

**SHOW TURTLES ALOHA. PLEASE DO NOT FEED, HANDLE, CROWD OR TEASE.**



## **Did You Know???**

### **HONU**

### **The Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle:**



- \* is protected as a Threatened Species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. Please treat them with respect and do not feed, touch, crowd or tease them.
- \* can reach a shell length of 40" and weigh up to 400 pounds
- \* lives to be an estimated 60-70 years old
- \* can swim in short bursts up to 20 mph
- \* feeds primarily on seaweed and sea grass
- \* has no teeth, but has a serrated jaw that can inflict a serious bite
- \* can eat and swallow only while under water
- \* has excellent underwater vision
- \* can hear low frequency sounds but has no external openings to the ears
- \* has countershaded coloration, dark on top and light on the bottom, providing some camouflage in the ocean
- \* has thick tears that rid its body of excess salt and help to clean its eyes
- \* is not green on the outside but gets its name from the color of the internal body fat
- \* has thin plates of keratin forming the outer layer of the shell while underneath are bones, cartilage and tissue giving the shell its strength
- \* is mainly preyed upon by large tiger sharks
- \* is sexually mature at 25-35 years of age.
- \* when mature, the male can be distinguished from the female by its much longer and thicker tail
- \* crawls ashore to warm its body (to bask), usually for several hours
- \* returns to nest and reproduce at the same general area where it was born
- \* migrates over 1000 miles roundtrip from Laniakea to French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to mate and nest
- \* does not nest at Laniakea Beach

### **Additionally... Did you know... Here at Laniakea...**

- \* 18 basking green turtles have been harmlessly identified using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags in their hind flippers for research purposes similar to PIT tags used by veterinarians for cats and dogs. The turtles are numbered L-1 through L-18 and some have been given personalized names by local residents (i.e., L-1 is called "Brutus").
- \* 4 turtles have been harmlessly equipped with Time/Depth Recorders
- \* the turtles can be found year round feeding on seaweed and basking ashore when the surf is not high
- \* most of the turtles are at least 20 years old
- \* the turtles most likely come to Laniakea because of the abundance of natural food and the safety of the cove
- \* the turtles have been basking ashore on this beach since the year 1999 and they are not normally afraid of people. Please treat them with respect and do not feed, touch, crowd or tease.
- \* basking most often takes place in the afternoon

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