

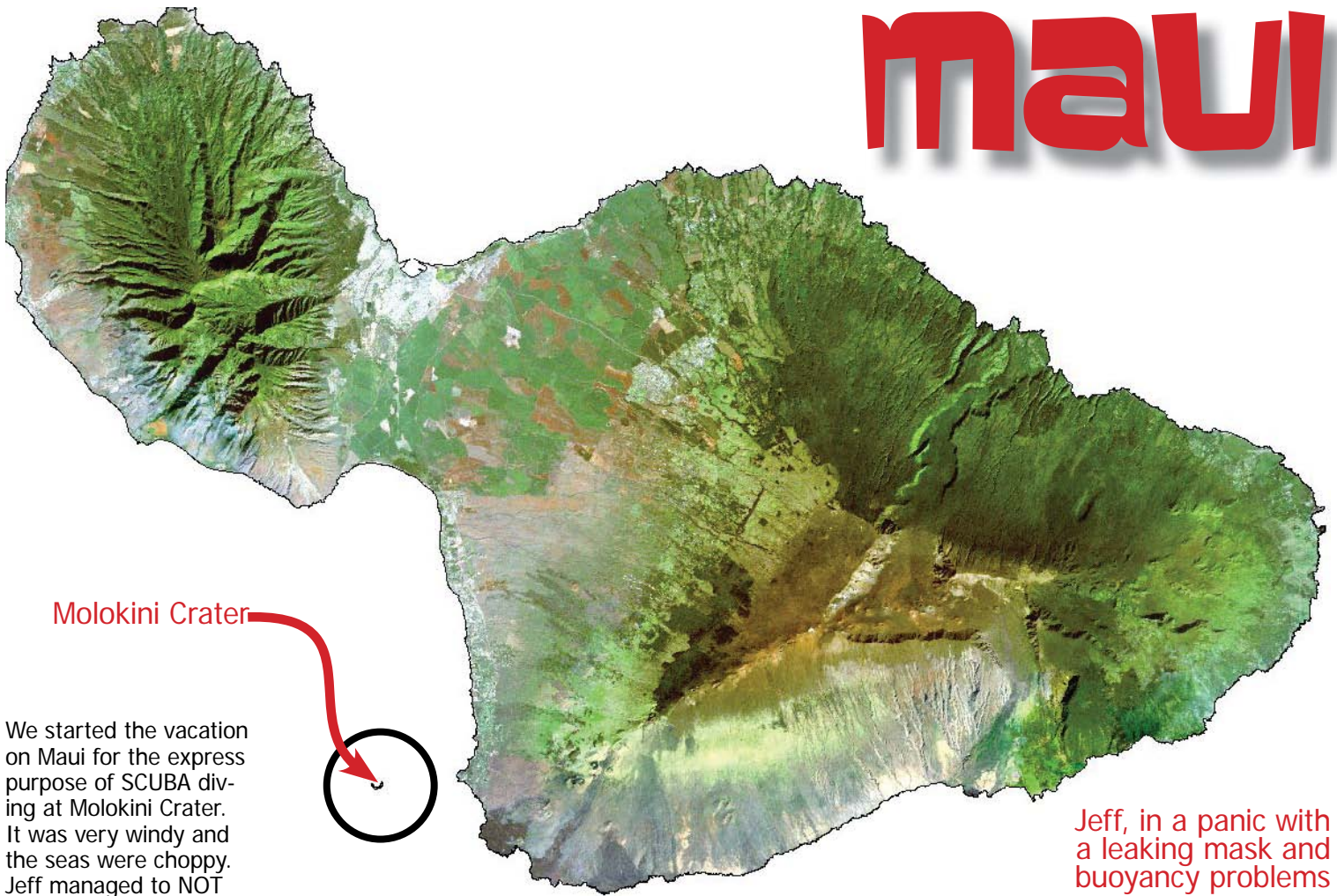
FEBRUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 26, 2009

