beach and prevents automobile headlights from shining directly on the beach. Consequently, the beach is quite dark and sporadically used.

The author speculates the geographic composition of the Hawaiian islands and the interplay of wind and tide bring a constant supply of invertebrates to the area of Maui where these observations were made. Local spear fishermen

have stated the water is brackish, suggesting strong currents. Observations show the largest gatherings of turtles always occurred in moderate surf with clear skies. Otherwise, there are not any obvious factors that account for gatherings in this specific place, though the foraging site is removed from any harbors and corresponding boating activity.

Because the author often sleeps on the beach several days at a time and does not want to attract attention, he uses no lights or fires. This in itself <sup>a</sup>my account for the arrival of Hawaiian sea turtles because the author's presence inhibits most fishermen.

The largest turtle to arrive and appear consistently was named Melrose. Melrose is female, this fact becoming known after four months of observation. Several weeks later, one of the smallest turtles to arrive and appear consistently was named Yentyl. By the second week of June a large group of turtles visited the site on a daily basis, usually appearing just before sunset. Without doubt the turtles were aware of the author's presence. In fact, on the fifteenth of July one author stepped into the water to cool off and was startled by Bebe and Bobo, two larger loggerhead adults who were always together. Bebe swam off immediately, but Bobo stayed within three meters for

almost a minute. Both turtles were observed foraging the following day.

By the end of August an entirely new group of turtles had arrived. They were generally smaller in size and in such number that it became impossible to specifically identify turtles. The authors are uncertain whether this is a natural progression, or the result of an intrusion by a group of Filipino fishermen with a 40 meter net. Bebe has not returned to the southern end of the foraging site since the intrusion, but Bobo occasionally strays south. Along with the new arrivals came different feeding patterns. It is significant that morning sightings only occurred after a steep drop in temperature, into the 60's F, and the intrusion of the Filipino fishermen with a net. More research is needed to clarify the issue.

During the first ten days of September two more intrusion, poaching, were observed, with a morning outing by Pacific Islanders definitely planned to capture turtles. In fact, turtles could be seen from the shore when the party placed a sixty meter net stretching off-shore. Since that time sightings at the southern end of the foraging site have been irregular. Further, the turtles appear more cautious, sticking their head out for a shorter time and surfacing behind waves so they would not be seen from shore.



Observations of native sea turtles on the island of Maui suggest a modest increase in number. This has been confirmed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on Oahu.<sup>1</sup> In their natural state sea turtles will gather at specific sites until forced to leave, either by a decrease in available food, or an increased human presence. The Launiupoko site had no turtles last year the author camped their regularly.

If native Hawaiian sea turtles do change feeding places periodically, establishing new foraging sites, and their number is increasing, a new beach management program or strategy is mandated. The author believes sections of beach must be closed entirely to humans, though this may not be practical. Currently there exists no mechanism to protect sea turtles from human interference, something which must be addressed if sea turtles are to thrive in Hawaii. The natural feeding patterns of native sea turtles makes poaching a serious threat. Unlike whales, which are here only part of the year, sea turtles are here throughout the year and can be hunted from the beach with relatively little effort. Further, sea turtles are facing

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<sup>1</sup>National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Honolulu Laboratory, 2570 Dole St. Honolulu Hawaii, 96822-2396

a new threat from cancer, a type of Fibropapillomatosis where more than 50% of certain populations are affected.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The cancer exists as fibroepithelial tumors which may be found at almost any location on sub adults and adults.

# Turtle Sightings by Month

May 1996

South End

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
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- 18
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- 23
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- 27
- 28
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- 30

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window of Melrose's arrival  
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# Turtle Sightings by Month

June 1996

South End

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 Yn
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Mel, Be, Bo, Ta, Yn
- 11 Mel, Be, Bo, Ta, Yn, Xx, Tu
- 12 Mel, Be, Bo, Ta, Yn
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17 Yn
- 18 Ta
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30

# Turtle Sightings by Month

July 1996

## South End

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
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7  
8 Yn 9  
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12  
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14  
15 Be, Bo  
16 Be, Bo, Ta, Yn  
17 Be, Bo, Ta, Yn  
18  
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## Turtle Sightings by Month

August 1996

South End

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19 Be, Bo, Ta, Yn
- 20 Ta, Yn
- 21 Ta, YN *Temperature drop to 60's*
- 22 TA, YN
- 24 BO, TA, YN, XN x 3
- 25 XN x 2
- 26 BO, TA x3, YN x 4
- 27 BO, Ta, Yn x 4
- 28 BO, TA, YN x 3
- 29 YN
- 30 TA, YN x 3
- 31 TA, YN x 3

# Turtle Sightings by month

## September

### South End

- 1 TA, YN x 4
- 2 TA, YN x 2
- 3 TA x 2, YN x 2
- 4 XN, YN, | Ta x 2, Xx,
- 5 TA, YN x 2

- 6
- 7 YN x 2, YN

- 8 XN, YN

- 9 XN

- 10 XN x2, YN x2

- 11 TA, XN, SM

- 13 TA, XN x 3, YN, SM,

- 14 TA, XN, SM

- 15 TA, XN x 2, YN

- 16

- 17 Xn | Xn

- 18 Xn x 2

- 19 XN

- 20 MEL, BE, BO, TA

- 21 Bo, Ta, Xn, Yn, Sm

- 22 Xn x 2, Sm

- 23 ---

- 24 Sm

- 25 Xn

- 26

- 27 XN

- 28

- 29

- 30

- 31

### [ North End

[BE, BO, TA, XN x 3]

[ TA x 2, XN ]

[ BO, SM x 7 ]

[ TA, XN x 3, YN, SM ]

[MEL, Be, Bo x 2, TA ]

[BO, TA x 2, YN]

[XN x 2, YN]

[TA, XN x 2 ]

[TA, XN, YN]

[XN ]

[ TA, XN x 2 ]

## **Ron G. Mahurin**

Box 358 • Lahaina, Maui, Hi. 96767  
808 669-1831

### Objectives

**Research/Project Development/Legal Analyst/International Relations**

### *AREAS OF INTEREST*

- Research
- Negotiating skills
- Client development
- Business Planning
- Property Management
- Grants/Proposals
- Customer Service
- Legal Analysis
- Quality Control/supervision
- Data Analysis
- Educator
- Written Communications

### *EDUCATION*

William Howard Taft School of Law -- Currently pursuing law degree, third year.

Ludwig Maximilians, Munich W. Germany -- Ph.D. Biology

San Francisco State University - Master of Arts, Cell & Molecular Biology

San Francisco State University - Double Science Major Biochemistry/Biology

### *FUNCTIONAL SUMMARY*

- ⇒ Contracted and built a laboratory, including instrumentation, to ensure quality control. Developed tracking procedures, trained and supervised 15 employees
- ⇒ Proficient in developing a client base. • Cold calling marketing techniques.
- ⇒ Series 6 and 63 Securities license for the state of California.
- ⇒ Involved in all aspects of a small business i.e., strategic planning, development, grant proposals, SBA interactions, project development, contract negotiations, tax planning, registrations, etc..
- ⇒ Property management; restored vintage 1860 home by hand, supervised four personnel.
- ⇒ Food preparation, storage; Cook II; Computer fluent. German.

### *PROFESSIONAL HISTORY*

*Pink Geisha, Lahaina, Maui, Hi. Owner, 1994- Present (Gardening)*

*Mango Cafe - 12/96 Pantry I*

*Chart House Enterprises, Lahaina, Maui. Kitchen Prep. 1993-Present*

*Niaad Services, Belmont, Ca. Owner, 1991-1992 (Gardening)*

*United States Army, Assigned to Field Station Berlin 1988-1990*

*First Investors, Wall Street, NY. Sales/Broker, 1987*

*Zimmer Paper Products, South San Francisco, Quality Control Director 1978-1980*

***willing to travel/relocate, references available upon request***



COPY

Shawn -  
TDPS  
Return a copy to me,

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES  
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone (808) 243-5294

December 2, 1996

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mr. William Devick, Acting Administrator  
FROM: Van Dacanay, Clerk-typist *VD*  
SUBJECT: Dead Turtle Recovery by Public Works-County of Maui

On the morning of 11/29/96, Kathy Smith, Manager of Kealia Refuge reported that the manager of Menehune Shores condominium in Kihei, called her to report a dead turtle. It was located on the beach near the old NOAA weather station, now the Whale Sanctuary Office.

Both Skippy and Brooks were on vacation, I contacted the County Public Works office to ask if they could pick-up the turtle carcass and dispose it. In the meantime I continued to get several more calls regarding the dead turtle. DOCARE personnel could not be contacted to assist in this matter.

This morning I contacted Gwen (Secretary of the County Highways Division), and she stated that the turtle was approximately 2-3 feet across the back and about 200+ lbs. It was covered with tumors and disposed at the County's landfill.

c: G. Balazs, NMFS

Sent



# PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION

101 N. Kihei Road, Kihei, HI 96753 • (808) 879-8860 • FAX 879-2615  
A non-profit center for marine research, public education and conservation

## FAX

TO: George Balazs

FAX #: 943-1290

FROM: Beth Pike

DATE: 10/15/96

TIME: 2 pm

RE:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

Be a part of helping to protect whales and their precious ocean habitat. Minimize use of household chemicals. Decrease use of disposables. Recycle and pick up litter on the beach. Do not participate in irresponsible whale-watching activities. Help support conservation programs and legislation that protects endangered species and their habitats.

Dear Mr. Balazs -

My name is Beth Pike and I am an intern for Meagan Jones here at Pacific Whale Foundation. I was writing to ask you a question regarding Green Sea turtles and Hawksbill turtles. Specifically, do you have any population estimates for either species, whether they are worldwide or just for the inhabitants of Hawaii? We are attempting to put together a brochure containing general information to be sent out in our replies to the large volume of mail we receive every day. Any information you could supply us with would be very helpful. You may reach either Meagan or myself at the phone number and fax number found above.

Thanks again!  
Beth Pike

Shawn  
TRPS

COPY

↓  
GB

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
September 23, 1996

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Large Dead Green Turtle by Waiehu Golf Course

On Sunday, 22 September 1996, DOCARE Enforcement Officer Stanley Okamoto reported that a large decomposing green turtle had washed up next to the Waiehu Golf Course. It appeared to have tumors and most of the shell plates were removed. The cause of death could not be determined.

This morning, I inspected the shoreline and found the carcass just past an iron wood tree. On the shoreline, there was a boulder with the number 12 painted in yellow. I placed a driftwood on the edge of the golf course green to mark the location. I estimated the length of the shell to be around 88 centimeters (less than 200 pounds). The Department of Public Works was contacted for disposal.

c: DOCARE - Maui  
G. Balazs, NMFS

MAUI

[45] From: Barbara Schroeder at -NMFS-5 11/29/96 2:21PM (2117 bytes: 1 ln)  
To: George Balazs at -NMFS-HONO  
Subject: Hawaii enforcement issues

----- Forwarded with Changes -----

From: Robert Ziobro 11/29/96 1:54PM (1431 bytes: 1 ln)  
To: Therese Conant, Barbara Schroeder, Karen Salvini  
Subject: Hawaii enforcement issues

----- Forwarded with Changes -----

From: Ann Terbush at -NMFS-4 11/29/96 1:41PM (848 bytes: 8 ln)  
To: Michael Payne at -NMFS-5, Robert Ziobro at -NMFS-5  
cc: Trevor Spradlin, Carol Fairfield, Pat Montanio at -NMFS-5  
Subject: Hawaii enforcement issues

----- Message Contents -----

This kind of stuff makes me crazy. George - do you have any enforcement concerns in Hawaii? Why doesn't he get briefed by you guys?

B.

Forward Header

Subject: Hawaii enforcement issues  
Author: Robert Ziobro at -NMFS-5  
Date: 11/29/96 1:54 PM

Any turtle stuff you want discussed? If so Barb you will need to go attend.

Forward Header

Subject: Hawaii enforcement issues  
Author: Ann Terbush at -NMFS-4  
Date: 11/29/96 1:41 PM

Victor Honda has been selected as the enforcement agent for the new marine sanctuary in Hawaii. F/EN has asked us to brief him on any enforcement issues/concerns that are likely to arise. This is part of a series of meetings that he will be having in Silver Spring next week. Trevor will be taking the lead on this for PR1, but welcomes participation from any other interested PR staff. The meeting will be Monday, December 2, at 1:30 in 13817. Please let Trevor or me know if you will be sending anyone from your division. Thanks!

THE FAMILY PLACE

# Science by air



Patty Miller and Ed McNulty scale the 9-foot-high model of a volcano they've built in a KHET studio. Miller, "the science lady," is a Department of Education distance-learning instructor, whose classroom is a TV studio. McNulty is her co-producer in a series of "KidScience" specials. Next week, a series on volcanoes debuts.

Cory Lumy  
The Honolulu Advertiser

## Science: TV offers potential for exploration

FROM PAGE C1

Mount St. Helens in Washington state to study its explosive March 1980 eruption and visited a Rotorua, New Zealand, a village actually built on a volcano.

"KidScience" also features twice-monthly mini-specials, in which Miller brings a science field trip right into the classroom. She might visit the current spider exhibit at the Bishop Museum, for example, or go on board an airplane to show how modern aviation works.

The Department of Education pays for some of this, but Miller has lined up help — either actual money gifts or services — from local companies and such organizations as the Bishop Museum and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate.

For example, GTE Mobinet has set up a really cool, live video link to Pu'o O'o, the vent on Mauna Loa volcano where things are happening now. A camera at the site, linked via a cellular phone to the Internet, can send pictures to the "KidScience" home page on the World Wide Web 24 hours a day for a month!

## 'KidScience' TV show enriches kids' education

By Wanda A. Adams  
Advertiser Features Editor

Do you know "the science lady?"

If you're a fifth- or sixth-grader you probably do.

And if you're the Mom or Dad of a fifth- or sixth-grader, you ought to know her. She may be one of your child's favorite — and most important — teachers, even though you never see her at your school's open house.

"The science lady" is the unofficial title given teacher Patty Miller, who comes into 56 percent of Hawaii's public school fifth- and six-grade classrooms four times a week — on TV.

Miller is the Department of Education's long-distance learning science specialist, and her program, "KidScience," is a student favorite, broadcast on the DOE's in-house educational channel from studios at Kalahehi High School.

Now anybody can see "the science lady" in a special KidScience series that starts next week (see box).

It's called "KidScience: Living on a Volcano," and anybody can watch. Mom and Dad can set the VCR so they can learn what their children are learning. And children in schools that don't get "KidScience," as well as home-schooled kids, can check out

**WHAT:** "KidScience: Living on a Volcano."

**WHEN/WHERE:** 9:15 a.m. Thursdays, Oct. 31-Nov. 21; KHET-Channel 11 (10 on Oceanic).

**KIDSCIENCE WEB PAGE:** <http://www.hisps.edu/kids/ks> so (on-line Oct. 31).



Teacher Patty Miller interviews volcanologist Margaret Mangan during a shoot for a new "KidScience" special that will air in schools around the country — including 95 percent of fifth- and sixth-grade classes in Hawaii.

participate in these classes in three different ways: by phone, by fax and via the Internet.

It all began in 1993: Miller wanted to take her classes a little further and joined up with KHET to make the first "KidScience" special, "Wayfarers." Her partner in these endeavors is Ed McNulty, executive producer/director for children and youth at Hawaii Public Television. "I bring television to Patty's curriculum," he says.

They used film that had already been made of the building of the voyaging canoe *Hawa'i'iloa*, and Miller and her students followed the *Hawa'i'iloa* on its voyage back from the Marquesas.

Students got to talk to navigators via satellite and to learn about both traditional and modern navigation.

Last year, the subject was water again, but this time, "Water Watch" taught about watersheds, wetlands and water conservation.

Miller and McNulty traveled to the source of the Colorado River, which supplies California with much of its water, and went to Buffalo, N.Y., to show how invading zebra mussels from Europe have begun to clog waterways all along the Eastern seaboard.

For the volcano show, Miller, McNulty and their crew went to Albuquerque, N.M., to see the results of ancient volcanic activity, traveled to the Big Island to see an active volcano, went to

See Science, Page C3

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326

October 14, 1996

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Green Turtle With Tumors and Cracked Shell  
Recovered From Spreckelsville, Paia

On Friday, 11 October 1996, a woman named Laila (Ph.#575-2921) reported a green turtle (~24 inches) with a cracked shell on a beach in Spreckelsville, Paia. I inspected the shoreline from Papaula Point. There were many windsurfers using the beach near the point.

I found the green turtle and placed it in a garbage bag. I carried it above the beach to one of the off-road trails for easier pickup. The female turtle had tumors on both eyes. The turtle was taken back to the office and kept in a container at the back of our office. The ~10-inch crack appeared to be caused by a windsurf skeg. The marks extended beyond the crack. The curved carapace length was 61.0 centimeters. The curved carapace width measured 54.5 centimeters. The estimated weight was around 65 pounds.

The container was covered and the turtle was checked over the weekend.

This morning, the large animal carrier was used to ship the turtle to Honolulu on Aloha Airlines.

c: George Balazs, NMFS  
DOCARE - Maui

COPY

STATE OF HAWAII  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Aquatic Resources - Maui  
130 Mahalani St.  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 243-5294

October 10, 1996

Memorandum

To: William Devick, Acting Administrator  
Through: Randy Honebrink, Education Coordinator  
From: Brooks Tamaye, Information Specialist *BT*  
Subject: Turtle Recovery at Menehune Shores

On 10/9/96, at 8:00 a.m., I received a call from a resident (Gloria 879-8266) of Menehune Shores Condominiums in Kihei. She reported a live turtle with tumors on the beach next to their complex; it had been sighted since 6:00 a.m.. Several others also called to report the same turtle.

I arrived in Kihei at about 10:30 a.m. after retrieving Skippy's truck from the airport. The turtle was located on the beach at the Koa Lagoon complex right next to the Menehune Shores. It was a large female green sea turtle estimated to weigh about 150 lbs. Many tumors were observed on its neck, front flippers and eyes. It appeared to be blind. No tags were observed. The turtle was weak and made no attempts to return to the water when approached.

