

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

● A-10

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Many to thank for turtle population

Mahalo for your Dec. 20 feature, "Green turtles making rally." Indeed, they are! In the last three decades, these splendid animals — known as "honu" — have been pulled from the brink of extinction to a point where they now greet the next century in much greater numbers.

True, the honu still struggle with Fibropapilloma tumors but we're encouraged by the advances made in understanding the disease over the last decade.

Much of this world-class research was conducted right in the islands.

We wish to thank George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service for the expertise and dedication he brings to the honu.

Mahalo also to the dedicated researchers and volunteers who've assisted him in this recovery vision.

Lastly, a special mahalo to the people of Hawaii. That their waters are graced with so many friendly turtles is the direct result of the aloha spirit.

Ursula Keuper-Bennett
Peter Bennett

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA
VIA THE INTERNET