JEFF and Karen GO TO

HAWAII



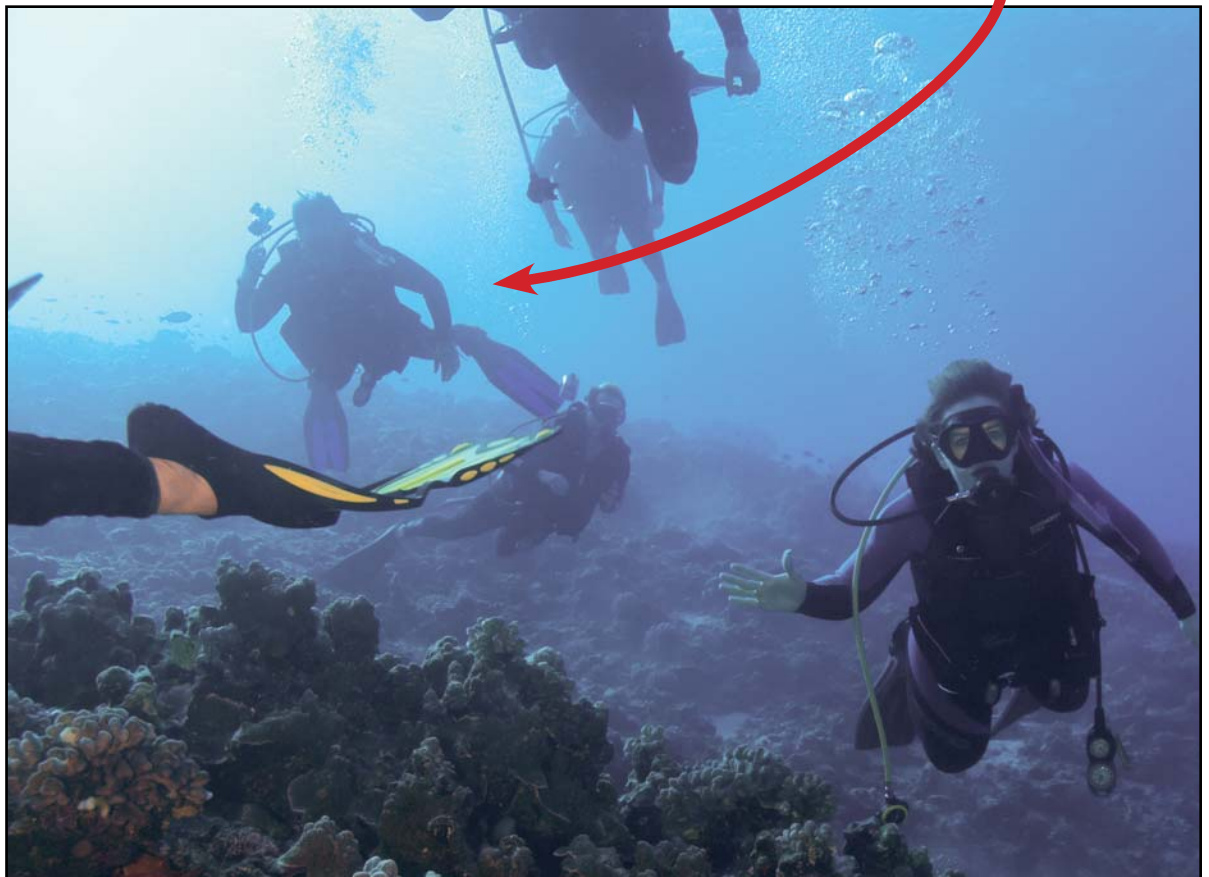
maui



Molokini Crater

We started the vacation on Maui for the express purpose of SCUBA diving at Molokini Crater. It was very windy and the seas were choppy. Jeff managed to NOT blow chow and made it to the dive site, but could not keep his mask from leaking or stay down in the water. Still, visibility was great and there were fish everywhere. He cut the dive short as he used most of his air in 15 minutes.

Jeff, in a panic with a leaking mask and buoyancy problems





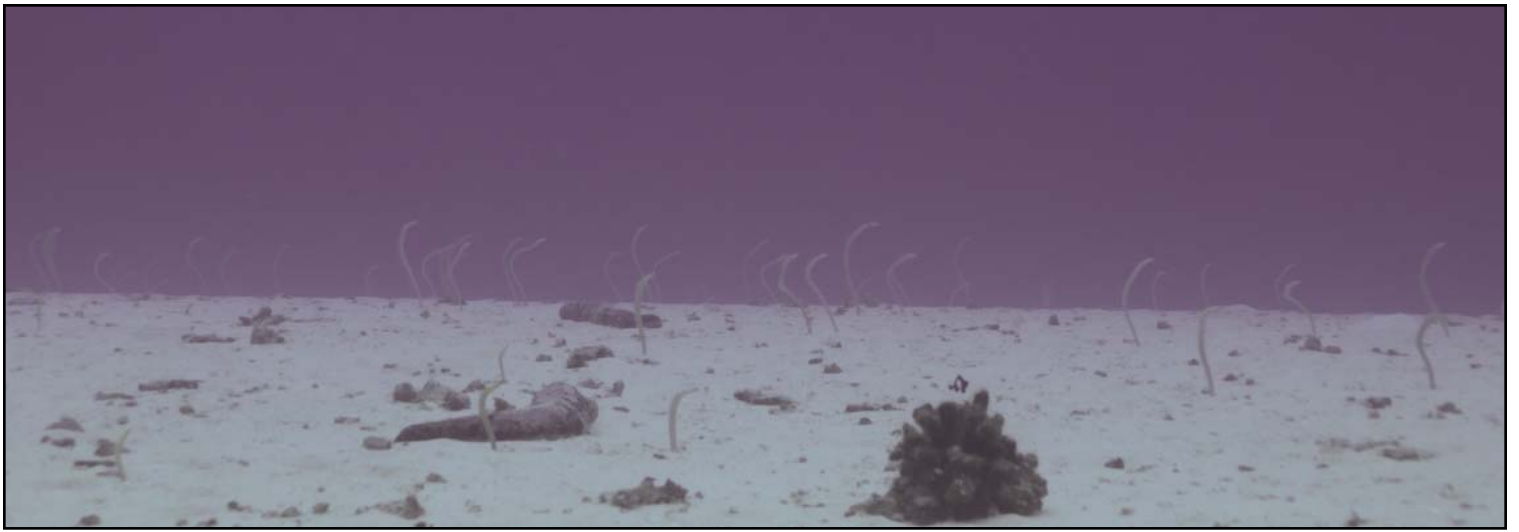




Opposite page: Coronetfish parrotfish and, below that, a stout moray eel. At the bottom of pages, a school of Hawaiian Dascyllus.