The turtle was recovered with the assistance of a tractor and driver cleaning the beach of limu. Shawn Murakawa at NMFS was contacted and the turtle subsequently shipped.

c: G. Balazs, NMFS

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
October 7, 1996

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Green Turtle Recovered From Launiupoko

On Saturday, 5 October 1996, DOCARE Enforcement Office Larry Pacheco recovered a weak green turtle with tumors from fishermen. The fishermen found the turtle on the shoreline at Launiupoko. They called the Police Department who contacted Officer Pacheco. He picked up the animal in Maalaea and transported it to our Wailuku Office. The turtle was kept in a plywood box.

The turtle was checked over the weekend. This morning, arrangements were made to ship the turtle to Honolulu. The turtle had large tumors on its neck and small tumors on both eyes. The animal was still sluggish. The curved carapace length was 78.5 centimeters. The curved carapace width measured 73 centimeter.

The remains of 20 hawksbill turtle hatchlings were recovered near North Kihei Road this weekend. They were shipped along with the green turtle.

c: George Balazs, NMFS  
DOCARE - Maui



George ~

BO's 1st friend (amazing friend) was last seen on 11-20-95! Still 'missing' as of 9-1-96.

BO's 2nd friend actually started on 4-26-92 as 46" then was switched to 40" on 9-16-92 then was again switched to 44" on 8-22-93. So it was actually started less than one year later than the "amazing friend" tuttee.

I think that answers your questions. You had asked me to see you, too, but I know that can probably wait till later. Just let ~~me~~ me know.

Thnx!

John

Denise  
Shaw  
GMB

**RON G. MAHURIN**  
Box 358 • Lahaina, Maui, HI 96767  
(808) 661-0937

→ Forwarded to L.E.  
and Gere Hittz  
9/9/96

G BALAZS  
US Dept of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries

Dear DR. BALAZS

7 Sept 1996

An incident occurred this morning which is uncomfortable. At 6<sup>30</sup> AM A group of Pacific Islanders arrived just south of Launiupoko STATE PARK. Sea turtles were present in the water, close to shore. Even so, three adults put on snorkels and placed a very long net in the water. It was at least 40 meters in width. I asked the shore party of three children if they had seen the turtles when they arrived, and the eldest stated they had.

Clearly this is a violation of the endangered species act. Though I cannot prove these islanders were fishing for turtles, their placing of the nets so close to turtles was negligent to the point of unlawfulness. I would like them prosecuted under any applicable state or federal laws.

6<sup>30</sup> AM 7, September 1996

1982 Blue Nissan Truck, badly faded Lic # MWY 119. Hawaii plate

Please forward this letter to the appropriate Agency.

Sincerely  
R.G. Mahurin

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
December 5, 1995

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Green Turtle Recoveries From Jan. 1993 to Nov. 1995

I reviewed our turtle file and pulled data for green turtle recoveries. From 1993, Brooks Tamaye and I have responded to more than 75 turtle reports. This does not include animals which return to the ocean or was released. In some instances, the turtle was too large to handle. Shell measurements were taken whenever possible. Some turtles were taken care of by DOCARE Officers or the County Department of Public Works. In those instances, no assessment was done except for an approximate weight or shell size.

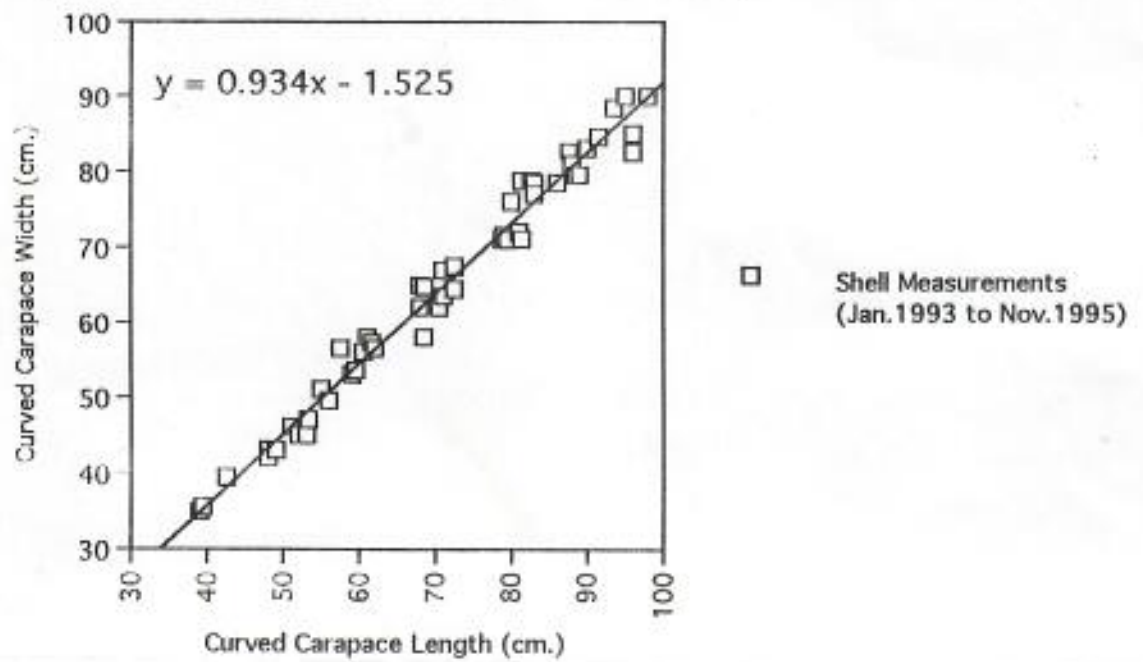
	Number Recovered	External Tumors	Recent Shark Bite
1993	28	12 (43%)	6 (21%)
1994	25	10 (40%)	2 (8%)
1995	22	17 (77%)	0 (0%)
Total	75	39 (52%)	8 (11%)

The average turtle we handled was around 70.7 centimeters curved carapace length and 64.7 centimeters curved carapace width. The average size was about 90 pounds. Whenever possible, we've shipped fresh and frozen turtles from 10 to 220 pounds to the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Roughly 80 to 90% of the turtles have been recovered from West and North shore locations. In the past eleven months, 17 or 77% of the 22 turtles were recovered with tumors. None of the dead turtles were shark bitten.

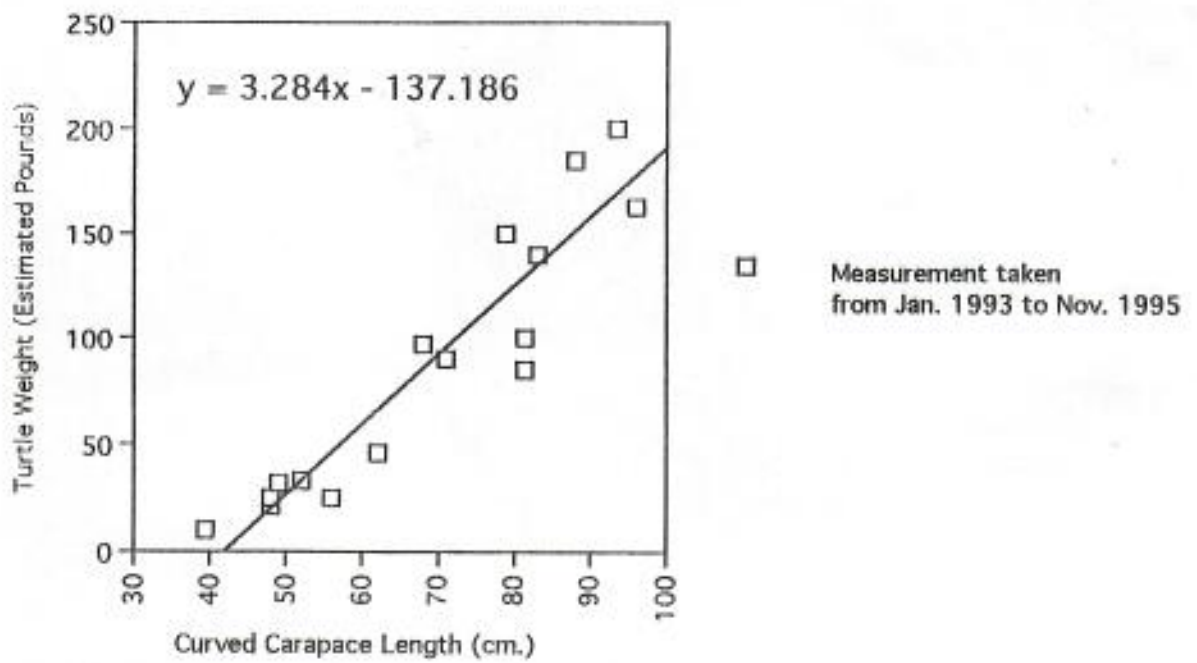
Using Cricket Graph, I ran a linear regression on the data for Maui turtles (See attachments). The data should be used with caution. Many of the recovered turtles were in an emaciated, undersize condition. Their weights were lighter than healthier specimens and the shell sometimes appeared shrunken.

c: NIBs  
George Balazs, NMFS

*Chelonia mydas* Shell Length to Width Relationship  
(1993 to 1995 Maui Turtle Recoveries)



Chelonia mydas Shell Length to Weight Relationship  
(1993 to 1995 Maui Turtle Recoveries)



**RON G. MAHURIN**

Box 358 • Lahaina, Maui, HI 96767  
(808) 661-0937

NMFS LAB  
2570 Dole St,  
Honolulu, HI

96822-2396

Thank you again for all the material you sent. I have been faithfully recording my turtle sightings and writing down as much as I can about the weather and such. It pains me to think that Melrose may have been the turtle that was hit by a car. Melrose has not been here for a while. In fact, the bigger turtles have been replaced by smaller ones, with a corresponding increase in number. After the first cold night, temperatures fell into the 60's, I noted morning sightings, which are common now but never occurred before. The little turtles are fun to watch, but not so moving as the big ones.

I tried to take some pictures with a disposable camera from logs. I cannot see anything in the evening pictures and the morning pictures were so dark they would not develop. Looking through that small camera lens waiting for a turtle to pop its head out of the water was work, and unfortunately fruitless.

Please send me any additional information.

Sincerely

Ron

## RON G. MAHURIN

Box 358 • Lahaina, Maui, HI 96767  
(808) 661-0937GibACAZS  
Dept of Commerce

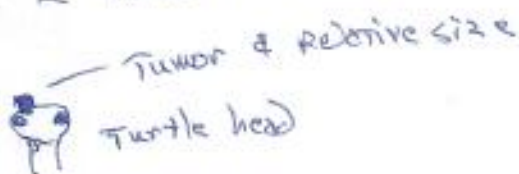
6 August 96

Unfortunately I had to make a copy from a street map because I gave my large topological map from the US Geological Survey away. I thought I was leaving Maui, but my interviews did not go as well as planned.

Yesterday I saw five turtles, with several smaller ones included. Most came by early. In fact, the turtles appeared earlier than usual. The general pattern is they patrol to the surf to about Laniupoko point, then turn around and go south until they meet up with another turtle. All the circled blue dots are where I have camped extensively over the past two years. I have never seen any turtles south of the Pii ~~Maha~~ Pahaalunui Ridge, which forms a cliff at the beach, a distinctive land mark, nor north of Laniupoko point. The shaded area seems to be the only place the turtles I see aggregate. They usually arrive when the sun reaches the top of Lanai. My guess is about 20° off the horizon.

Hope this helps you.

Most definitely the "last" turtle to arrive had Fibropapillomatosis. However I have seen this turtle only once.



Sincerely  
R. G. Mahurin

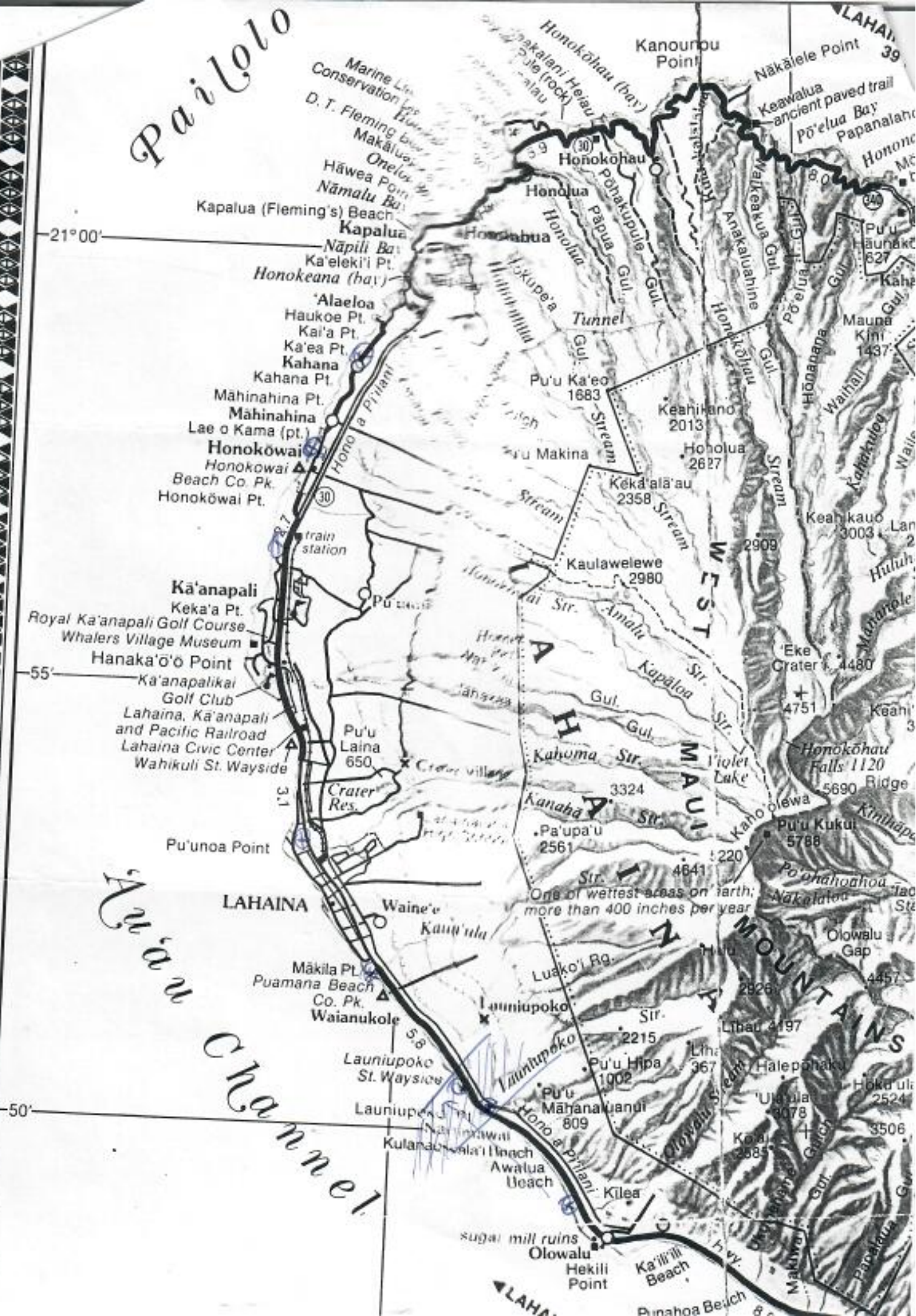
Pailolo

21°00'

55'

50'

Maui Channel



One of the wettest areas on earth; more than 400 inches per year

LAHAINA



[36] From: Denise Ellis 8/14/96 1:46PM (1919 bytes: 32 ln)  
To: George Balazs  
Subject: Follow up on Phone msg.

----- Message Contents -----

>George @ Maui called to let you know that he has some input  
>on locations of tumored turtles. He saw a group while  
>diving and every one of the turtles had tumors on them. He  
>thought you might be interested....

Talked with George and took down info he wanted to pass on.  
He would like any info we could send, but he's also in  
contact with Dale Zarrella who will also be giving him some  
stuff and meeting with him sometime in the future.

George Copeland  
P.O. Box 959  
Maui, HI 96753  
Ph: 808-874-8664

Went diving in a spot where most people don't go, off the  
Menehune Shores in Kihei (500 yd swim to get out to site).  
Saw 8 turtles (varying sizes), all tumored, golfball size  
tumors on eyes and softball size on the flippers & neck.  
Turtles were mostly in cracks and under rocks, slow but  
alert. The area has an excessive amount of seaweed there  
also. He wondered about a possible sewage leak in the area.  
He would like to make observations if there is anything in  
particular he should be looking for when he sees turtles.  
One idea he had was: he wanted to identify all fish species  
in a known cleaning area off 5 graves Maui, then see if those  
fish are missing in the area he found with the tumored  
turtles.. Thought perhaps lack of cleaning of paracites could  
increase chances of tumors (interesting idea but not sure  
what it would prove as those turtles could be visiting a  
cleaning station elsewhere). Willing to take suggestions and  
accomidate any requests you may have.

RON G. MAHUREN

Box 358 • Lahaina, Maui, HI 96767  
(808) 661-0937

Choir  
Dept of Biology  
University of Hawaii  
2424 Māhele Way  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Post-it - Island fax transmittal memo 7071		# of pages
To: Mr. BALAZS	From: Grace	
On: Nat'l Marine	On: Off/Biology	
Dept: Fishery	Phone: 956-8303	
Fax: 943-1290	Fax: 956-4745	

Dear Sir or Madame,

10 July

I am often thought of as a bum for I live on the beaches of Maui. It is a lifestyle that seems to suit me. About a month ago Melrose came, Melrose is a very large sea turtle, so large that two grown men would have trouble picking him up. Gradually other sea turtles have arrived. The group is now somewhere between seven and twelve with the smallest having a head the size of my fist. I stand six feet tall. One of the newest arrivals has a large tumor on his head.

If I stay in the bushes, they do not come near shore. However, if I sit on the beach and watch the sun set, they will play in the surf in front of me. Though I would have to leave my "home" I am concerned for the turtles and wonder if you might want to "tag" a few. I will be leaving for the mainland shortly, 20<sup>th</sup> of July, and hope to find employment there so you will have to be quick if you want to do something. I doubt if anyone besides myself is aware of this "gathering."

