

The Maui News

Letters

Turtles need protection

Emergency measures need to be taken to prevent auto collisions with critically endangered hawksbill turtles trying to lay their eggs on the shores of Maalaea Bay. Just last year a nesting female was hit and crushed to death while trying to cross North Kihei Road in the dead of night. Now, in recent days, one or two more of these rare animals have had close calls on the same stretch of highway.

The immediate solution to this problem is to erect a low (2-foot) fence along the makai roadway where the danger exists. The turtles have no business crossing the road, and under no circumstances should be allowed to do so. If eggs are laid in a nest on the mauka side, the small hatching turtles that later emerge will be run over, or severely disoriented, when they try to crawl to sea.

Action urgently needs to be taken to reduce or eliminate this roadway hazard before last year's tragedy is repeated.

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