Below, orangeband surgeonfish, Raccoon butterfly fish, Orangespine unicorn surgeonfish and bluestripe snapper.







At the top of the opposite page, numerous garden eels "float" above the sand. When you swim over them, they hide in their burrows in the sand.

Below that, a white tipped shark.



On this page, a school of soldierfish swim around two white tipped reef sharks resting under an outcropping.

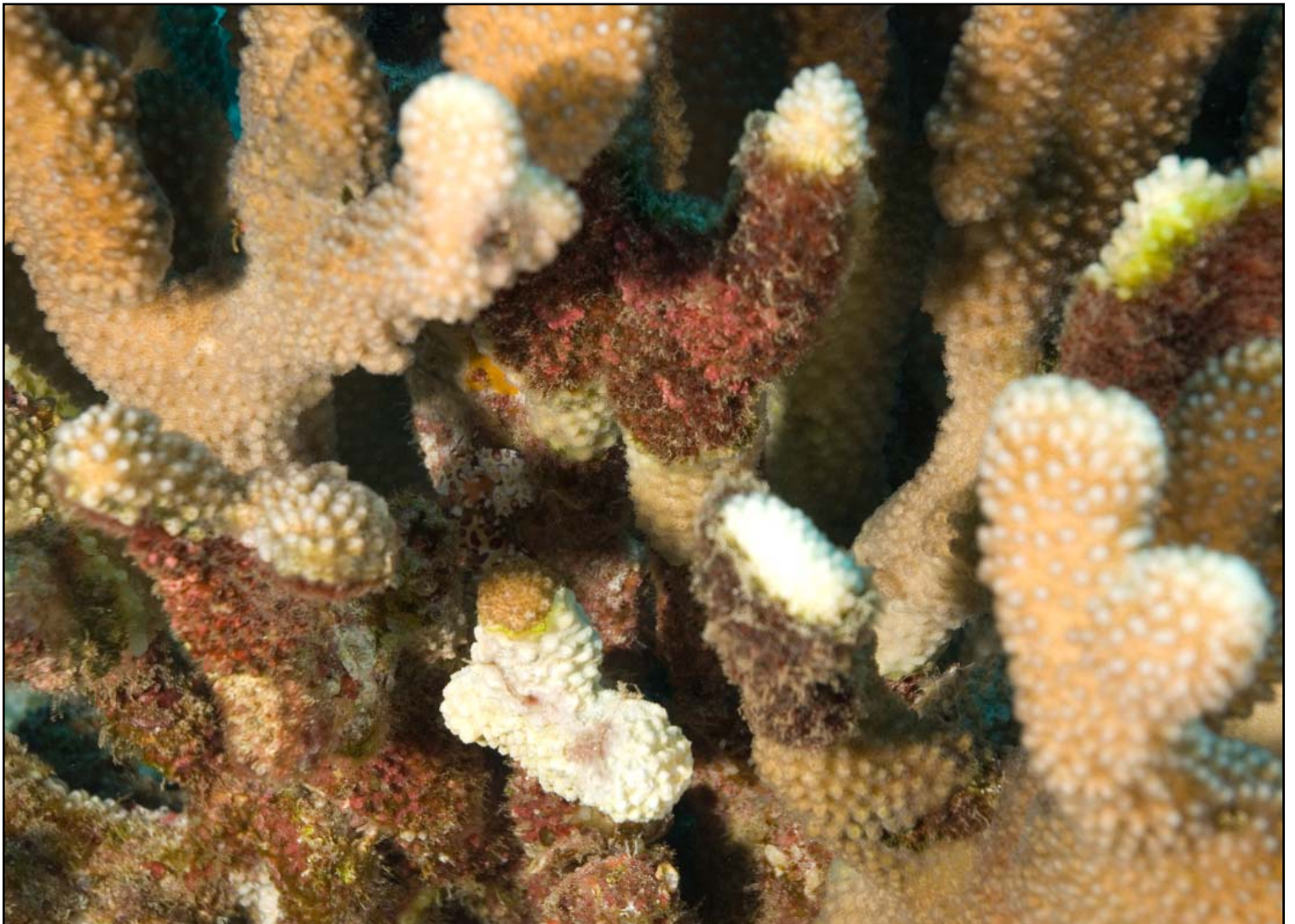




Lower picture, opposite page: a pipefish swims by the resting sharks.

To the left on this page, a barracuda











As we were returning to the dock after our dive, the captain brought the boat to a complete stop and shut off the engine. Ahead of us were two whales.

see the white markings from the surface. The whales played in the water for a few minutes, splashing in the water then we watched the tail fins slide into the water and they dove deep.

After stopping, the whales came over to see us. One appeared to swim under our boat and you could





E Komo Mai Lāhainā Town & the Lāhainā Historic Trail



Our second day of diving was an easy trip to "Turtle Town."

Turtle Town can be one of many sites along the west coast of Maui. Our trip went to a WW I pier that was built at Mala. The pier collapsed after a pounding by a hurricane in the late '80's. This artificial reef has made a great place for fish and turtles to hide and feed.





