
2026 Turtle Independence Day

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The annual **Turtle Independence Day** at the [Mauna Lani Auberge Resort](#) on the Kohala Coast celebrates the release of juvenile Hawaiian green sea turtles (honu) back into the Pacific Ocean. The 37th annual event was held on **July 4th**. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Key Details and Festivities:

- **The Tradition:** Part of the resort's Mālama Honu conservation program, captive-reared hatchlings from Oahu's Sea Life Park are raised in the resort's saltwater ponds for about 2 to 3 years until they reach a safe release size. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)
- **The Celebration:** The 4th of July morning event typically features live Hawaiian music, hula dancing, and marine educational displays. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **The Release:** Lucky keiki (children) are chosen to carry the turtles to the ocean shoreline on taut nets, after which the turtles make their first swim into the wild. Each departing turtle is micro-chipped so marine biologists can track their movements. [\[1, 2\]](#)

As this year's event has recently passed, the resort continues to host daily educational opportunities to view the younger turtles still residing in the ponds. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

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