Sincerely yours  
Ron G. Mahuren

MAUI

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

## Teenage Drunk Driving, Drug Dealers, Lahaina Bypass

### Help keep young people safe

Where were you when four teenagers, Frederick Aika Smith, Tyson Koga, Wyatt Kaahanui and Jasmick Kala crashed violently just after midnight near the intersection of Waiehu Beach Road and Kahului Beach Road? Some of us were fast asleep, reading a great book, or watching late night television shows — and sure enough, some of us were on the road driving home. The teenagers involved in the crash could have hit anybody coming their way, and it's scary to think that a time of the crash, a friend and I were driving from Kahului to Lahaina. Anybody on the road could have been innocent victims of an alcohol-related crash.

The Lahainaluna High School Traffic Safety Team's purpose is to prevent injuries and save lives through educating the public about traffic safety, particularly the dangerous issue of drinking and driving. My team members and I have been working throughout the year to educate the public, and the death of two boys and the injury of another in this alcohol-related crash seems to say that not enough people take traffic safety seriously. Statistics show that three out of five people will be involved in alcohol-related crashes. What is it going to take for more teenagers, parents and adults to truly realize how dangerous drinking and driving is? Why aren't more people of Maui County playing active roles in keeping our citizens and our roads safe?

April through June is Prom and Graduation season — high risk times for youth, especially boys. For parents, this is the time to take added measures to assure that the celebration

mony, for their teens. The Department of Education has offered their help for seven years. It is time to get involved. Parents can call 733-9104 for assistance.

The lives you save may be yours or your children's. Please buckle up, don't drink and drive, and help keep our roads safe.

KAREN ANCHETA  
Lahainaluna High School Traffic Safety Team

### Put the runway issue to a vote

I guess I touched a nerve with a couple of your "readers." That's OK, as a difference of opinion leads to a healthy situation. If my two friendly letter writers hadn't been in such a hurry to get on their environmental soap box, they might have understood that my letter was directed to a solution of this difference of opinion, that being the democratic way — put it to a vote. I would hate to think that Ms. or Mr. Anonymous and Mr. Buck Buchanan do not believe in our form of democracy, where a majority rules.

Buck, can you really say that the present runway is safe when planes have to take off partially loaded. I hope it never comes to a point where the runway is proven not to be safe. No one wants that to happen. Right, Mr. Buchanan? "Anonymous," I guess you're right in attacking my mentality, as I fail to make much sense out of your letter. I realize that you suffer from the spotted owl syndrome. I suggest a trip to Los Angeles. It will cure your environmental ills.

What I want for Maui is a healthy environment and a healthy economy. My attackers, obviously, want it just one way.

P.S. You can print my name.

FOSTER HULL

Lahaina

disease. We also thank the Lahaina News for reporting this story.

URSULA KEUPER-BENNETT  
Ontario, Canada

### Bypass planning is a set-up

A few weeks ago, our state Department of Transportation held a hearing in West Maui on a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Lahaina Bypass roadway. I believe the Draft EIS, the road design and the DOT are seriously flawed.

Members of the public asked the DOT to first finish widening Honoapiʻilani Highway before working on a bypass. This is laid out in our West Maui Community Plan. A consultant introduced by the state responded by implying that this was not practical, because the cost was much too high. He estimated "six or seven times" more than the \$123 million bypass cost. That is about \$800 million. Apparently neither the DOT nor the consultants knew the cost of widening the existing highway to four lanes from Lahaina to Maalaea. Their own study sets the amount at \$158 million.

The bypass proposal was like an urban boulevard rather than the true bypass that was clearly prescribed in our community plan. Our plan rejected the on-grade crossings, signals, and attractions to development being presented. When directly questioned, the consultants revealed that they were paid by Amfac/JMB, not

by the state.

I knew the DOT had a secret agreement with Amfac/JMB regarding the roadway, which was eventually released to us by our Attorney General.

That document includes agreements involving reclassification of Amfac/JMB lands to the urban district. Apparently all of North Beach Mauka (Project District No. 3) was included. I did not believe that these kind of arrogant, gold-ol-boy set-ups could be carried so far as to be contrary to our General Plan and community plan ordinances.

DAVE CHENOWETH  
Lahaina

### Tournament was a success

The Lahaina Surf Residents Association would like to thank everyone who participated in our Men's One Pitch Softball Tournament on April 20-21, to raise money to make improvements to our playground.

A special thank you goes out to Rhonda Lincoln and the Hale Mahaolu kitchen staff for preparing the food; Robert Stailey, housing manager; Nagasako Variety; Maui Mikes; Kevin Kahaiali, George Gomes and the Whatevas Softball team for their cash donation; all those who helped to umpire; and those who volunteered their time to make our first softball tournament a success.

LAHAINA SURF ASSOCIATION

# EDITORIAL

of a lifetime does not end in tragedy like the Kahului crash. If you are a parent or a guardian of a teenager, do not serve liquor to a minor. Besides being a violation of the law, serving liquor to minors makes you legally liable for injuries or crashes which teenagers might suffer. Consider how you will "control" a 200-pound, 17-year-old football player who has consumed a six pack of beer and gets into a fight with another full grown boy in your living room. Will you call the police? Your homeowners coverage may be nullified if you serve liquor to minors. If you allow teens to drink in your home and a teen falls asleep, never to wake up again due to alcohol poisoning, what would you do? This has occurred to parents, thinking by preventing them from driving drive, everything will be fine. More than 1,000 teen deaths each year are caused by alcohol poisoning.

We ask those of you in the hotel and restaurant business to do your part to keep our young people safe. Remind your servers to check for valid ID. We ask hotel managers to be alert for high school students or parents who may secure rooms for all-night partying. In addition to the potential destruction of property which could result from such a party, if a young person should die due to alcohol poisoning or binge drinking in one of your rooms, the damage to your hotel reputation could be devastating. We ask limousine drivers to not serve liquor to minors. We ask the police to uphold the law and arrest underage drinkers found in our state parks.

All of us must work together to help teens experience the great times they can have without the use of alcohol and other drugs. We need to stand firm and work together to save lives and help our youth make it to their future.

We congratulate St. Anthony High for joining the Project Graduation movement with Lahainalua. Parents of teens at Baldwin, Maui and Hana High Schools need to take action and offer Project Graduation, an alcohol- and drug-free celebration held after the graduation cere-

### Target those who sell drugs

It saddens me to read the drug-related death of Beau LeBallister. I did not know the young man, but I am sure many Maui residents did, and who also know who sold LeBallister the heroin that killed him.

It would be refreshing to hear that one of them stepped forward and informed the police of the pusher, who would snitch on the dealer, who would inform on the supplier, before one of their brothers or sisters or sons and daughters are added to the list of nine who have died since November 1995 with cocaine or heroin in their system.

### NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST Tumors pose a major threat

Congratulations and thank you to the Lahaina News for your feature article on green turtle fibropapillomas (May 9-16 edition). The writer, Kelly Arbor, effectively summarized the important aspects of this baffling disease.

Since 1989, my husband and I have observed the course of this disease in a resident population of green turtles off Honokowai. Over that time, we have witnessed the impact of this disease on individual animals. It is now difficult to find a tumor-free turtle in the area. Most alarming is the effect of this disease on young turtles. If Honokowai is typical, most youngsters stricken will not reach maturity.

For several years, my husband and I have been implicating the environmental degradation of coastal waters as a critical factor in the expression of the disease. That Dr. George Balazs, Hawaii's leading expert on marine turtles and a world leader in fibropapilloma research, has said that fibropapillomas are "a reflection of what's happening in the waters" means more than anything we could write or say about the tumor disease. We agree absolutely with Dr. Balazs that fibropapillomas pose the greatest threat to the survival of your home.

We wish to thank Dr. Balazs and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the continued hard work and dedication they bring to battling this

### Keep the pressure on at Maalaea

The same time the Indy 500 was happening, a famous racetrack on Maui was buzzing. Surfers and body boarders were treated to great Maalaea on Saturday and Sunday.

Maalaea looks like no other wave on Maui or maybe the world, with swells surging in front of the rocks and receding all the way down to Mudflats. It isn't good very often, but when the right swell pulses through Kaoolawe and Lanai, the flat bay becomes the "fastest rideable wave in the world."

Maalaea is fast, hollow, shallow, punishing, and above all, fun. It draws hundreds of people into the water to challenge it or watch the races. Like last weekend.

Next time Maalaea is on, go there and see for yourself. Then touch base with the Protect Maalaea Coalition and help ensure that it is saved.

The state and Army Corps of Engineers want to expand Maalaea Harbor, creating 150 slips by building a jetty and dredging a new channel, or improving the existing harbor.

Despite protest by residents, and concerns by Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps is sticking to the first, destructive route. In 1994, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources approved the jetty, prompting the coalition and others to file suit.

The project is currently stalled because the lawsuits are pending, and the new state administration - primarily DLNR boss Mike Wilson - is undecided on Maalaea.

Since the foundation for the harbor expansion is in place, it's important to keep tabs on the state and the Army Corps. Help keep the pressure on.

Call the Protect Maalaea Coalition at 572-9847 to find out how.

# Lahaina News

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

May 7, 1996

F/SWC2:skm

Mr. Skippy Hau  
DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Skippy,

I just wanted to inform you about a call our Law Enforcement branch received this weekend regarding a dead sea turtle at Maliko Gulch, Maui.

Mr. Manny Carabello called the U.S. Coast Guard who referred him to the National Marine Fisheries Service-Law Enforcement. He spoke with Agent Victor Honda. Mr. Honda relayed to us that Mr. Carabello found a dead green turtle washed ashore on May 2, 1996. It was about 31" long by 19" wide.

I spoke with Mr. Carabello today and asked him for more information. He said that he had seen this turtle swimming 50 yards offshore about 4 days prior to finding it dead. It had two 1-1/2" by 1-1/2" tumors behind the right eye. He also looked for tags and found none.

He said that he would like to help the environment and would love to volunteer his time and boat if we ever needed it. I instructed him to contact you, since we are on Oahu. He said that he would try to call you later. His address and phone number is P.O. Box 674, Makawao, 96768, 808-575-9980. I have mailed him some literature about sea turtles.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shawn K. K. Murakawa  
Research Associate, UH/JIMAR

cc Brooks Tamaye  
✓ George H. Balazs



Sharon  
All are as per  
for FDS -  
Copy back to me.  
Get [unclear]

MAUI  
FILE

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
May 31, 1996

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Dead Green Turtle Recovered From Napili Bay

On Wednesday afternoon, 29 May 1996, we received a call from Greg at Napili Kai Beach Club (Ph.#669-6271). He reported that a snorkeler found a turtle dead beneath a ledge. The visitor brought the green turtle to shore and left it on the beach.

According to Greg, the turtle could have been killed by a gill net. (Brooks Tamaye and a DOCARE Officer responded to the report of a shark and a dead turtle tangled in a gill net on the previous day). He also said that three or four turtles were in the net. He was not sure whether the turtles were dead or alive.

The green turtle had small tumors (2 cm.) on its eyes and base of the left front flipper. There were no tags. The animal appeared bloated and was not likely alive when found in the morning. The curved carapace length measured 67 centimeters (26.4 inches). The curved carapace width was 58.5 centimeters (23 inches). The turtle was wrapped in a brown tarpaulin. Napili Kai maintenance personnel assisted me in transporting the turtle to the truck. It was kept overnight at the office and taken to the Central landfill for disposal in the morning (30).

c: George Balazs, NMFS

# Maui out to make money



Edwin Tanji/The Honolulu Advertiser

Joe Estrella clears rotting seaweed from the shore at the Kihei Beach Reserve, hoping to turn the nuisance into a business.

By Edwin Tanji

Advertiser Maui County Bureau

Of all islands, Maui is having the worst problem with smelly seaweed rotting on its beaches.

So the state Department of Health is trying to start a business to find a viable commercial use for the seaweed, said state environmental planner June Harrigan.

There have been persistent complaints about seaweed accumulating on the shorelines in West Maui, Kihei and Kahului. The most common species creating the nuisance is *Hypnea musciformis*, a red algae introduced in Hawaii about 15 years ago.

An endemic green algae, *Ulva fasciata*, also blooms in shoreline areas and creates severe odor problems when the material

Grand-separated S because it is a "through" road 9

# from seaweed

5/5/96 The Honolulu Advertiser

A27

accumulates and begins to rot.

Both *Hypnea* and *Ulva* are believed to bloom when high levels of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, are in the ocean.

The Department of Health has been doing studies on what may be causing the algae blooms, but has no concrete results so far. Maui County has programs to clean the beaches of the seaweed, but the material now is just dumped in the county's landfill.

The environmental planning office is seeking proposals for "a realistic and reasonable business plan" that would pick up the seaweed and turn it into a commercial product.

The state is offering a \$75,000 grant to start up the project,

although the business must be able to support itself after the initial grant is used, Harrigan said.

"It would be a waste of money to have a project close up and stop when the funds run out," she said.

The new effort seeks to turn the nuisance into a business. There have been suggestions that algae could be used to make compost or other marketable products.

Information on the program is available from Harrigan, manager of the Department of Health environmental planning office, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Third Floor, Honolulu 96814; or by calling (808) 586-4337. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 24.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

April 29, 1996

F/SWC2:ghb

Mr. Skippy Hau  
Aquatic Biologist  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Hau:

I am writing to provide the results of our necropsy and evaluation of the green turtle found dead entangled in a canvas bag in waters off Wailea on 11/21/95. We are appreciative that the turtle was salvaged for research purposes and shipped to us here in Honolulu.

The turtle was determined to be an immature female in excellent body condition. The straightline carapace length (with caliper) measured 62.6 cm, and 68.5 cm in curved carapace length (using a flexible tape). The turtle weighed 42.3 kg. There were no signs of tumors or other gross evidence of disease or parasites of any sort, either externally or internally. There were thick layers of greenish fat in the body cavity, again strongly suggesting the turtle was in a healthy condition prior to death. The stomach and intestines were approximately 70% filled to capacity with food, indicating that foraging had been actively taking place in a normal manner. The fresh stomach contents were identified as consisting almost entirely of the red alga, Pterocladia capillacea (sometimes called Loloa in Hawaiian). This is not one of the algae periodically involved in the nuisance blooms on Maui.

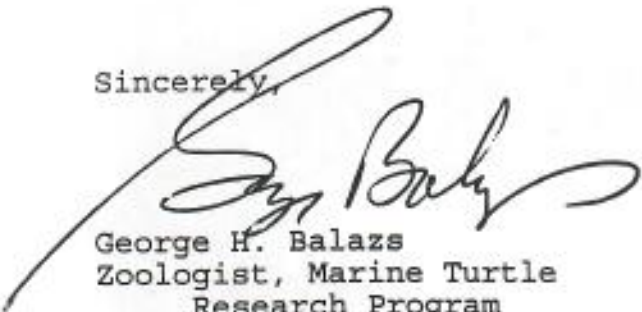
The limb bones (humeri) of the turtle were removed and preserved for future age estimation by cross-section counting of dense/light bands. Based on the animal's size and the known growth rates of green turtles in Hawaiian Islands, I would estimate this turtle to have been not less than 15 years old.



The circumstances under which the turtle was found strongly suggest that drowning (forced submergence) relating to entanglement was the cause of death. As you know, sea turtles do not usually inspire water when unable to surface to breathe. Instead, a glottal lock occurs resulting in a comatose state and eventual death. This case once again regrettably demonstrates that man-made debris of all sorts is a distinct hazard to marine animals in their environment.

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Zoologist, Marine Turtle  
Research Program

cc

Mr. LeRoy Fries  
Mr. Don Rhodes  
Mr. Brooks Tamaye

[38] From: Shawn Murakawa 4/25/96 10:51AM (791 bytes: 9 ln)  
To: George Balazs  
Subject: Skippy Hau

----- Message Contents -----

He just called and asked about the turtle from Wailea, Maui on 11-21-95. It was found dead and entangled with a canvas bag. I thought you had sent something back to the contact at the Wailea, and Skippy wasn't too sure. He also asked about the diet that we found in the turtle. I told him that I didn't think we had it analyzed yet. I told him I would double-check with you whether or not you had sent a "necropsy" report to the person. I told him that either you or I would call him back to let him know. Thanks!

TDPS

✓

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

130 Mahaiani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
November 21, 1995

To: Bill Devick, Acting Administrator  
From: *sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Dead Female Green Turtle Recovered From Wailea

Mr. LeRoy Fries  
Grand Wailea Resort  
3850 Wailea Alanui  
Drive  
Wailea, HI 96753

Around 10:30, Mr. LeRoy Fries, a scuba instructor at the Grand Wailea Resort (Ph.#875-1234 ext.4590), reported the recovery of a turtle that had drowned. He was instructing a class at 10:15 when he found it tangled in the strap of a discarded canvas bag. The bag was partially buried in the sand. Initially, Mr. Fries cut the strap to allow the turtle to swim free. He then realized that it was dead. He brought the animal to shore and contacted our office.

At 11:20, I went to the beach and met with Mr. Don Rhodes, manager of the beach activities center. The turtle was on the sandy shoreline and appeared to have been a healthy female green turtle. There were no tags or tumors. We wrapped it in a blue tarpaulin and used a utility cart to transport it to my pickup truck.

At the activities center, Mr. Fries reported that the animal had its right front flipper tangled in the strap. He also reported that another turtle had a strange behavior. He said it appeared to be wedged in rocks and was swimming frantically. I asked him to check if it had tumors or growths which could affect its buoyancy and swimming.

At 12:40, Mr. Rhodes put on some scuba and retrieved the canvas bag from about 16-feet of water. Both Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Fries expressed interested in any information about the dead turtle.

I returned to our office and took shell measurements. The curved carapace length measured 68 centimeters (26.8 inches). The curved carapace width was 65 centimeters (25.6 inches). The turtle and canvas bag were placed in two garbage bags and a cardboard box.