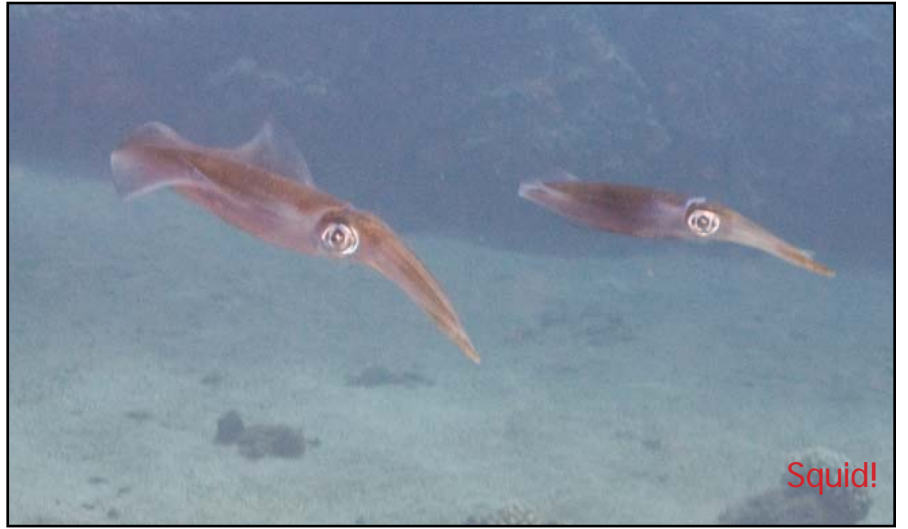
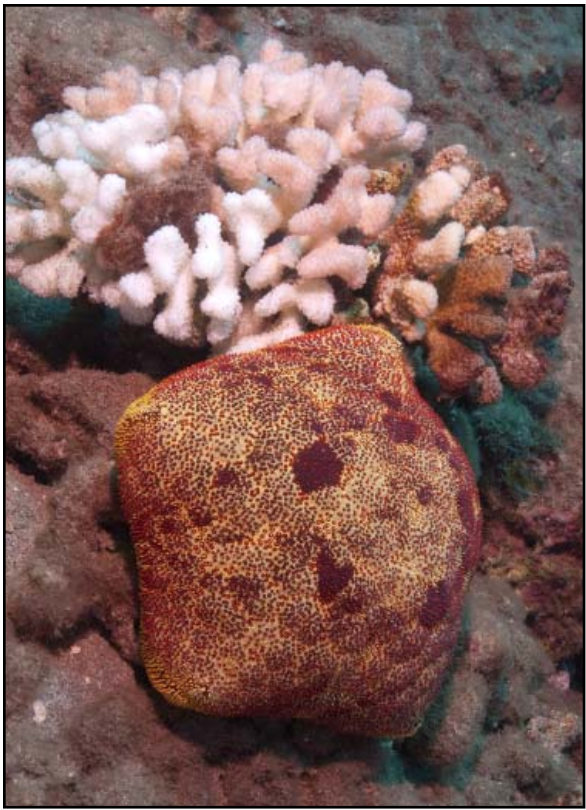




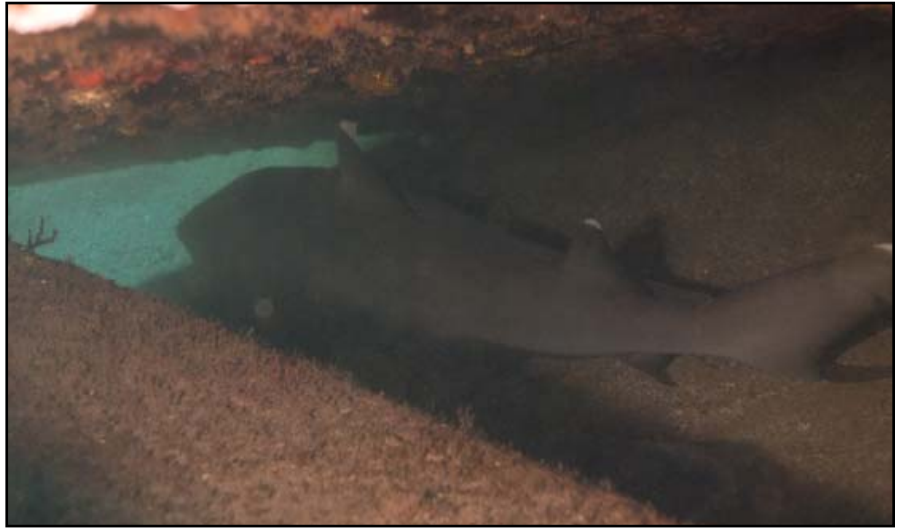
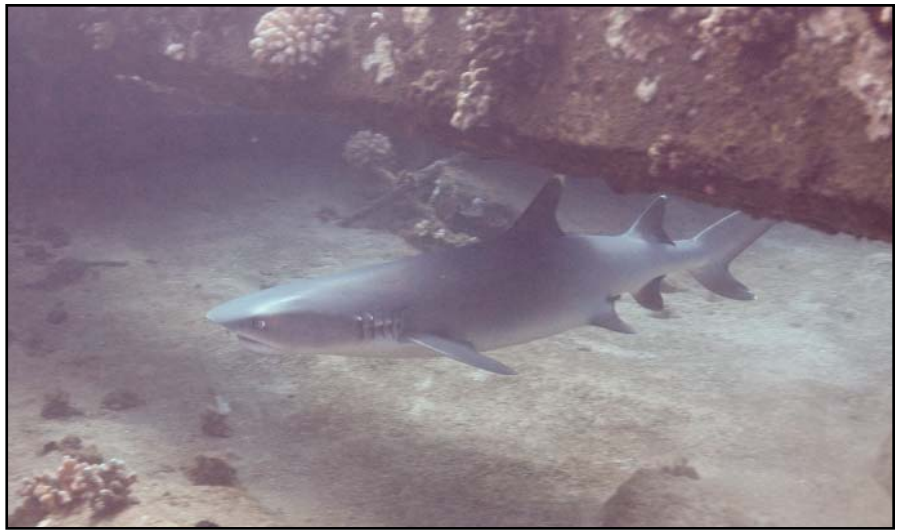
There were numerous sea turtles resting and feeding around the wreckage of the pier and coral over-growth .

