

Hawaii Pacific University's 2024 Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **4th Annual Sea Turtle Workshop** set for Friday, October 4th at HPU's Aloha Tower Marketplace Campus in Downtown Honolulu.

To Register, Please Click Here:

<https://forms.gle/C2ZVTQ6wifLyGTfV9>

Registration is simple, seamless, and fast (<2 minutes). Where it asks for your Address, please feel free to only provide brief information, if you so wish. For example, I put in 'Hawaii-Kai, Oahu.' After completing and submitting, you will immediately receive email confirmation of successful registration.

Note that we really do sincerely encourage the full spectrum of Hawaii/Oceania and Turtle's diverse communities to attend. All are welcome, all voices will be heard, and all views will be respected. The HPU Sea Turtle Workshop is meant for everyone. It is far more than a meeting place for academics and other professionals involved with sea turtles.

This year's Workshop Title and Focus:

"Signals of Carrying Capacity from Green Turtles in Hawaii- Sifting the Wheat from the Chaff"

And the Workshop Goal:

"To stimulate interest and action in finding answers to puzzling important questions relevant to the conservation status of Hawaii's green turtle population"

As in past years, registration is Free, but everyone attending must register. Parking is Free with Validation. Zoom is Free. Coffee, tea, juice and light pastries will be provided at no cost. The Spirit of Aloha and Camaraderie will fill the meeting room including via Zoom. We look forward to productive discussions trying to sort out signals that the turtles may be sending to us.

Post-Note: We Asked the Following to ChatGPT, an Artificial Intelligence online tool:

"Please provide an easily understood description of carry capacity in green sea turtles, *Chelonia mydas*."

And Here's the Response:

"Carrying capacity in green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) refers to the maximum number of individuals of this species that an environment can support without leading to negative effects on the turtles or their habitat. It is influenced by various factors including the availability of food, nesting sites, and the overall health of the ecosystem.

In simple terms, it is like having a certain number of seats available in a theater: once all seats are filled, no more people can enter without causing overcrowding or discomfort. For green sea turtles, when the population reaches carrying capacity, resources such as seagrass beds (their primary food source) might become scarce, leading to competition, malnutrition, and a decline in turtle health. Additionally, overcrowding on nesting beaches can result in damage to nests and lower hatching success.

Maintaining the carrying capacity is crucial to ensure a balanced ecosystem where green sea turtles and other species can thrive. Conservation efforts aim to protect habitats and manage turtle populations to stay within this capacity, preventing overuse of resources and ensuring long-term survival." End of Quote.

Last, here's two papers from 14 years ago about carrying capacity of green turtles in Hawaii- [Wabnitz, Balazs, Beavers, Bjorndal, Bolten, Christensen and Hargrove \(2010\) Ecosystem structure and processes at Kaloko Honokohau, focusing on the role of herbivores, including the green turtle in reef resilience. MEPS.](#)

[Tiwari, Balazs and Hargrove \(2010\) Estimating carrying capacity at the green turtle nesting beach of East Island, French Frigate Shoals. MEPS.](#)

With Best Wishes
from HPU's Workshop Organizing Committee,

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