At Aloha Airlines Cargo, I discovered the boxed turtle weighed 97 pounds, almost twice the 50-pound weight limit we talked about. I asked Brooks to call George Balazs for approval to ship. Approval was given and the box was sent.

c: George Balazs (NMFS)

**SEA TURTLE STRANDING QUESTIONNAIRE:** (definition of "stranding" is any injured, sick, dead, or abnormally acting sea turtle ashore). Note: Due to personnel safety concerns, we do not normally go into the water to salvage a turtle. However, we would like to record details of such reports.

To be filled out by switchboard operator when no one is available to answer the telephone for the Marine Turtle Research Program (i.e. S. Koga x276, D. Ellis x276, and G. Balazs x240).

**Note:** Normal Marine Turtle Research Program personnel working hours are 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. After hours, including weekends and holidays, please refer the caller to 24-hr. Hotline 587-0077 (Oahu), State Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) or page our contracted Sea turtle Stranding Group at 288-5685. (NOTE: this pager number should NOT be given out to the public.)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help facilitate a quick response (when appropriate and possible) to calls received from the public and other agencies on stranded (live or dead) turtles.

Person calling: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of call: 11-21-95; 450

Name: via Skippy May

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*

NEED MORE INFO FROM GEORGE

Location

Where is this turtle located? Maui

How close is it to the nearest access way? \_\_\_\_\_

Turtle

Is the turtle alive or dead? A   B Uncertain

with captag bag on it.

About how large is the turtle? \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2 - 1 ft; 1 - 2 ft; 2 - 3 ft; 3+ ft  
(shell length)

or "is it too large for one person to lift?"

Approx. weight of turtle? \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. 25lbs. 50lbs. 100lbs. 200lbs.  
(or circle one above)

What is the condition of the turtle? Fresh dead, m  
(i.e. smell, intact or not, etc.)

Are there any obvious signs as to the cause of death or injury? \_\_\_\_\_

Any evidence of law enforcement violation? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please briefly describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Assure the person that the turtle will be attended to and/or someone will call them back just as soon as humanly possible. (When involving normal working hours). Personnel and other resource limitations may cause delays. If the person indicates that there is a law enforcement problem, ask them to also call 541-2727 NMFS Law Enforcement Office at the Federal Building. Explain briefly that the office they have called is the Research branch and that we will also be involved responding to a turtle stranding that relates to law enforcement, but only in unison with an enforcement agent. For MTRP personnel, a response will only be possible during normal working hours and only when there is sufficient working hours remaining in the day to accomplish the job.

Name of person filing out this questionnaire: DME

If the person is calling from a neighbor island, and no one can be contacted in the Marine Turtle Research Program, please record the person's name and phone number and ask him or her to call the State DOCARE office or Division of Aquatic Resources Office located on their island.

Big Island: Hilo - 933-4291; or Kona - 323-3141

Molokai: 567-6618

Lanai: 565-6688

Kauai: 241-3521

Maui: 243-5414

No tags or tumors seen.

- DME P/O at Aloha  
Air Cargo 11-22-95. 62.56L?  
~97 lbs. Put in AZ freezer

SEA TURTLE NECROPSY/TUMOR FORM

NECROPSY DATE: 12/15/99 STRANDING ID, DATE AND LOCATION:

LEROY FRIGS (GRAND WAILEA RESORT) SKIPPY VIA (DLNR-MDUI) / 11-21-99	WAILEA MDUI
PERSON RECORDING DATA: SKM	

**DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS:**

\* Both contacts would like necropsy report \*  
 Healed notches between 11th marginals R./L. and post-centrals (2cm long)  
 lots of fat  
 G.I.T. 70% fat

*Pteromalodia capillacea*

TAGS:

/

SEX: MALE, FEMALE OR UNDETERMINED

F ✓

DB:

0

VB:

0

STRAIGHT CARAPACE-LENGTH:

62.6 ✓

WIDTH:

48.7 ✓

NOTCH LENGTH:

62.2 ✓

PPS (Y/N):

Y ✓

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:

68.5 ✓

WIDTH:

65.5 ✓

HEAD WIDTH:

9.5 ✓

TAIL LENGTH: T

15.0 ✓

c

10.0 ✓

SAMPLES COLLECTED:

RIGHT FRONT FLIPPER WIDTH:

11.4 ✓

+ Humen

PLASTRON LENGTH:

50.3 ✓

+ Fore stomach Contents

WEIGHT:

93.0# ✓

--

LOCATION, SIZE, AND NUMBER OF TUMORS

	#1	#2	#3	#4	TOTAL	REMARKS
RT. EYE						
LT. EYE						
MOUTH						
NECK						
RFF						
LFF						
RHF						
LHF						
CLOACA/TAIL						
SEAMS/SCUTES						
INTERNAL						
TOTAL						

OTHER INFORMATION:

TUMOR SCORE:

APPROXIMATE TUMOR SIZE CATEGORIES:

- #1 = DETECTABLE PATCH TO 1CM DIAMETER
- #2 = >1CM TO 4CM
- #3 = >4CM TO 10CM
- #4 = >10CM

[62] From: Denise Ellis 1/25/96 4:18PM (2096 bytes: 35 ln)  
To: George Balazs, Shawn Murakawa  
Subject: call from Skippy

----- Message Contents -----

Skippy Hau called. giving us a heads up, said fishermen have seen a weak turtle at Ukumehame west before Lahaina, tumored, comes ashore in the morning but DAR hasn't seen/gotten it yet. Asks if they do retrieve turtle do you want them to send it over here?? Most likely less than 100 lbs.

Other items:

1) Seems most of the turtle strandings are coming in on the south side (1 Malaea Bay, 1 Kihei - both tumored). Wondered if any work has been done (on Maui turtles in particular) on location of tumors, (On front (includes neck, eyes and mouth), vs all flippers -- any difference?).

2) Exoparasites on tumored turtles-- are there more than one species?? I mentioned the main parasite seen on and around the tumors were leeches. Has there been anything done to id more than these?

3) What was the status of Kahana turtle sent in by Brooks?? I updated him on turtle, mentioned it had been run over by surfboard and was patched up by Dr. Morris and as of right now we were holding it and treating it at Kewalo. Mentioned also that it had mouth tumors and seemed to have difficulty breathing but we were watching it's progress. Would like an update on it as he was off island for business when this turtle came in and I guess someone asked him about it..

4) Status of turtle found in canvas bag.. Would like results of necropsy done on this one, to pass on to person who found.. Said contact had photographed turtle the day before it was found dead with flipper entangled in canvas bag that was full with sand.. Did we find any thing outstanding? I said I'd check to see if we'd done it yet and make a note to send him the info.

send  
Ozobranthus  
2 species

need

Shawn  
necropsy  
report

Send  
- oral TMS  
- Annual  
Shawn  
1995





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

2 FEB 96

TO: Skippy and Brooks

FROM: George

SUBJECT: Leeches on Sea Turtles

Skippy asked for some reference material,  
so I'm sending copies of the  
enclosed to each of you. Note that  
your libraries must be increasing  
considerably in turtle literature!  
Creeps in Hawaii have few other  
ectoparasites besides leeches. Mainly  
barrocks, amphipods, and algae.

Two kinds of leeches on our  
turtles - O. branchiatus (3-11mm long)  
and O. margo (4-30mm long). Enjoy!



# Surfers rescue sick turtle in Kahana

KAHANA — Surfers at "S-Turns" Thursday brought a wounded green sea turtle to shore, the believed victim of a collision with a waverider.

But George Balazs, an expert on sea turtles, believes the animal was hit by a spear or an outboard engine prop and was already wounded when surfers found it.

"We seriously question that that type of injury caused it," said Balazs, the leader of the Marine Turtle Research Program with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu.

Surfers put the small turtle on a board and lifted it out of the water. Calls to police were referred to Brooks Tamaye and Skippy Hau of the state Department of Land & Natural Resources' Division of Aquatic Resources. They took the animal, and then shipped it to Honolulu on Friday morning.

The turtle is now under the care of a Kailua veterinarian contracted by NMFS. Hunting green sea turtles in Hawaii is prohibited, and the animals are afforded special protection under the Endangered Species Act, along with humpback whales and Hawaiian monk seals.

Balazs, who has been studying turtles for 25 years, said that turtles usually keep clear of surfers, but when collisions occur, the surfboard is usually the only thing damaged. Their shells have tremendous weight and hardness, Balazs said.

He and the veterinarian's staff believe a heavy and sharp object cut the turtle, because the wound is so clean. A surfboard skeg would probably knock or bounce off the shell.

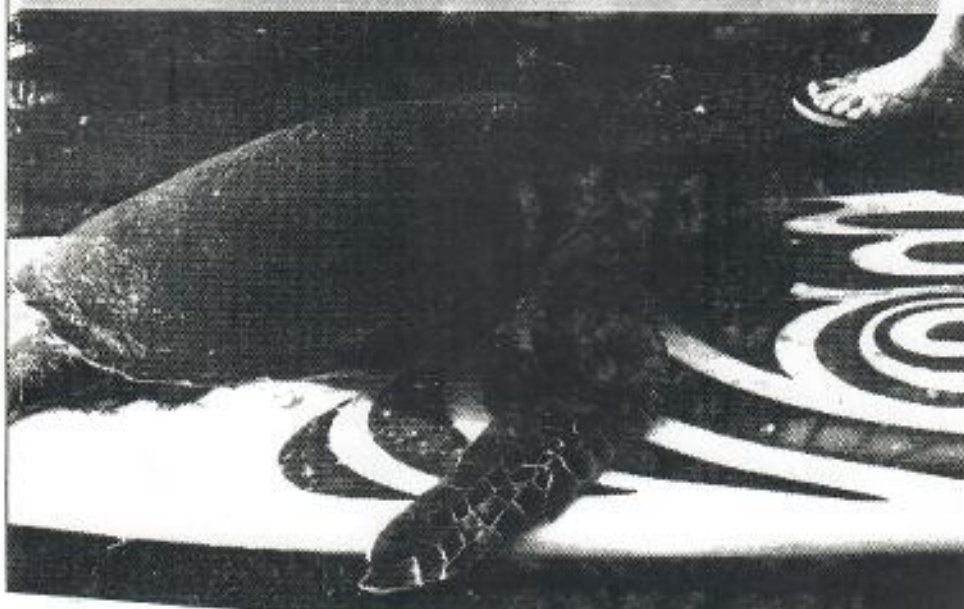
Balazs said the wound is not life-threatening, but the turtle has a far greater problem — tumors in its mouth that are obstructing its breathing.

"The outlook for the turtle is not very bright, not because of the wound . . . the bigger problem is the tumor disease it has," he commented.

Once the wound is cared for, the veterinarian will remove the glottal tumors. Tumors that are surgically removed often return, he said.

The turtle that was injured Thursday may have been weak and spending all of its time on the surface. Balazs said he is surprised the animal didn't beach itself.

Surfers took this wounded green sea turtle to safety at "S-Turns" last week Thursday. It has since been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service for treatment.  
Photo by Cynthia Bernabe.



Shawn TDBs  
- copy for you  
- original back to me.

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
70 SOUTH HIGH STREET, Room #201  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 244-2072

April 11, 1994

To: George Balazs, Wildlife Biologist  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Dead Turtle Recovered With Tags in Kahului Harbor

At 11:00, on Sunday, 10 April 1994, DOCARE Officer Stanley Okamoto recovered a large dead female green turtle at Kahului Harbor. It had three tags on its front flippers. The tags were consecutively numbered from 5443, 5444, to 5445. The turtle had a large gash near its right hind flipper. The officers felt it may have been caught in the propeller of a large vessel or cruise ship. The left hind flipper was stubbed and appeared to be healed from earlier wounds.

According to Officer Okamoto, the animal did not appear to have tumors present. Extra photographs were provided by Officer Okamoto.

Attachment Photos  
c: DAR - Oahu

ATTACHMENT 1.  
GREEN TURTLE PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY OFFICER STANLEY OKAMOTO  
APRIL 10, 1994  
KAHULUI HARBOR, MAUI

1. Beached turtle



2. Close-up  
of injury



ATTACHMENT 2.  
GREEN TURTLE PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY OFFICER STANLEY OKAMOTO  
APRIL 10, 1994  
KAHULUI HARBOR, MAUI

3. Hind flippers



[33] From: Shawn Murakawa 11/21/95 9:57AM (2009 bytes: 19 ln)

To: George Balazs

Subject: Skippy Hau

----- Forwarded -----

From: George Balazs at -NMFS-HONO 11/21/95 8:05AM (1835 bytes: 19 ln)

To: Scot Yamashita at -NMFS-LB

Receipt Requested

cc: Vic Honda at -NMFS-LB, Pam Fujiwara at -NMFS-LB, Tom Friel at -NMFS-LB,  
Shawn Murakawa, Denise Ellis, William Gilmartin

Subject: Skippy Hau

----- Forwarded with Changes -----

From: Shawn Murakawa 11/21/95 6:22AM (1009 bytes: 12 ln)

To: George Balazs

Subject: Skippy Hau

----- Message Contents -----

He just called. He wanted to report that a woman had called him to inform him that she saw a man, this past Saturday

11/16/95

around 5:50, with a turtle upside down in the bed of his gray p/u truck. The turtle was 1-1/2 to 2 feet long. When she asked what he was doing he said that he was tagging turtles.

Skippy wanted to double-check that no one was there tagging turtles. I stated that no one on Maui was authorized from our program to tag any turtles---only DAR people. This happened at Kealia Beach, between Maalaea and Sugar Beach. Skippy said that he will be contacting Keith Keaau, DOCARE, and the Fish & Wildlife Service. He also gave the phone numbers to the lady for future references.

SCOT- FOR YOUR INFORMATION. SINCE THIS INVOLVES THE FALSE EXCUSE OF THE MAN DOING "TAGGING", I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND TO YOU THAT LE PURSUE SOME INVESTIGATION. RECALL THAT THIS SAME LIE WAS STATED BY THE MEN KILILNG THE TURTLE AT PUNALUU ON THE BIG ISLAND (TOM'S CASE). ONE OF THE PERSON'S SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED 30 DAYS HARD TIME AT HALAWA HIGH SECURITY. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WILL HAVE AN AGENT INVESTIGATE. MAHALO, GEORGE BALAZS



**MAUI JAYCEES**

**William J. Basey**  
*Administrative Vice President*

P.O. Box 94  
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

Pager (808) 249-5311  
Business (808) 877-9091  
Fax (808) 242-1719

Home  
871-5160

To George BALAZS

5 pgs

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# Review

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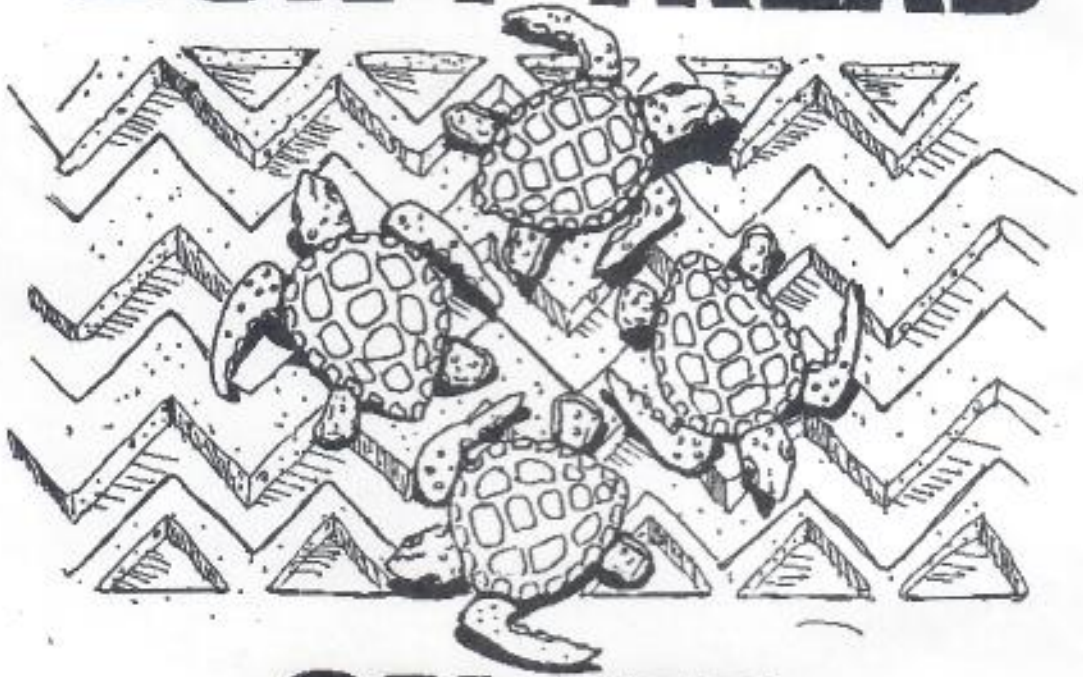


A tumor-plagued turtle weighing more than 150 pounds was found floating dead in the shore break off Waihee and dragged ashore by fisherman Tuesday. After inspection...



Front

# DON'T TREAD



# ON ME

KEALIA • POND • PROJECT

**SAVE THE SEA TURTLES**



**BECAUSE  
EXTINCTION  
IS FOREVER**

**PROTECTED BY THE MAUI JAYCEES**

Back

COPY

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5326  
September 7, 1995

SHAWN TDPS  
copy & return  
7/26/95

To: Bill Devick, Program Manager  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Dead Turtle Recovered At Lahaina Harbor Entrance

Around 11:15, Mr. Patrick Grady (Ph.#661-4614) of the tour vessel Kaulana called to report a dead turtle they found floating near the Lahaina Harbor entrance. ~~The~~ *He* recovered the carcass around 11:00.

I went to the harbor to pick up the turtle. It was a dead female green turtle with tumors on its eyes, neck and base of its flippers. There were no tags or other signs of injury. The animal appeared to be slightly emaciated. The curved carapace length measured 62 centimeters (24.4 inches). The curved carapace width was 56.5 centimeters (22.2 inches). It weighed around 47 pounds. Algae was growing on the dorsal shell. The turtle had been wrapped in two plastic garbage bags. The animal appeared to have leeches or other parasites present on tumors around the neck region.