keep his mask from leaking. Below that, Karen waits for the bus to arrive under water.

Far left top: Jeff before he figures out how to



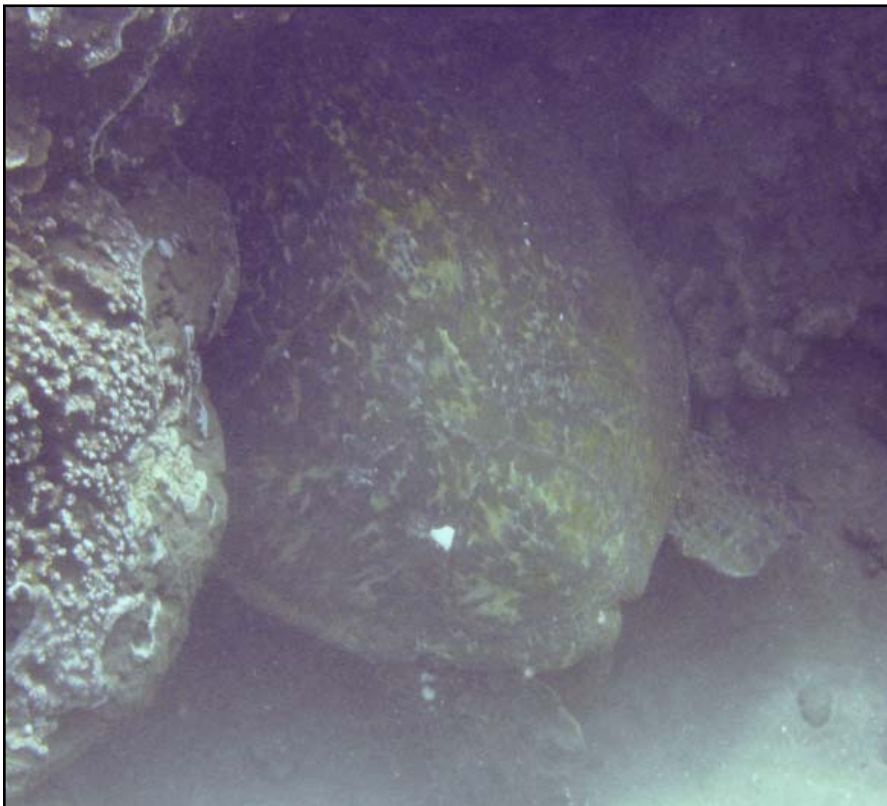




Above, a frogfish is camouflaged among the coral growing on the fallen pier.

At right, a wider view of the fallen pier.





At left, a turtle has his head tucked under a rock and believes himself to be totally hidden.



Above, a turtle seems to be scratching his fin on an exposed piece of metal.

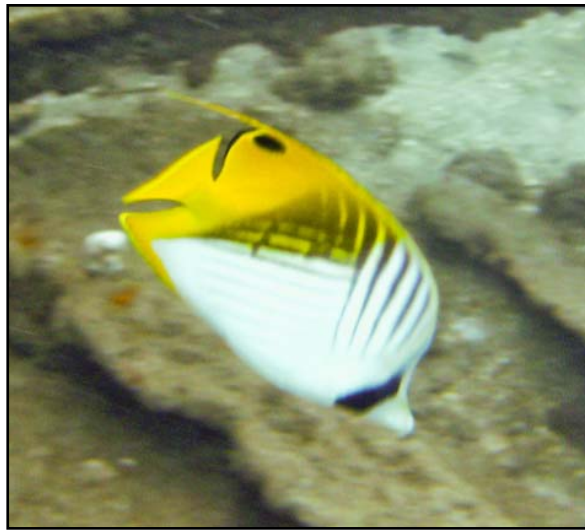


At right, a diver and shark face a near collision. The shark was not aggressive and when it spotted the diver, quickly drifted another direction.



What was most amazing was being able to hear the whales calling to each other while we were under water. I would guess the whales were a half mile away, at a minimum, where the waters are much deeper.





