historical data and regional monitoring reports, these represent the first documented nesting occurrences of this species on Cerralvo Island. This finding highlights the potential expansion or reestablishment of nesting activity in this region, emphasizing the ecological importance of continued surveillance. The East Pacific green turtle is a priority species for conservation under both national and international frameworks. These results underscore the value of long-term community participation and the need for further scientific studies to better understand the species' habitat use, reproductive behavior, and potential response to environmental changes. Strengthening conservation efforts on Cerralvo Island could play a significant role in regional sea turtle recovery strategies across the Gulf of California.

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NESTING HONU (HAWAIIAN GREEN SEA TURTLES) ON OAHU*

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The honu (Hawaiian green turtle, *Chelonia mydas*) once nested in large numbers across the main Hawaiian Islands. From the 1800s through the 1970s, widespread unsustainable harvest of adults and eggs eliminated virtually all significant nesting sites except Lalo, also known as French Frigate Shoals, which is a low lying atoll whose existence is threatened by a combination of sea level rise and increased storm frequency. Intrinsic life-history traits—late maturation and strong natal-site fidelity—impede recovery and mean population rebound will require recolonization of formerly used nesting areas. Although adult population abundance has increased at approximately 5% per year, there is little evidence of substantial nesting outside the low-lying atoll of Lalo, making colonization of higher-elevation islands that will persist under sea-level rise essential for long-term survival. A community-based citizen-science program on Oahu, initiated in 2016 to locate, monitor, and protect nests, documented increased nesting beginning around 2020 and continuing to the present. Nest counts were low (range 0 – 9) from 2016–2019, rose to 58 in 2020 and 67 in 2021, and reached 83 in 2024. Hatching and emergence success were generally high (86% and 79%, respectively). However, many nests and hatchlings required intervention due to misorientation to electric light, vehicle disturbance, invasive predators, and entanglement in discarded fishing line. In the last two years we have had an increase in observations of honu attempting unsuccessfully to nest in areas where homeowners have hardened the shoreline with erosion fabric, sandbags, etc. Public education—particularly on responsible use of night-time lighting—and targeted management actions are needed to mitigate threats and support the continued re-establishment of honu nesting on Oahu, an important step towards recovery.

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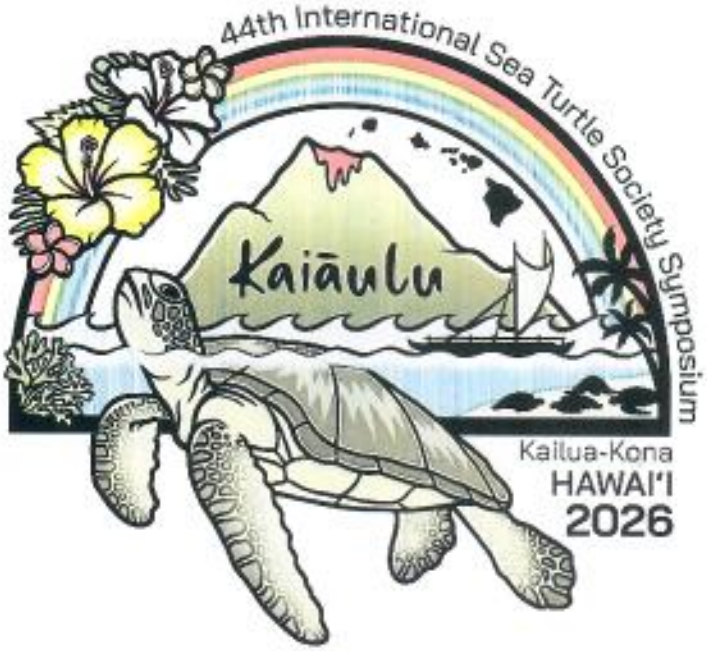

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