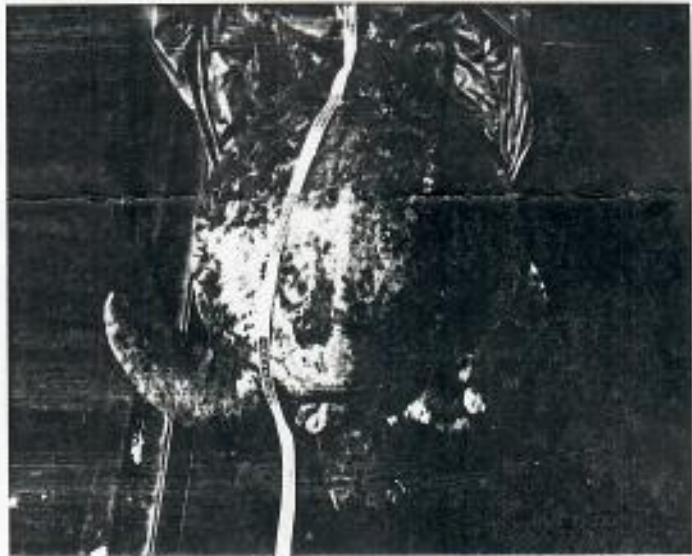
After returning to Kahului, I called Shawn (Ph.#943-1276) of the National Marine Fisheries Service to see if they were interested in the carcass. They wanted the dead turtle so it was repacked with newspaper, the original garbage bags and placed in a third garbage bag to prevent leakage. It was placed in a cardboard box and shipped through Aloha Airlines Cargo to Honolulu.

c: George Balazs - NMFS

Attachment

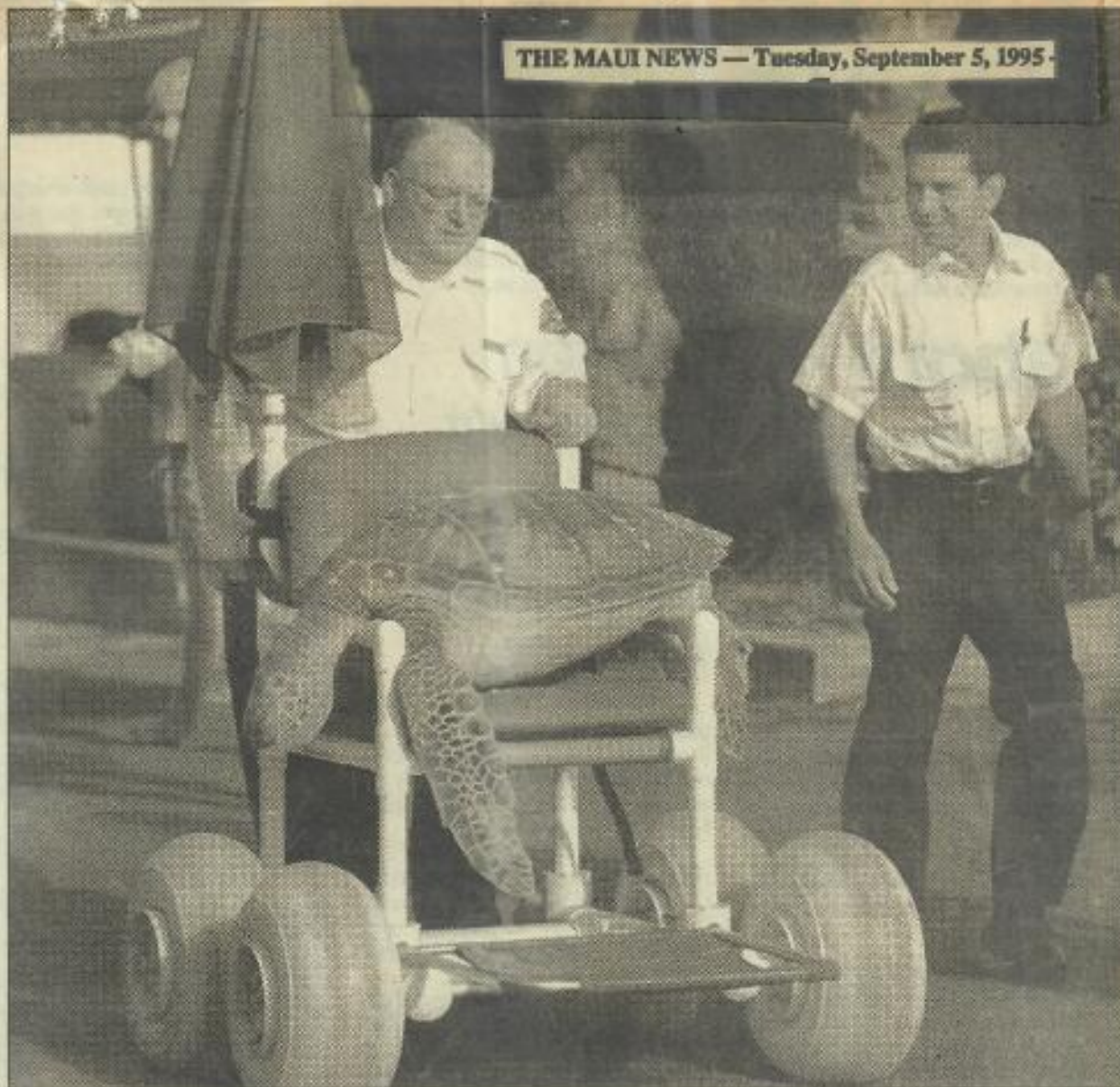
PHOTO ATTACHMENT 1.  
Thursday, September 7, 1995  
Kahului DLNR Baseyard  
Time 13:30

1. Dorsal view



2. Ventral view

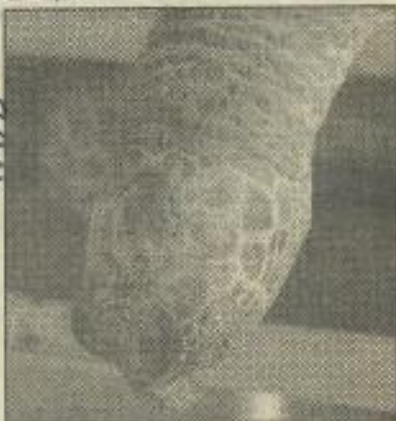




Stanley OKamoto - Landfill

## Dead sea turtle washes ashore

Westin Maui security officers Tom Pope (left) and Ted Jaimes wheel a dead green sea turtle to a conservation officer's truck in Kaanapali. The turtle was found washed up on the beach earlier Monday morning. Department of Land and Natural Resources aquatic resources biologist Skippy Hau said today the turtle weighed under 100 pounds and apparently died from tumors growing internally and externally. A pair of tumors were visible around the turtle's eyes. Hau said it was the first report of a dead turtle on Maui's west side "in a long time." He added, "We haven't had any recent reports of turtles with tumors on that side of the island."



The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photos

George n

Talked with Brooks. (He's actually ~~there~~ there till Oct. 31).

He said that Stanley Okamoto (DOUARE - Maui) responded to it and that Skippy said it had tumors on its eye. Brooks said he thinks Skippy took it to the landfill because he didn't say anything about it otherwise.

DLNR - DIVISION OF  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani St.  
Wailuku, HI 96793

George: FYI

This article is a bit misleading. Skippy did not deal with this turtle -- Douare (S. Okamoto) did. The reporter called Skippy on Tuesday and asked if he heard about it, and he gave his comments. *JK*

St. Ann Please article  
Copy and  
Make make  
TDS  
entry.

Department of Land and Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

9/12/95  
George  
Thanks also for sending  
that nice letter of  
support. Others have also  
been waiting. Let's hope  
somebody gets the message!  
Smiles

Date: 9/12/95

To: George Balazs, NMFS  
From: Brooks Tamaye, DAR-Maui  
Subject: Beached Turtle in Napili

TIPS

This morning Mr. Rick Bodinus a resident of Alaeloa condos, in Napili, called to report a weak turtle on the beach. The turtle was estimated to weigh 30-40 lbs.. It had tumors.

Before I left to pick it up, Mr. Bodinus called back to say that it returned to the water most likely because of people disturbing it. He will call back if it comes up again.

Mr. Bodinus stated that this turtle also came up on 9/10/95, but it also eventually reentered the water at that time.

Mr. Bodinus swims 3-4 times a week. He said there are a number of turtles that live in the area (cove on Lahaina side of Honokeana cove). Previously he noted about 50% of the turtles there had tumors, but now believes the numbers have increased. He might be a source of information on turtles in the area. His telephone number is 669-6135.

He also said this is the cove that has been highlighted in the media recently for their algae problem (copy attached).

# Seaweed Stench

## Piles of the stuff rot on shorelines around island, smell, cleanup job overwhelming

BY BRIAN PERRY, Staff Writer

**A**LABROA—Five or six years ago, the small town of Alaleoa in West Maui was a pristine shelter for clear water and coral. Now, about 10 months out of the year, it's choked with a red-brown seaweed that piles up on shore, attracting flies, rotting in pits and reeking in the hot sun.

"It's gotten progressively worse," says Alaleoa resident and board member Wally Working. "We're just inundated with seaweed."

Alaleoa residents got a reprieve in January and February when waves washed away the algae. But beginning in March, condominium groundskeepers began clearing away almost a ton of seaweed a day from Alaleoa's small beach area, according to Working.

Costs are piling up too. Working says the condominium pays \$3,000 a month for labor and garbage bags to clear the beach.

The mess at Alaleoa is one facet of a seaweed problem that just won't go away.

In the late 1980s, the so-called algae blooms were reported as episodic onslaughts of green, hair-like slime that fouled West Maui waters and washed up on beaches.

Now, the predominant pest is the red-brown seaweed known as *Lythya musciformis*. The alien algae, which apparently escaped efforts to tame it as an aquaculture product, has found its niche in waters up to 5 feet deep.

Able to flourish in sheltered areas from Honokowai to Napili in West Maui, other areas hard hit by seaweed include Kapaluanua from Suda Street to Star Market, Kahului Harbor and Kuaia in Piia.

Ron Lando-Brown, resident manager of the Hoyochi Nikko condominium on Lower Honoamillani Road, says one beach cleanup of his property's 170 feet of beachfront yielded 32 wheelbarrow loads of seaweed. On other days, workers hauled away five or six wheelbarrows of the stuff.

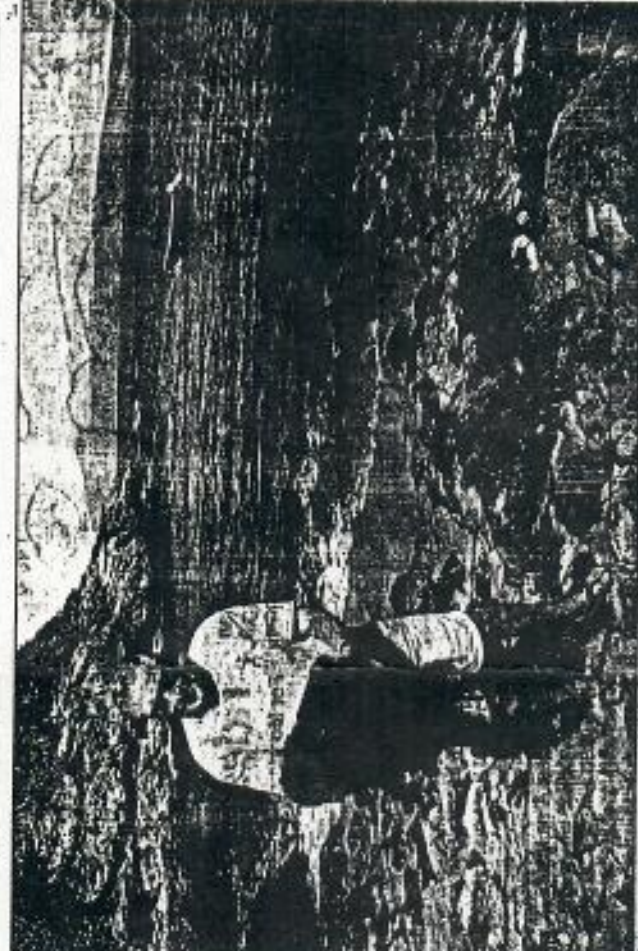
The smell of rotting seaweed has become so overpowering at times that Lando-Brown says he has had to leave the 18-unit building.

"One night we slept with bandanas on to try to keep the stink out," he says.

Hoyochi Nikko resident Tim Mitchell said some days the seaweed isn't on the beach, and "you don't notice it."

On other days it has a "sewer, rotting-like smell," and

See LACK OF FUNDS on Page A3



The West Maui shoreline is littered with seaweed. It's time to see if there is a solution that works. Working said. There have been so many studies. We should at least try something. Working suggests using the small bay as a model to see if an intensive cleanup will slow down the seaweed's progress.



# Lack of funds hinders cleanup of seaweed

Continued from Page A1

—It's covered with "thousands of flies," he says. "It's really gross. It's a very unpleasant mess."

Jim Ferguson, manager of the 36-unit Lokelani condominium in Honokowai, says seaweed can be found in the water on the beach or sometimes on the property's lawn.

"We always have a seaweed problem," he says. "It's always in one place or the other."

At the Maui Sunset in Kihei, seaweed is "a constant problem," according to manager Richard Leith. He said the condominium contributes \$1,000 a month toward having a contractor take a 500-yard beach five days a week.

In places where the work isn't done, seaweed can pile up as high as three or four feet, Leith said.

Moanai on Kahului Beach Road can get a whiff of the seaweed stench Harbor Lights residents must live with.

Harbor Lights resident manager Lawrence Shim said the smell seems worse during the hottest part of the day from 1 to 3 p.m., but the seaweed odor presents the rest of the day is "bad enough."

Residents of the 332-unit complex report feeling nauseous, and complaints are made to county officials who haven't done anything yet," Shim says.

Shim's disappointments with county efforts is shared by other condominium managers and residents.

Maui County is required by state law to clean beaches of seaweed, firms and debris likely to create an unsanitary condition or, otherwise, become a public nuisance. County officials have said the law is unfair because the state gave the counties responsibility to clean beaches without giving them money to do so.

Director Charles Jencks says his department does what it can with limited money, equipment and manpower.

Last year, the department awarded a \$30,310 grant to Maui Recycling Service to pick up seaweed that was collected, bagged and brought to the curb.

This year, Maui Recycling submitted another grant request, but it was rejected because of limited funds, Jencks said.

He said he has \$90,000 within his department's budget this year for seaweed cleanup efforts.

Public Works' Highways Division Chief Brian Haslam said his workers pick up seaweed once a week from the Aiealoa condominium, and pickups are on an "as needed" basis elsewhere.

He said the seaweed is taken to the landfill for disposal, and he doesn't have records on the amounts picked up.

Jencks said his department's policy is that seaweed will be picked up without charge if condominium operators stuff it into disposal bags and get them out to the street.

The director said he can't get county employees down to the beaches to "spend hours and hours of taxpayers' money to pick this stuff up."

As for Kahului Harbor, Jencks said he wants to send workers to get as much seaweed off the rocks and beach as possible, but the state's widening of Kahului Beach Road has stalled that project.

"We've been hampered in our efforts to get down there," he said.

Bob Saur, Maui District engineer for the state Department of Transportation's Highways Division, said that's news to him.

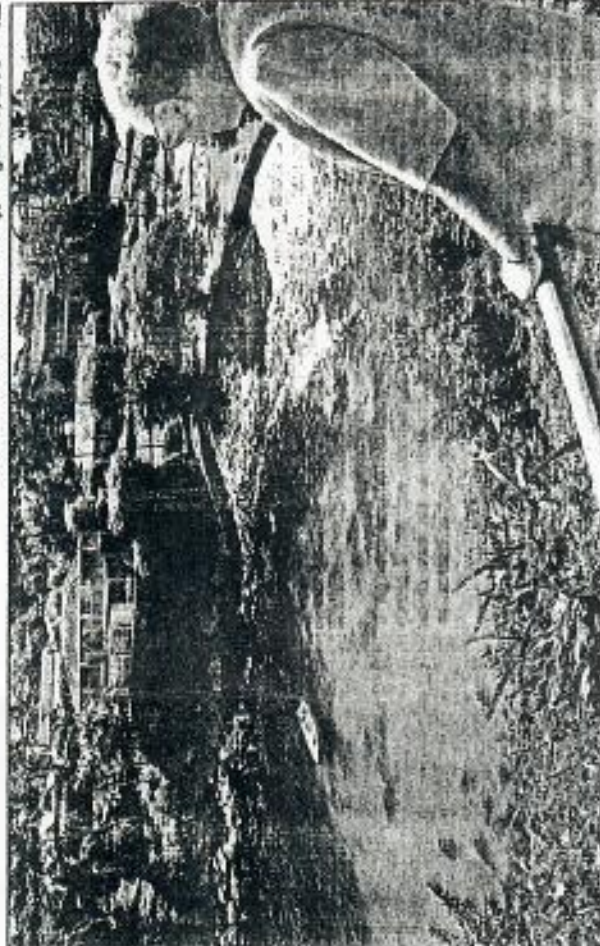
"If the county needs to get to the ocean, we will work with the contractor to accommodate the county," he said.

In 1993, Wendy Wilkie, a marine ecologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on loan to the state Department of Health, came to Maui to develop a West Maui watershed management plan for reducing sediments and nutrients feeding the algae growth.

She said sediments are getting close to sailing down the cause of the seaweed growths, but all research results are not in yet.

It appears the offshore algae is fertilized by nitrates coming from naturally occurring runoff of watershed areas as well as fertilizers coming from sugar cane and pineapple fields, golf courses, resort landscaping and homeowners' lawns, she said.

Pioneer Mill and Maui Pineapple Co. have reduced



The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photo

Wally Working, a Aiealoa condominium resident and board member, looks out on the bay by the property which until recent years was free of seaweed.

their use of fertilizers over the past five to 10 years to cut costs, Wilkie said. But others haven't taken the same steps to better control fertilizer uses, she said. "We can do a much better job there."