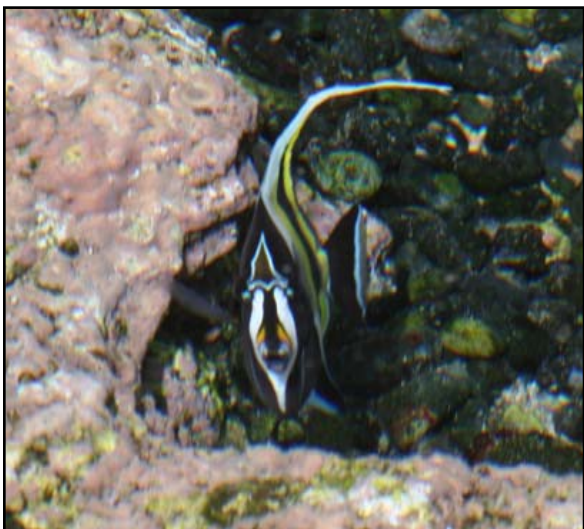
From the patio of our fourth floor room, we were able to see whales playing in the ocean, off the coast.

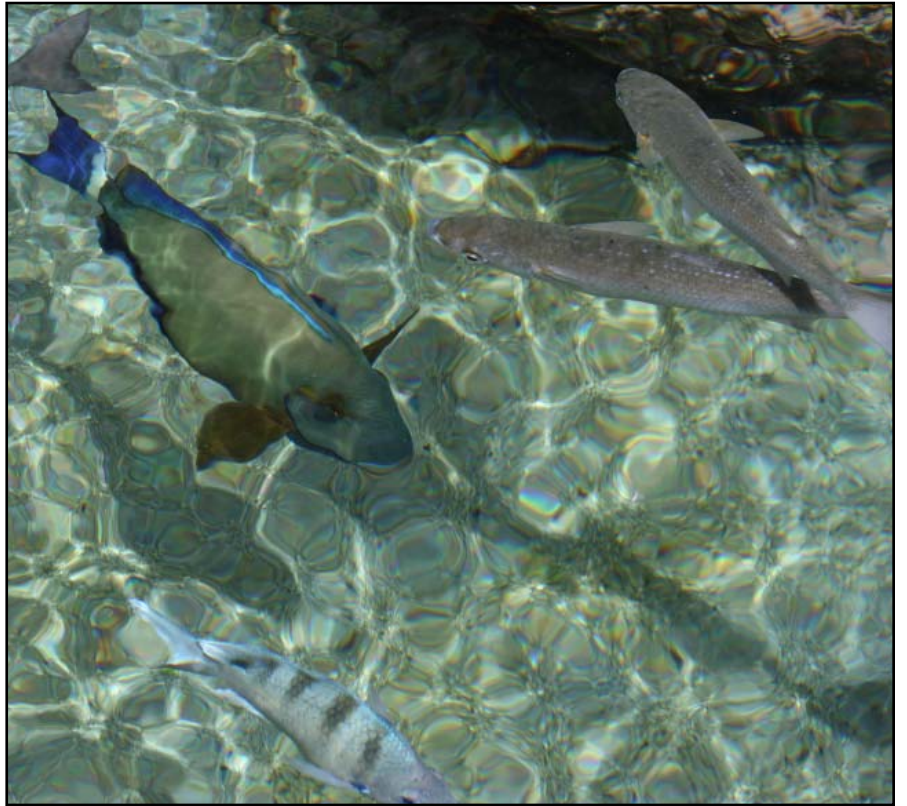
Someone at the Lahina Pier said there were surveys of the oceans and there were estimates of 1,000 whales being in the waters around Hawaii.

The weather on Maui was nice: in the 70's during the day and mid-to-low 60's at night with the rain falling over night. It's the perfect way.

The pictures on the opposite page are from the Maui Ocean Aquarium.









Left, a Chevron butterfly fish, a surgeon fish below that and an emperor fish at the bottom.

