

THE MAUNA LANI BAY

Hotel and Bungalows · Hawaii

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MAUNA LANI BAY HOTEL AND BUNGALOWS HOSTS ITS 21ST ANNUAL JULY 4 TURTLE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

- WHAT:** Turtle Independence Day Celebration and July 4 BBQ
- WHEN:** Sunday, July 4, 2010
BBQ from 9.30 am - 12 noon. Turtle Celebration from 10:30 am - 12 noon
- WHERE:** Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows, 68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive
Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii
- COST:** Turtle Celebration is FREE. Individual menu prices for July 4 BBQ
- DETAILS:** Since 1989, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows has received 3-5 month old juvenile *honu* (Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle) from Oahu's Sea Life Park and has raised them in the saltwater ponds of the resort. The *honu* are cared for until they grow to a size and weight that is deemed appropriate for release into the ocean. Mauna Lani generally raises the *honu* for 2-3 years until they grow to a minimum shell length of 35 cm. The release occurs every July 4 at the ocean's edge fronting Mauna Lani. Over the years Mauna Lani has released 206 *honu*.

The *honu* will be gathered at the ponds before joining a procession down to the beachfront for release. A Hawaiian ceremony will take place at the beach.

The annual Turtle Independence Day celebration honors the *honu* and educates the public about the threatened Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles.

As part of the day's activities guests can also enjoy live Hawaiian entertainment, an educational display about the *honu* and a special July 4 BBQ with menu items including Big Island Beef hamburgers, vegetarian burgers, jumbo beef hot dogs, corn dogs on a stick, grilled Hilo Corn on the cob and more.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact 808-885-6622 or visit www.maunalani.com. For room reservations, contact 800-367-2323.

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About the *honu*

Green Sea Turtles have been swimming in the world's oceans for more than 200 million years. The ancient Hawaiians called the Green Sea Turtles in Hawaii's waters *honu* – the name that is still used today. Many early Hawaiian legends tell stories that credit the *honu* as being the guides for the first voyagers to Hawaii. Adult *honu* can measure more than three feet straight in length and weigh 450 pounds. They grow very slowly in the wild and typically don't reach sexual maturity until they are around 25-30 years. The life span of the *honu* remains unknown. Today the *honu* is regarded a threatened species and is protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

About Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows sits oceanfront on the Kohala Coast, Big Island of Hawaii. Located 23 miles north of the Kona International Airport the hotel is part of the Mauna Lani Resort which features the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows, Mauna Lani Spa and the Francis H. I'i Brown Golf Courses. The resort has been named one of the "World's Top Earth-Friendly Getaways" by *Conde Nast Traveler* for its commitment to making preservation of Hawaii's resources, environment and culture an important part of the resort experience. For reservations call (800) 367-2323 or visit www.maunalani.com.

About Sea Life Park Hawaii

Sea Life Park Hawaii is located in East Oahu, about a 30-minute drive from Waikiki. This world-famous marine attraction offers a variety of shows, exhibits and educational programs for all ages. For more information, call 808-259-7933 or visit www.sealifeparkhawaii.com.

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68-1400 Mauna Lani Drive · Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii 96743

www.maunalani.com