Also, water conservation and wastewater re-use would reduce the amount of nitrates getting into the ocean, she said.

The Honoaiuli Niihau & Laido-Berren is convinced that pulling the seaweed out of the water before it hits shore is a solution because that would prevent the pest from re-seeding itself.

"No one does any prevention as it's growing," he says.

Working agrees. A submersible pump, similar to those used for underwater archaeological projects, could be used to pull out the seaweed. Another option could be to use a small barge with a winch and a raking system to get rid of the algae, he says.

weed. Heavy growths now dump tons of rotting algae on the beach, clog the water and interfere with the natural ebb and flow of sand.

Jencks says the county doesn't have the equipment or the jurisdiction to attempt seaweed cleanups in the water. Aside from that, it's "very expensive," and, with large actions, it's potentially dangerous to county employees, he says.

Working calls it a "hell of a job" but "doable." "What are we going to do? Study this to death? In the meantime, nothing gets done," he says.

Wilkie says a water-based removal of seaweed also poses some environmental risks such as clearing away beneficial marine life.

But, with tons of seaweed coming back at a "phenomenal rate" in some areas such as Aiealoa, "it may well be that just cleaning the beaches isn't enough," she said.

Wilkie's prognosis isn't good for a near-term solution to the seaweed problem.

"I think we're going to be stuck with this algae cleanup problem for some time in the future," she said.

## Letters

## Letters

MAUI NEWS  
8-28-95

### Seaweed must be controlled

Mahalo to Brian Perry for the seaweed article (Aug. 20). I feel Brian did an excellent job showing the problem, the frustration and the private money being dumped into the bottomless pit of algae cleanup. The closing prognosis as stated by Wendy Wiltse, "I think we're going to be stuck with this algae cleanup problem for some time in the future," is not a prognosis with which I'm willing to settle.

If we've got the money to create the problem, then we must come up with the money to correct the problem. Our system of government allows our society to pay for its needs by special use taxes. Our roads, schools and numerous other services are provided in that way.

If we insist on dumping nitrates into the ocean by means of fertilizers and sewage injection pumps, then it's time we placed a special use tax on the chemicals and levy a tax on each gallon of sewage. When we quit using outhouses, not everyone felt they could afford indoor plumbing. When we start dumping pollutants into the ocean, we need to belly up to the bar and pay the tab.

I also find it interesting that an alarming number of our sea turtles now have tumors growing on them. Are we so naive to think that our algae problem is not related to the sea turtle tumors? I doubt that algae creates tumors, but the nitrates altering our ocean environment are undoubtedly affecting a broad base of our delicate system.

The county seems to think in terms of dollars and cents (not sense). What will happen to our local economy when tourists start electing to go to other paradise islands that have clear water and don't have the stench drifting across their dining tables?

**Ron Lando-Brown**  
Lahaina

### Put seaweed to use

Thank you for your excellent story on the seaweed plaguing our beaches (Aug. 20). Fast growing hypnea algae will make our blue Hawaiian waters look like mud and smell like worse if we ignore the problem. We should recycle seaweed like any other waste and attempt to stop the problem from spreading while we still can, as beaches across Maui are already infested.

The county contends there isn't enough money around to properly clean up the seaweed, yet my proposals for seaweed cleanups have been rejected by the Lingle administration even when funds have been approved by the County Council.

Last year, I proposed an economic use for seaweed, composting, so that it would become an asset instead of a burden to the taxpayers. The County Council expressed strong interest in my idea, and sent a letter indicating it would fund my project. Project funding was ultimately denied by the Lingle administration, I performed the work regardless, with excellent results, with help from Campaign Recycle Maui and the Maui Recycling Service.

I also approached the state with a proposal for an ocean-based cleanup to examine the feasibility of ocean harvesting of algae, but it too was rejected.

Anyone with any experience knows that bagging seaweed onshore and trucking it to the county landfill is ridiculous. The county subsidizes recycling to the tune of over a million dollars annually; surely it can spend some of our money to help turn nuisance seaweed into a useful agricultural product, while saving our ocean water's and beaches' pristine reputation in the process.

**Mark Merritte**  
Lahaina

# Generations converge gently on Wailea beach

**S**OUTH of Lahaina, far down the Maui coast, lies Wailea, and several shockingly beautiful beaches. Behind those beaches, admittedly, lies a panoply of resorts, restaurants, golf courses, townhomes/condominiums. There's even a night life, of sorts.

But people I know come to Wailea for the beaches, and it's there that everything, literally everything that summer life has to offer, happens.

The beach fronting the Four Seasons Resort itself is magnificent — a great length of soft white sand extending for almost a mile. It dips gently into the sea, creating a warm pool of water stretching safely some 100 yards out.

The beach is public, divided between the Grand Wailea and Four Seasons, each with hundreds of yards of finely combed sand. Each resort has its own buildings that house restaurants, snack bars, restrooms, showers and whatever facilities each owner saw fit to install.

The sand is dominated by grand and very solid beach cabanas and chaise lounges. These seem to be anchored at fixed spots on the beach, drawn up in near perfect lines. The effect could be regimented and unpleasant, but such is the general cleanliness that the organization only adds to the sense of calm.

In fact, this may be the key to the pleasure of the whole place and the reason why so many people like these vacations so much: Everything is ordered and everything is entirely predictable.

Many people swim in the same patch of sea, shower at the same outdoor shower, and order the same drinks and

lounge a few feet away, draped on the beach towel, leaning on the counter with him when she buys more sunscreen, next to him when he goes to get a drink of water, standing shoulder to shoulder when he's talking to friends, and customers.

And then there is the elegant and beautiful young mother with the quiet voice who brings her two little boys down to the beach every morning at the same time and never talks to you. Will she ever be joined by her husband? Will she take a lover from one of the young men who sometimes talk to her on the beach?

You have to wait and see — just as you have to wait and see how much trouble the two blonde girls who sunbathe topless at a nearby cove are going to cause among the girlfriends of the volleyball-playing crowd who are starting to pay them attention.

Because you're friendly, the two old ladies at the cabana next to you start to gossip, start to tell you who some of these other guests are, and then begin to gently pry information from you, on your work, your marriage, your child.

Throughout the day, the cast moves up and off and back to the beach, showers sand off their feet, orders miniature pizzas, french fries, salads — all eaten outside with beers or wine or mai tais or smoothies while their young kids swim under a spilling pool fountain, as the afternoon tradewind begins to whip up waves and turn sand into tiny missiles.

Teen-agers cluster around the spa making dates for the evening. A group of couples dangle their feet into the

pool while they sip daiquiris. A stylishly clad, smiling couple step from a large, poolside cabana, then stroll to the beach hand in hand.

You suddenly realize something else about this vacation — all generations seem to be represented and all are accepted, from the brazenly courting teen-agers to the grandmother bulging from her bikini as she scolds her grandchildren in the water. All embrace and relish the variety of life going on around them.

After a hard morning on the beach, a good nap surely is in order. Late in the afternoon you can return for another swim. If you're energetic, you can take fins and face mask and explore the fish and plants growing on the rock outcroppings. The water is clean and clear. There are no waves. Or you can rent a kayak and take it out half a mile to explore.

The light becomes golden with the dusk, a reminder that Maui is not so very far to the north.

Life does not end on the beach at twilight, however. There are luaus, music, many things. Someone drives an enormous Rolls Royce to the front of the hotel, a dazzle of chrome, mirror-like red paint, creamy upholstery.

The wind blows in softly from the Pacific. You buy a tropical drink, order sashimi, bet with a friend on just how green the green flash will be. Perhaps you will see the lifeguard and his girl locked arm in arm at last somewhere in the crowd, or sitting on the beach.

Tim Ryan is a Star-Bulletin writer. My Turn is a periodic column written by Star-Bulletin staff members.



**MY  
TURN**  
By Tim  
Ryan

pupus in the same snack bar every day. All the grisly decisions that can haunt a vacation — where to go today, what to do, where to eat, and the like — have been eliminated.

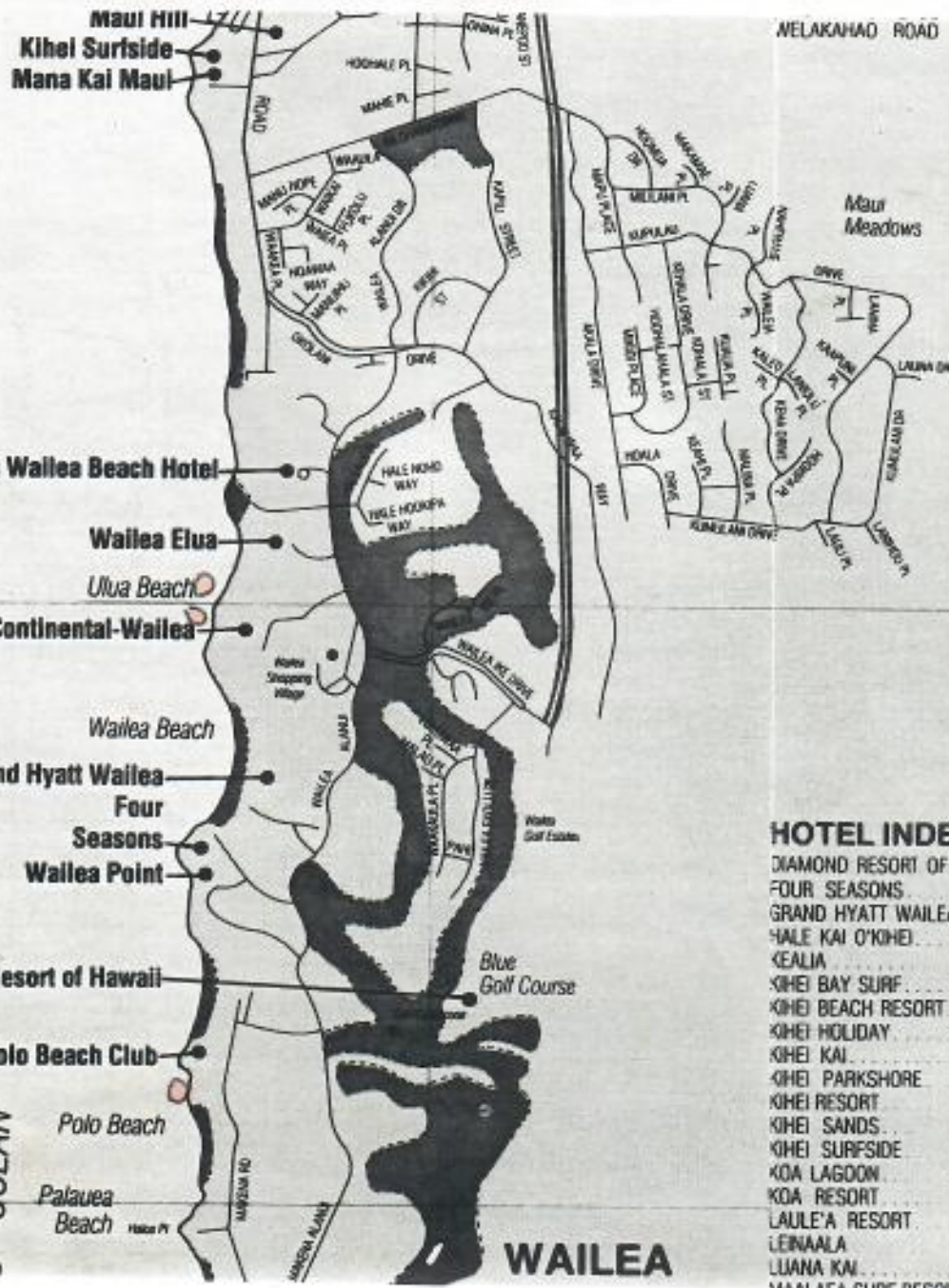
The summer can be given up to laziness, sauntering, casual socializing, eating more exotic, unfamiliar food.

There are charming villages upcountry on Haleakala to the east, where simple countrified lunches are to be had with fine views. But after a few days on the beach, the idea of spending time in the car seems somewhat absurd, because by that time you've discovered that life on the beach is altogether too enjoyable to leave.

Since so many beach goers return to the same cabana every day, you get to know them. And as you do, the scene unfolds like a soap opera, a drama that is always happening and that you can tune in or out at your leisure.

The young man working at the beach services stand, for instance, young and muscular as they usually are, and with blonde hair and blue, shy eyes, has attracted a girl visiting from California. She's no more than 17, clad scantily in a bikini, her long brown hair combed down around a perfect face.

She never seems to touch him, but



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F

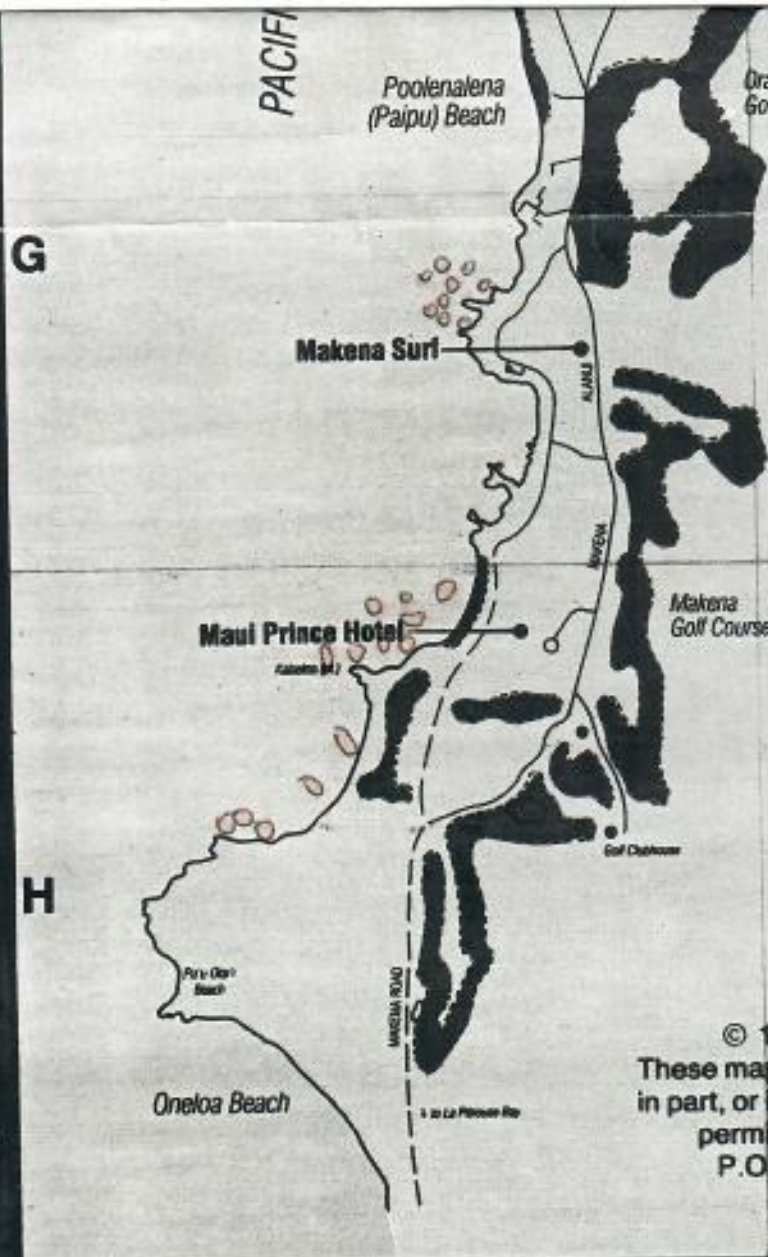
- Maui Hill
- Kihai Surfside
- Mana Kai Maui
- Stouffer's Wailea Beach Hotel
- Wailea Elua
- Ulua Beach
- Maui Inter-Continental-Wailea
- Wailea Beach
- Grand Hyatt Wailea
- Four Seasons
- Wailea Point
- Diamond Resort of Hawaii
- Polo Beach Club
- Polo Beach
- Palaua Beach

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C OCEAN

WAILEA



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479. 951-9107



Maui

# Wailea was M

## Don't forget to try the food

By Joan Clarke  
Advertiser Food Editor

Several years ago, a group of chefs from Hawaii's resort hotels conspired to put Hawaii on the food map when they created Hawaii Regional Cuisine.

No doubt you've heard the names of these chefs and about their food. Here's where you can find them around the Islands:

**Sam Choy:** Sam Choy's Restaurant in Kona, Hawaii

**Roger Dixon:** Maui Prince Hotel in Makena, Maui

**Mark Ellman:** Avalon in Lahaina, Maui

**Amy Ferguson-Ota:** Ritz-Carlton Mauna Lani, Kohala Coast

**Beverly Gannon:** Hailimale General Store, Maui

**Jean-Marie Josselin:** A Pacific Cafe, Kapaa, Kauai; A Pacific Cafe, Kihel, Kauai

**George Mavrothalassitis:** La Mer at the Halekulani Hotel, Honolulu, Oahu

**Peter Merriman:** Merriman's in Kamuela, Hawaii; Hulas Grill in Kaanapali

**Phillippe Padovani:** Manele Bay Hotel, Lanai

**Gary Strehl:** Prince Court at the Hawaii Prince Hotel, Honolulu

**Alan Wong:** Formerly of the Mauna Lani, soon to open in Honolulu

**Roy Yamaguchi:** Roy's in Hawaii Kai, Oahu; Roy's Nicolina in Kahana, Maui; Roy's Kahana Bar and Grill in Kahana, Maui; Roy's Poipu Bar and Grill in Poipu, Kauai.

## Wailea

The success of Kaanapali in part spurred Alexander & Baldwin to begin development of the Wailea resort along Maui's southwest coastline in the late 1960s.

In 1971 A&B had the first golf course up and running. And in 1976, the resort's first hotel, the Maui Inter-Continental, was opened. Today, the 1,500-acre resort boasts five resort hotels (three of them opened since 1990), a shopping center, condos, a 14-court tennis club and, of course, golf.