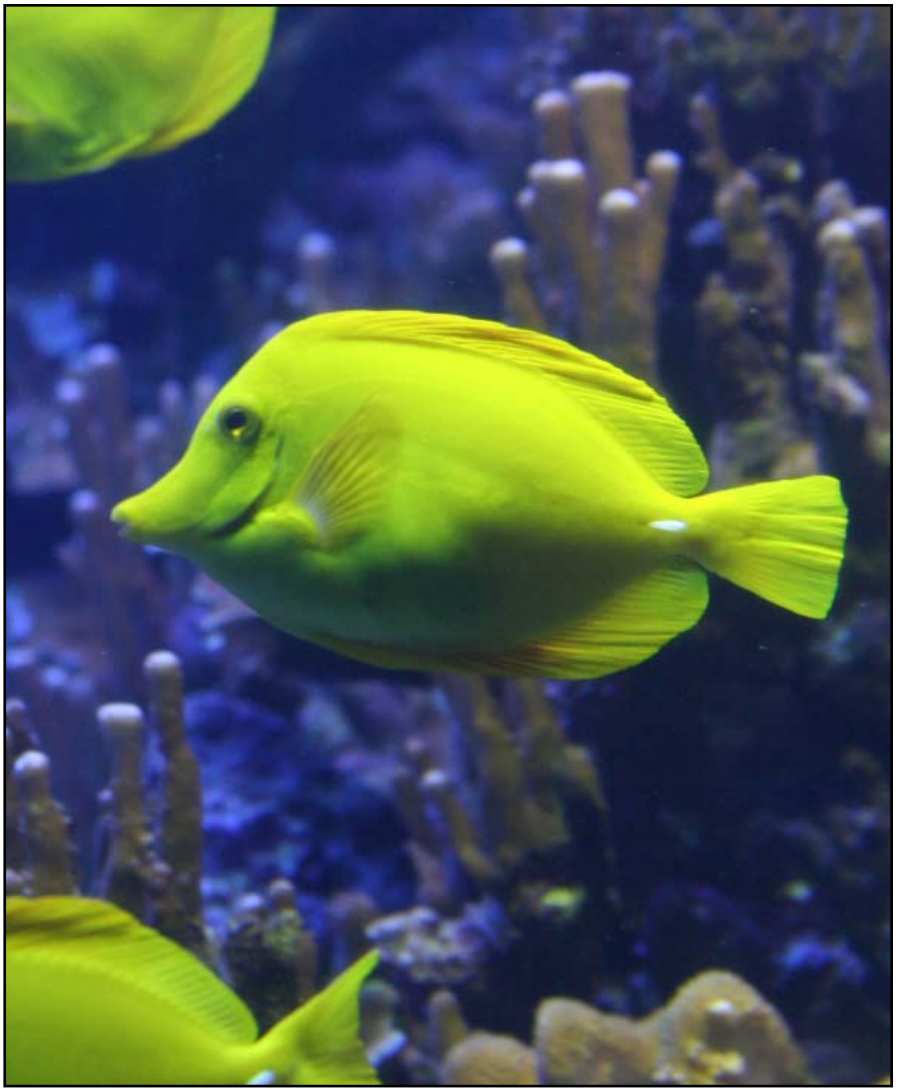


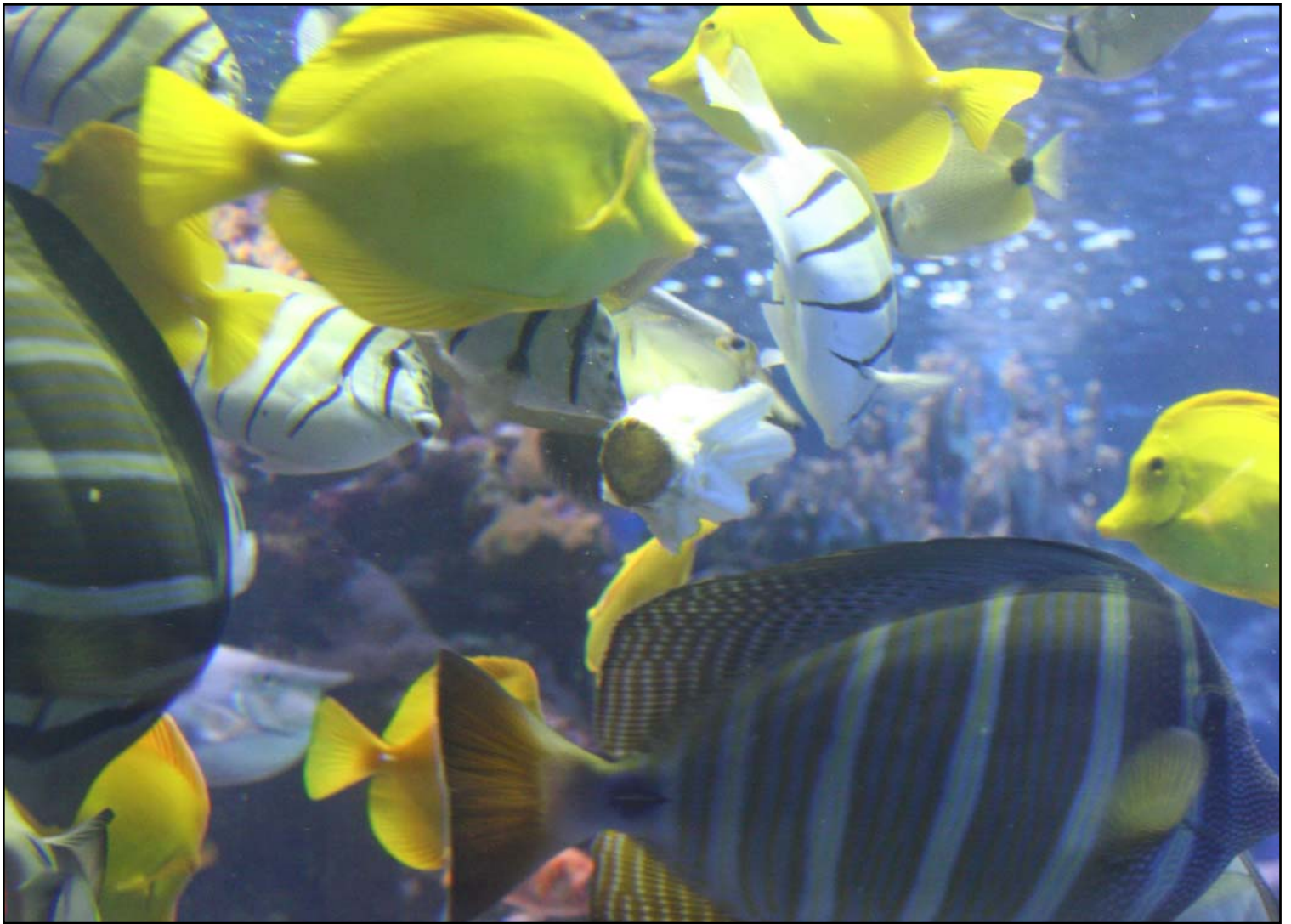


Above, the rectangular triggerfish. Right, Unicornfish. Bottom right, a Goldenring Surgeonfish.