The resort features three courses, the Blue, Gold and Emerald course (the new Emerald course just debuted over the Christmas holidays). The old Orange course has been permanently retired. Kamaainas can play golf at Wailea for \$55 at the Emerald and Blue courses and \$60 at the Gold course (guest brochure rates are \$85 and \$90). Phone: (808) 875-5111.

For tennis buffs, the Wailea Tennis Club has three grass and 11 hard courts available to kamaainas at \$10 per day (same rate as hotel guests). This gets you one hour of reserved time and non-reserved courts for the rest of the day. Reservations: (808) 879-1958.

Here's a look at the hotels.

### ■ STOUFFER WAILEA BEACH RESORT

Kamasina rates: Mountain view, \$99; oceanside, \$139; full ocean,

\$159. (Brochure rates range from \$260 for mountain view to \$360 for full ocean view.) Phone: (808) 879-4900.

On the north end of the resort, overlooking little Mokapu Beach, is the Stouffer Wailea Beach Resort. Constructed in 1978, the Stouffer is the second oldest hotel in Wailea. It's a low-rise hotel with an older, island feel often lacking in the newer, more glitzy hotel designs. The hotel has a bright, cheerful lobby that is suffused with a soft, golden light, and some of the best landscaped grounds in the resort. The 347-room hotel is home to Raffles restaurant where you can get some award-winning Pacific Rim cuisine. And last but certainly not least, many local folks think the Stouffer has one of the best Sunday brunches on the island.

One nice touch: All the rooms are equipped with VCRs, and video movies are free. You can also stay in touch: Every room has three phones.

### ■ MAUI INTER-CONTINENTAL RESORT

Kamasina rate: Garden view, \$139 up to \$199, ocean front. (Brochure rates range from \$199 garden view to \$319 ocean front.) Phone: (808) 879-1922.

Perhaps the thing to do at the Maui Inter-Continental Resort, the next hotel down the beach from the Stouffer, would be to take a well-thumbed

AT A C K A

## HOLOHOLO HAWAII

# Maui's 2nd big resort



Iluu Beach, one of five small beaches that front Wailea. The Maui-Intercontinental is in the background.

tal hosts the *Hula Pakahi* statewide solo hula contest in both *kahiko* and *'auana* for men and women over the age of 18. And for the past 15 years, the hotel has been the site of a Lei Festival contest, held the same day as the hula competition. Check with the hotel for dates on this year's competition.

For \$149 per night, the Intercontinental is also offering a kamaaina package which allows you to choose one of the following options: An upgrade to a suite, an adjoining room for half-price, your third night free, \$25 food or beverage credit or double bonus miles or points with participating airlines.

### ■ GRAND WAILEA RESORT HOTEL & SPA

Kamaaina rates are \$225. (Brochure rates run from \$370 to \$580.) Phone: (808) 875-1234; reservations: (800) 888-6100.

Next door, it's water, water everywhere in what is probably Maui's most elaborately designed resort hotel, the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa.

Everything here, it seems, is centered around water. From the moment you pass the huge waterfall at the hotel's porte cochere you are conscious of water: water bubbling over lava-rock rapids, or mirrored in

copy of a book by Isle artist-poet-writer Don Blanding and lead for the hotel's Hula Moons restaurant. Blanding lived in Hawaii from 1916 to 1928 and wrote extensively about the Islands. He eventually came to be known as Hawaii's "Ambassador of Aloha," and was the state's unofficial poet laureate.

His work culminated in a nostalgic look at Old Hawaii published in 1930 and was called "Hula Moons," from which the hotel restaurant takes its name. The restaurant as come to be a sort of Blanding museum, with memorabilia from the author's works on display. It's a good book, it's good for a restaurant, and it makes for a nice place to enjoy a little of Old Hawaii.

With 516 rooms, the Maui In-

ter-Continental Resort was the original hotel at Wailea, opening in 1976. It is a big, solidly constructed low-rise hotel finished in koa, Pacific Rim art and woven tapestries with an enormous open-air lobby that runs the length of the main building. It just completed a four-year, \$40 million renovation last year.

The Intercontinental has also instituted a program to reassert the Hawaiian cultural and values within the hotel, and to communicate this experience to hotel guests. The program is called *Ho'olokahi*, and is directed by Bill Boyd, who organizes and gives presentations on Hawaiian topics. An example: Boyd talked about "Kinohala - The Spirit of Nature," in a recent presentation.

Each fall, the Intercontinen-

See Maui, Page 4



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808)943-1221 • Fax: (808)943-1290

May 1, 1995

F/SWC2:ghb

MEMO TO: Mr. Skippy Hau  
Mr. Brooks Tamaye  
Dr. Roger Kehler

FROM: George Balazs  
Marine Turtle Research Program  
Honolulu Laboratory

SUBJECT: Fibropapillomatosis of Hawaiian green turtles- research efforts utilizing stranded animals.

I thought it would be helpful to supply each of you with an assortment of recent reports and publications relating to studies of tumored green turtles in both Hawaii and Florida. All of the work reported here has been undertaken by our laboratory on a contractual and/or collaborative basis with wildlife disease specialist and immunologists.

Important elements of this work include the use of fresh dead or freshly euthanized turtles determined to be doomed and unable to survive in the wild and/or hopeless for captive rehabilitation efforts. We are dedicated to making the highest research use of such animals. Presently, Dr. Robert Morris (Makai Animal Clinic) and Dr. Thierry Work (National Biological Service) are available here in Honolulu to perform euthanasia, when called for, followed by comprehensive necropsies including histology and parasitology work-ups. In addition, for special purposes we send freshly euthanized turtles packed in ice by Federal Express to researchers on the United States mainland.

All three of you on Maui have made valuable contributions of time and talent to the efforts to unravel the cause and mode of transmission of this debilitating disease affecting Hawaii's sea turtles. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your involvement and to encourage your continued participation in matters relating to the welfare of stranded turtles and other protected wildlife. Except when I am away on travel, I am always available and eager to speak to you by phone on any matter relating to a stranded turtle. Dr. Morris has expressed similar sentiments of desiring to assist on any case of this nature.

Again, I appreciate the contributions each of you have made.

cc

Dr. Robert Morris  
Mr. Eugene Nitta





[21] From: Eugene Nitta 4/19/95 7:21AM (1113 bytes: 15 ln)  
To: George Balazs  
Subject: Re: Dr. Morris

*Euthanasia*

----- Message Contents -----

Gene- I just did a follow-up conversation based on your talk with Skip. He of course is very agreeable to telephone consultations BEFORE necropsys. He did, however, want to know if you had a similar conversation with Dr. Kehler in order to clarify the point of consultation being necessary. Have you spoken to him yet? If not, Bob (and I) feel that you need to. We can't assume that everything from your conversation was relayed by Skip to Dr. Kehler. Thanks, geo.

*Answer*

I spoke with Roger yesterday. He was more than willing to consult on animals brought to him for evaluation. He has phone #s for me, you, and Bob Morris (clinic). I stressed the point of outside groups perhaps getting excited about euthanasia and that I was concerned about protecting him and us from unwarranted criticism. I don't think there will be a problem with this.

*Gene Nitta*

4/19

Bob- I'd like to have you telephone Roger to smooth out the protocol for communication/interaction. Charge the call to my number - 943-1240. Following your conversation with him, I will call and speak with him.

How does this plan sound?

*Best, Geo*

[28] From: Shawn Koga 4/21/95 7:18AM (2037 bytes: 31 ln)  
To: George Balazs  
Subject: for next week

----- Forwarded with Changes -----  
From: George Balazs 4/20/95 8:34AM (455 bytes: 5 ln)  
To: Shawn Koga  
Subject: for next week

----- Message Contents -----  
I think this is the turtle you meant, but it was actually sent by

Brooks.

4-30-93 T. Gutina via B. Tamaye (DLNR-Maui)  
Kahului Bay (Paukukalo)

CM F Weight=205.0#

SL=94.8 SW=73.3

CL=102.0 CW=90.0

N=94.8 P=75.1

Head=12.8 RFF=~~1~~

T=26.0 C=16.5

Found alive floating with mild emaciation. Brought to shore by Ms. Gutina and her relatives. FF<sub>1</sub> and LHF bitten off by a shark. Shipped to NMFS in Honolulu via Aloha Air Cargo. Taken to Dr. Morris for EU: Sodium Pentobarbital through heart on 5-1-93. Mild emaciation. FF<sub>1</sub> and LHF freshly amputated. LFF down to distal end of flipper and RFF down to radius/ulna. Leech eggs. RHF healed large v-notch. 2 short slashes on chin. Small extra scute between 1st-2nd central. Atrophied R. eye, likely blind. Engraving from 1990 not visible. G.I.T. 10% full. No shelled eggs in oviduct, ~1025 eggs @ 31.5#. Samples: humeri, tags, L. femur, skin barnacles in 10% formalin, liver/lipid, and upper stomach contents saved.

No tumors.

Tags: 8468/8469/8470/8471 put on 6-18-85, *nesting at East Is., FFS*

Months (year or years?) ago we had a live very large adult turtle shipped us from Maui (Hau). It had a front flipper recently amputated by a shark. Maybe you recall it. In any event, please dig up all info out of tdps we have on it. Was in euthanized? Used by Alonso or? Or tagged and released? thanks, geo.

April 13, 1995

Charles Lowrie  
13794 Bowman Road  
Pine Grove, CA 95865-9461

Dear Dr. Balazs —

It was with great pleasure that upon our return from our most recent visit to Hawaii (Maui) that we found in our accumulated mail your letter with the brochure and other material on green sea turtles in Hawaii and elsewhere.

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in responding so positively to our request. You can be sure the material will be well used as both my wife and daughter teach science in their schools.

During our visit to Maui for 3½ weeks in March we spent

most of our time snorkeling  
at Ahiki Bay (entry point #2)  
with occasional visits to Ulua  
Beach. We were thrilled to see  
at least one or two green turtles  
each day either swimming or  
napping at Ahiki Bay and some-  
times as many as a half dozen  
sightings. On two successive days  
we even saw two turtles at Ulua  
Beach which we had never before  
seen on several snorkels there in  
other years. We have always loved  
the graceful movement and elegant  
beauty of sea turtles in water and  
therefore felt blessedly rewarded  
to have so many sightings during  
last month's visit.

Thank you again for sending  
the brochure and fact  
sheets to us and thank you  
also for the contributions  
you, The Center for Marine Con-  
servation and The National Oceanic  
and Atmospheric Administration  
(National Marine Fisheries Service)  
are making to save the green  
sea turtle and its cousins in the  
sea turtle community from  
extinction for all of us to enjoy  
and value.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lowrie

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5006

March 28, 1995

To: Bill Devick, Program Manager  
From: *Sh*  
Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Weak Turtle Beached at Maliko

On Friday, 24 March 1995, about 12:37 pm, Chris (Ph.#579-9628) called to report a turtle at Maliko Bay near the boat ramp side. I found a green turtle with tumors on both eyes, neck and base of its flippers. The turtle appeared too weak to get back into the water. The animal was wrapped in a plastic tarp and dragged to my pickup truck. An motorcycle rider named Walt assisted me in lifting the turtle on to the bed.

The curved carapace length measured 79 centimeters (31 inches). The curved carapace width was 71.5 centimeters (28 inches). Dr. Roger Kehler's Office was informed of the situation. The turtle was taken to Dr. Kehler who helped euthanize it through injection.

The carcass was taken to the Central landfill on Saturday morning, 25 March 1995.

c: DOCARE - Maui  
George Balazs - NMFS

SHAWW  
TDPS  
copy then  
return to me

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327  
FAX #(808)243-5006  
April 12, 1995

To: Bill Devick, Program Manager  
From: *Sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Dead Turtle Retrieved From Ukumehame Shoreline

On Sunday, 9 April 1995, Mr. Emmet Rodrigues of the Sherriffs Department contacted Lahaina Police Department. The Police Department dispatch contacted me at home to relay the report of a turtle at Ukumehame. Sergeant DeMello was not sure if the turtle was alive or not. I responded and found Mr. Rodrigues with his family at the beach. He reported that Mr. Bill Worcester (Ph.#572-4527) was kayaking when he came across a turtle floating in the water. He retrieved the floating carcass about 50 to 75 yards from shore.

It was a female green turtle with tumors. There were no tags. Tumors were found on the eyes, neck, around the tail and base of its flippers. The animal was wrapped in a blue tarp and with the assistance of Mr. Rodrigues and an unidentified male, carried it to my pickup truck. The curved carapace length measured 88.5 centimeters (34.8 inches). The curved carapace width was 79.5 centimeters (31.3 inches).

The carcass transported to the Central landfill after 06:30 am the next morning.

c: DOCARE - Maui  
George Balazs - NMFS

Date: Mon, 13 Feb 1995 15:04:24 -1000 (HST)  
From: John.Pye@mccada.mauiccc.hawaii.edu  
To: gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu  
Subject: Turtles

Hi George:

Well, we got out for only one dive yesterday because the conditions weren't the best. We went off of Five Graves (near Makena Landing) because people say there are always turtles there. In fact, quite a few dive boats go there probably for that reason. We were in the water early enough to beat most of the boats. We saw four turtles only, but all within about 25 yards of each other sitting on the reef. They are obviously used to divers and made no attempt to move while we looked them over. It would have been simple to catch them and get them to the surface. They all looked clean and free of tumors and were all about 2-2 1/2 feet total length (including head). One had tags and I was able to get the numbers from the two rear flippers (they were K-9 and K-10). Donna saw a tag on one of the front flippers (she couldn't remember which one, but the number was K-7). Hopefully you'll know the info on this turtle.

There are several other spots we've heard about and we tried to get Bo to go with us (I hope I've got his name right, I'm going from memory now) on Sunday but he had previous commitments. I think it would be great to get you over here so we could all check out some spots and get some work done, but my biggest concern is that we accomplish enough to justify your trip for you. That's why I keep thinking we need to check these sites out thoroughly before having you over. We can do any way you think would be best.

This week is looking pretty bad for us here right now also due to continuing budget crises and heavy workloads. If we can work out a time after your trip (didn't you have one coming up soon?) I can get some students together for that and we can scout out a few more areas.

What do you think? Talk to you soon!

John

Shawn -  
Please print  
a historical report  
for this one

7/28/93  
5 caves  
SL = 42.5 cm



Shawn  
TDPS  
copy → GHB

COPY

STATE OF HAWAII  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Aquatic Resources - Maui  
130 Mahalani St.  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 243-5294

February 28, 1995

Memorandum:

To: William Devick, Program Manager  
Through: Randy Honebrink, Education Coordinator  
From: Brooks Tamaye, Information Specialist - Maui 61  
Subject: Turtle on Shore at Olowalu

Yesterday, I received a call from Linda Nelson the caretaker of Camp Pecusa at Olowalu. She wanted to report a turtle that had come ashore and possibly dug a nest. On 2/26/95, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a camper notified her of a turtle on the beach. According to Linda the turtle had tumors on both eyes, although one eye was worse than the other. She also noticed what she thought were signs of a nest. It appeared to her that the sand was more disturbed than if the turtle had come up and just rested. There also appeared to be a depression. The turtle seemed confused as it tried to climb a steep bank. They faced it in the direction of the water and it swam away. This morning I inspected the site with Norman Nelson (Linda's Husband). He pointed out the location, it was hard to get an exact spot because the high tide had pretty much washed away most of the markings. It didn't appear that a nesting had occurred. Norman felt that maybe the turtle may have come ashore because of its condition. This seems like the most likely reason. If time permits, a follow-up inspection will be conducted in about 2 months.

c: George Balazs, NMFS

Yesow

Blawski  
True Sighting

First: 03-18-92 (on video)  
1 turtle w/ neck tumors

<1994


2nd: 03-24-93  
42" turtle @ 25'

3rd: 04-02-93  
42" turtle

---

this was all in last  
year's reports

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
130 MAHALANI STREET  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 243-5327 or 243-5294  
Fax #(808) 243-5006  
December 15, 1994

To: Paul Kawamoto, Program Manager  
From:  Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Green Turtle Found Beached at Maliko Gulch

On Thursday, 14 September 1994, at 1015, Van received information about a turtle on the sand area near Maliko boat ramp. The turtle had tumors and was still alive. The person who found the turtle said that one eye was out of its socket.

During the morning, we were involved with fish surveys at Honolua Bay and was not able to respond until the afternoon. I went to Maliko Bay and recovered the turtle around 1445. The turtle had tumors on its head neck and around both front flippers. The location around its tail and hind flippers did appear to have tumors. The turtle had no tags. The curved carapace length measured 72.5 centimeters (28.5 inches) and the curved carapace width measured 64.5 centimeters (25.4 inches).

Dr. Roger Kehler was contacted and arrangements were made for him to check the turtle. The turtle was transported to his Kihei clinic around 1530. Dr. Kehler found the tumors on both eyes had fully incapacitated the turtle and decided to euthanize it. At 1615, the carcass was disposed of at the Central landfill.

c: NMFS (George Balazs)

## **TURTLE ADVOCACY GROUP - MAUI**

**CALL TO ACTION - MALUAKA REEF DECEMBER 13, 1994**

A herd of some 24 honu, Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles, lives under the ledges and on the reef at Maluaka Point just to the south of the Prince Hotel. Honu is protected under the Endangered Species Act. In recent months the volume of ecotourism and big boat traffic on the reef has increased significantly. On Thanksgiving morning 1994, four big tour boats put some five hundred people into the water in a period of two hours.

This large-scale intrusion into the green turtles' habitat disturbs their resting, feeding and sleeping cycles, and disperses the turtles from their normal herd grouping. In the days since Thanksgiving, there have been fewer than six turtles on the reef.

### **BOAT OWNERS AND BOAT CAPTAINS:**

Can you get together and plan to cycle through the different reef destinations on Maui so that habitat intrusion is minimal? Putting large numbers of people out on the reef disperses the animals, and crowds the reef for the tourists you are serving. When the boats arrive at different hours, the trip is more likely to produce the intimate swimming with the turtles that makes your boat trip the highlight of a person's time on Maui.

### **SCUBA DIVERS:**

Please don't go under the ledges to bring the turtles out. This is out-and-out harassment of the sea turtles and is strictly illegal. The turtles are in retreat when they go under the ledges and caves, which are their places of privacy. Let them be undisturbed in their cycles of resting and sleeping, and in their response to ocean conditions. Have the grace to allow the turtles to come out according their own rhythms.

### **THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING THIS THREATENED SPECIES.**

TAG - MAUI (572-5940) in association with  
THE PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION (879-8860).  
Enforcement of the Turtle Protection Laws is the charge of  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, HONOLULU (541-2727).

JOHN WAIHEE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



KEITH W. AHUE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPUTIES  
JOHN P. KOFFELER, II  
DONALD HARRIS  
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
CONSERVATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
CONSERVATION AND  
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
CONVEYANCES  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES  
130 MAHALANI ST.  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96723  
Phone (808) 243-5294

December 1, 1994

Mr. George Balazs  
NOAA-National Marine Fisheries  
SWFC Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear George:

Attached are three(3) photos of the turtle plastron I discussed with Shawn. Not visible in the photos are some spider webs and dead insects in the corners, indicating it's not very fresh.

Officer Larry Pacheco of our DOCARE-Maui office is requesting an identification. It was seized coincidentally in another unrelated case.

Your assistance in this will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above listed number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brooks Tamaye".

Brooks Tamaye  
Information Specialist

c: Officer Pacheco  
DAR-Oahu Office



12/1/64 (1130) Plastron



12/1/64 (1130) Plastron



12/1/64 (1130) Plastron

Received

~ 12/6/94

Dear George,

Thank you for the information on sexing sea turtles. I very much appreciate your responsiveness.

George, I met with Eric Brown & Tim Clark at the Pacific Whale Foundation this week. Subject: Habitat Intrusion at Maluaka Reef.

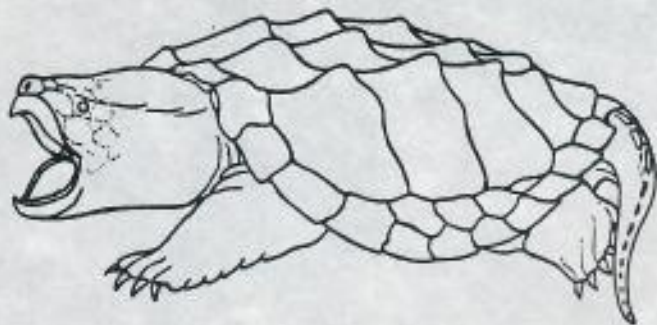
I plan to be at the Molokini Mooring meeting Dec. 13th with turtle pictures and a handout.

Eric Brown suggested that the Pacific Whale Foundation and NMFS co-sign the handout to give it weight.

Is the enclosed handout o.k.? Should it be changed? May I put "in association with NMFS" on it?

With gratitude,

Charvite





8 DEC 94

Dear Charlotte -

Thank you for your note and "Turtle  
Advocacy Group - Maui" (draft) that I  
just read this morning upon returning from  
4 days vacation. Your write-up looks  
reasonable, except that I have no  
authority whatsoever to give permission for  
the "inassociation" part co-signing for  
NMFS. Please delete that part, or  
reword to indicate that NMFS enforces  
turtle protection laws.

Regarding going under ledges to bring the  
turtles out, this is out-and-out  
harassment. Strictly illegal, so needs to  
be stated as such. You may want to  
telephone Agent Gene Witham (541-2727)  
to discuss further. Sincerely, George Balazs  
cc Gene Witham





*Shawn -  
do you have  
this one?  
In TDPS?  
Please return this copy.*

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES - MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
70 SOUTH HIGH STREET, Room #201  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone # (808) 244-2072  
August 9, 1994

To: Paul Kawamoto, Program Manager  
From: *sh* Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist  
Subject: Another Dead Turtle Recovered at Kahului

This morning, DOCARE Officer Stanley Okamoto recovered a green turtle with tumors from the Maui Police Department. The turtle was accidentally captured with a gill net in Honokeana, West Maui. I met Officer Okamoto at the DLNR baseyard in Kahului. He said the green turtle appeared to have been injured from its capture in the gill net. There was bleeding from injuries to tumors on both eyes.

Most of the tumors were less than one inch and found on its neck, at the base of both front flippers and covering both eyes. There were no visible tumors at the base of the hind flippers or its tail. It appeared to be emaciated for its shell size. Arrangements were made to take the turtle to Dr. Roger Kehler's office in Kihei. There were no tags. The curved carapace length measured 59 centimeters (23.2 inches) and the curved carapace width measured 53 centimeters (20.9 inches).

Dr. Kehler confirmed that the turtle appeared to be too weak and impaired by tumors covering both eyes. He decided to euthanize the animal through injection. Afterwards, the turtle carcass was taken to the Central landfill for disposal.

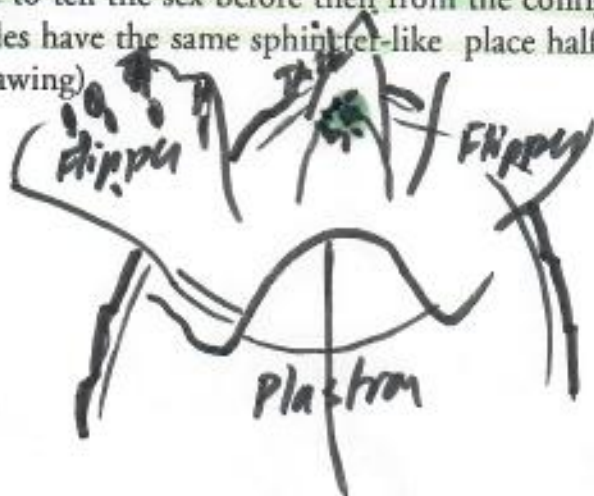
c: NMFS (George Balazs)

Charlotte Thomson, Ph.D.  
P.O. Box 1872  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-572-5940

Dear George,

I have a question about sexual dimorphism in honu. In the Synopsis you wrote that sexual dimorphism is apparent when the sea turtles reach 31 1/2 inches SCL and the male's tail lengthens.

But isn't it possible to tell the sex before then from the configuration under the tail? Don't the little males have the same sphincter-like place halfway down the tail as the big males? (See drawing)



Could you take a moment to confirm this for me if it is so? I'm writing about the sex of individual turtles, but I would like it to be correct.

in 1995

I suggested to my contact at Kodak that they have a sea turtle photograph contest for the Year of the Sea Turtle in the Pacific. She seemed to like the idea.

This month I have to move and I have to go back to work.

Donna and I missed each other the morning we were supposed to swim on Maluaka Reef. We will go when she comes back from Micronesia.

With gratitude,

*Charlotte*

Charlotte Thomson

Kodak gave me 30  
single use (throwaway)  
underwater cameras  
to complete the photography for  
the book.

Charlotte Thomson  
P.O. Box 1872  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-572-5940

11/94

Dear George,

Thank you for your postcard. You are lucky, going to American Samoa. Were you on turtle business?

Donna and I have met. We were unable to swim as planned this week because of high surf and turbid water. We will go to Maluaka Reef next Monday.

This small turtle with the tags still puzzles me. Perhaps Donna and I together can read the number on the tags.

*(22 turtles identified so far)*

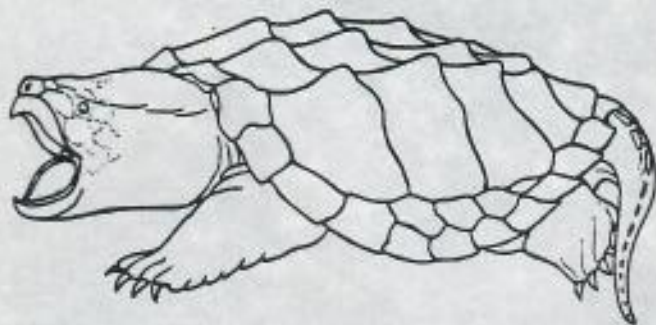
Things are moving along on the tourist book. Eastman Kodak is giving me 30 single-use underwater cameras to finish the photography. I have several record photos of nearly all the turtles, but I need something more evocative for the book. I borrowed an expensive Nikon, but didn't get significantly better results with it. So I will finish off with the Kodak cameras. It's a question of patience. The ocean is only clear about three days a month.

The rest of the book is nearly complete. I work on everything at once, so all the sections are in progress and nothing is finished. I need about fifteen days to finish writing. I want to get it out for the beginning of the Year of the Sea Turtle in the Pacific.

I feel so grateful for the gift of the cameras.

Aloha

Charlotte



## PREFACE

Maluaka Point in South Maui marks the land's end where the Maluaka lava flow from Haleakala volcano plunged into the sea. In the ocean just off this point, coral reef has grown on the submerged lava, allowing an abundance of life to become established. The slanting flows of sub-sea lava have been undercut by sand and water moving on the ocean floor. There are underwater arches, ledges and caves. A herd of some twenty green sea turtles lives in the protection of these ledges and caves.

The herd of sea turtles is in danger. There is a plan to build a new hotel at Maluaka Point. Debris and chemicals from construction are likely to make their way into the ocean. Night lights from the new hotel may disrupt the life rhythms of the sea turtles. Their world is on the verge of deep change.

A second danger to their habits is the sheer number of tourists brought to the reef daily on snorkeling tours. At times the tour boats disgorge two hundred people into the water in one hour. The boats themselves bring noise, vibrations and fumes. Their anchors drag the bottom, breaking the coral reef.

The initial intention of this study was to count the turtles in order to inform George Balazs at the National Marine Fisheries Service on the number of animals at stake, and to collect enough data to suggest that the area be made a marine sanctuary.

In order to count the turtles, I needed to be able to distinguish them from one another. Swimming with them day after day, I began to see patterns and behaviors that were not spoken of in the literature on sea turtles. It became apparent that I was witnessing the dynamics of the herd, and that this needed to be recorded.

The scientific work on the green sea turtles in the last decades has concentrated on the essential task of protecting nesting beaches and counting and tracking the turtles on the breeding migration. This book takes a close look at a single herd, on its home territory, and describes the life of green sea turtles as they live it from day to day.

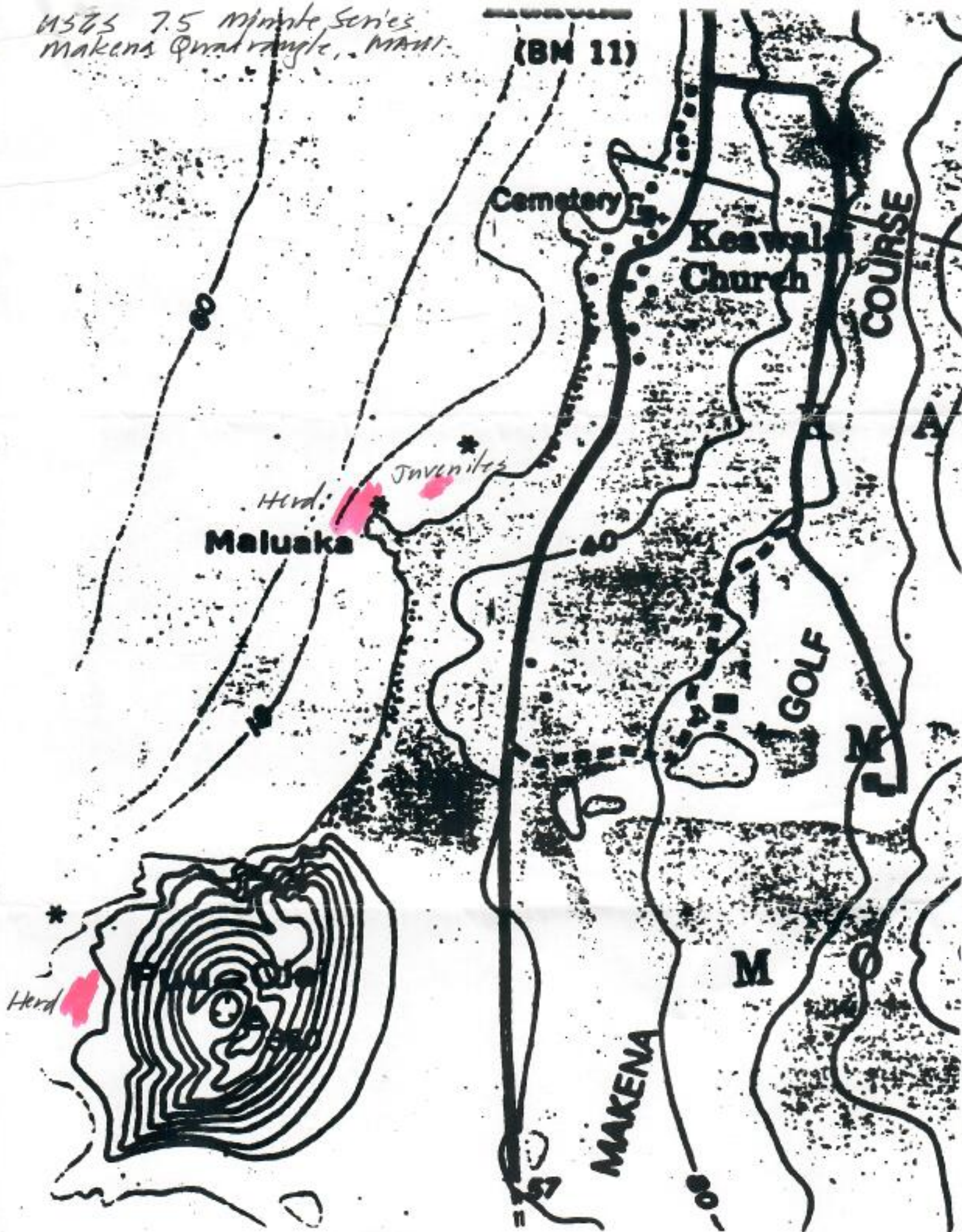
No work of this kind is complete. A year's observation is just an eye-blink in the larger scheme of things. One individual's perspective is limited. Indeed, there is distortion caused by the very presence of an observer. The sea turtles live much longer than we do. Their life cycles will continue. New animals will hatch and find their way across the vast sea distances to this herd and this grazing place. The turtles may disperse because of environmental pressures and intrusion into their habitat.

With these limitations in mind, this work is offered as an invitation into the sea, to swim at the margin of the land with these graceful and gentle creatures. If you are inclined to record what you see, this book offers suggestions on how to do it. If you are a thinker or planner, let us find a way to protect these sea turtles and the reef that is their home.

Honu, the Hawaiian name for green sea turtle, means 'peace' or 'peaceful.' May you be blessed with calm seas and clear vision as you venture onto the reef. May these sweet animals help you to discover and embrace your own peace.

Charlotte Thomson  
Maui October 1994

USGS 7.5 minute Series  
Makens Quadrangle, MAUI.



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# Turtles appearing on South Maui shoreline

By Jerome Kellner

Saltwater reptiles are making news in South Maui, good and bad news.

The dead green sea turtle brought into Maalaea Harbor recently was almost undoubtedly a victim of the disease afflicting that species in Hawaii and world wide. The small turtle was picked up by the R.V. Whale One on its morning snorkel cruise out of Maalaea and brought back into the harbor, where biologist Skippy Hau recovered and cataloged the carcass.

A week later came the third report of a sighting of the rare hawksbill turtle in the Maalaea mudflats area,

where a number of the exotic sea reptiles have been spotted in recent years.

Last year a large egg-bearing hawksbill was hit by a car and killed on North Kihel Road. Only a couple of dozen hawksbills - once prized for its shell, which was made into jewelry - are thought to inhabit Hawaii waters.

The green sea turtle has made a good recovery in Hawaii, but in the past decade the population here has been afflicted with life-threatening tumors, called fibropapillomas. The one brought into Maalaea harbor had evidence of extensive tumors, which is symptomatic of the disease, suspected

to be caused by a virus, Hau said.

"Unfortunately we pick up a lot of (dead) turtles," said Hau, an aquatic biologist with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

He noted that this specimen had a lot of tumors and evidence of algae growth on it.

A number of Maalaea charters boats have made stopping in "Turtle Town" outside Maalaea Harbor part of their daily cruise. An area directly outside the harbor is a favorite site of turtles, and at least a half dozen are generally viewable at any given time.

Tim Clark, a research associate of the Pacific Whale Foundation who has studied turtles, said in Kaneohe Bay on Oahu, about 50 percent of the green sea turtle population is afflicted with the tumors. The tumors can interfere with feeding and seeing, and the disease is undoubtedly cutting into the turtles' reproductive capability, he said.

The green sea turtle is the most common of the three native Hawaiian sea turtles, and like its cousins the hawksbill and the leatherback, is fully protected under state law and the federal Endangered Species Act.

The greens can weigh up to 400 pounds, and are primarily vegetarians, eating limu located on coral reefs and on rocks close to shore.

Besides the fibropapilloma affliction, green sea turtles frequently end up as tiger sharks' meals, as they travel long distances in the ocean and their shells are relatively soft in comparison to other turtles.

Once there were tens of millions of green sea turtles around the world, but their numbers were decimated by hunting. They have been further reduced by being captured in drift nets and other fishing gear; by eating plas-

tic debris and by degradation of their nesting beaches by pollution and development. Now there may be fewer than 200,000 mature females.

In Hawaii, the green sea turtle is a threatened species. Only 100 to 350 females nest each year, principally at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The shells of adult green sea turtle are dark brown with olive or gold flecks; they received their name from the color of their body fat.

Six of the seven species of sea turtles are listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered species Act. An endangered species is in immediate danger of extinction; a threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future.

The hawksbill is definitely an endangered species, world wide.

The good news is that they are here in South Maui at all. Two years ago evidence was found that a female hawksbill had used a beach near the Maalaea mudflats as a nesting site. Then there was last year's incident in which an egg-bearing hawksbill was struck and killed on North Kihel Road, followed by at least four sightings during the past month.

The hawksbill nesting season continues through November, so motorists in that area should look out for turtles on the road at night. Kathy Smith, manager of the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, wants anyone who has seen a hawksbill turtle to call her at 875-1582.

Anyone who sees turtles being captured, harmed or killed should call the State Conservation & Resources Enforcement Maui office at 243-5414.