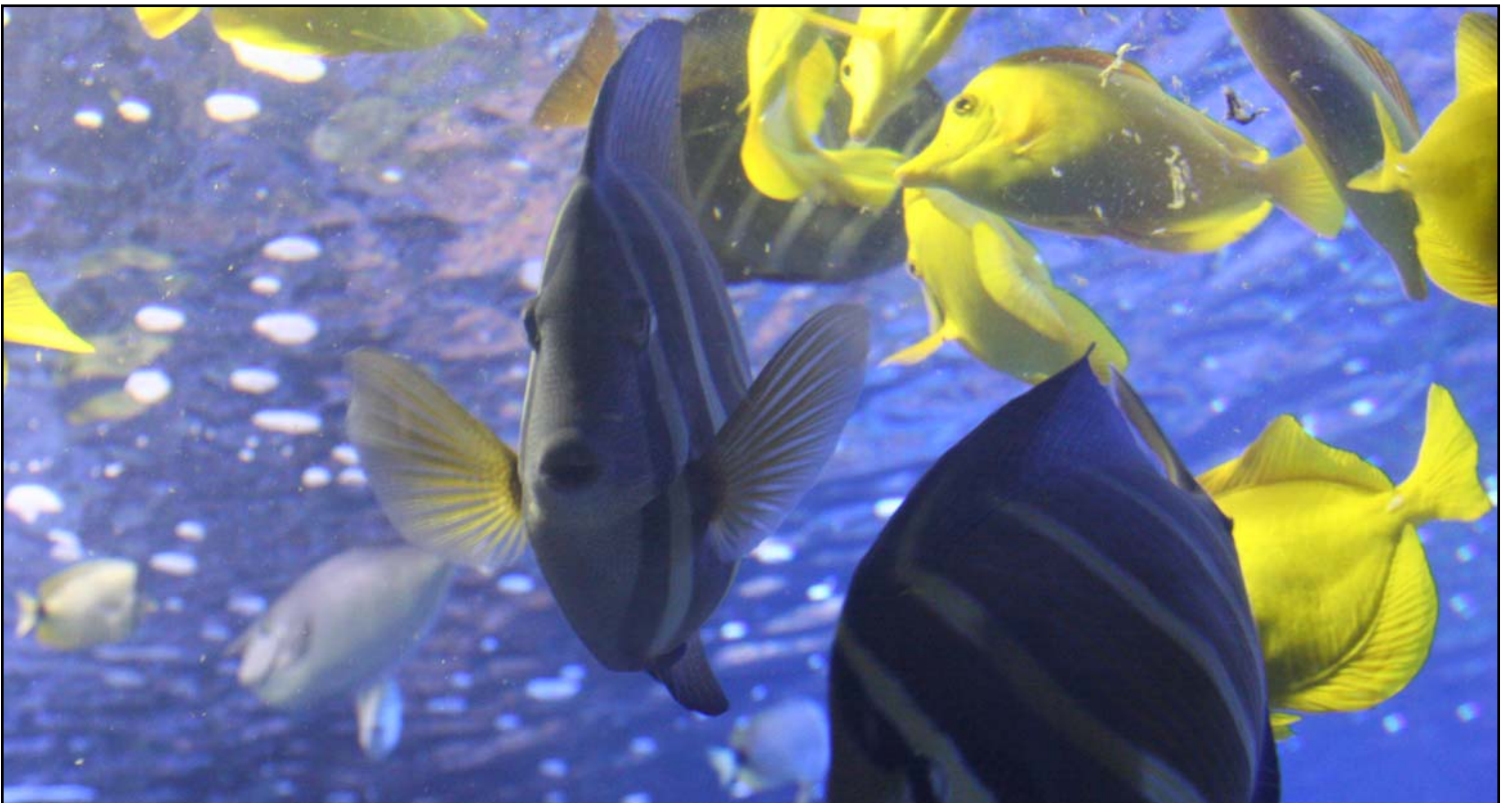






At the left, a Zebra Surgeonfish.

Above, the fish are fed iceberg lettuce instead of the algae they would eat in the open ocean. Algae would be present if they didn't filter the water.

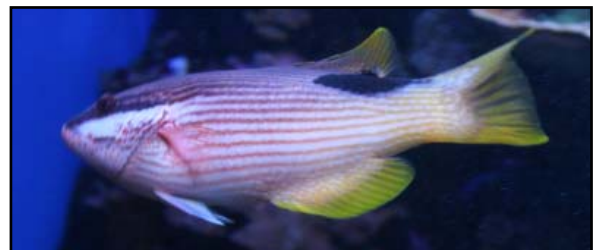
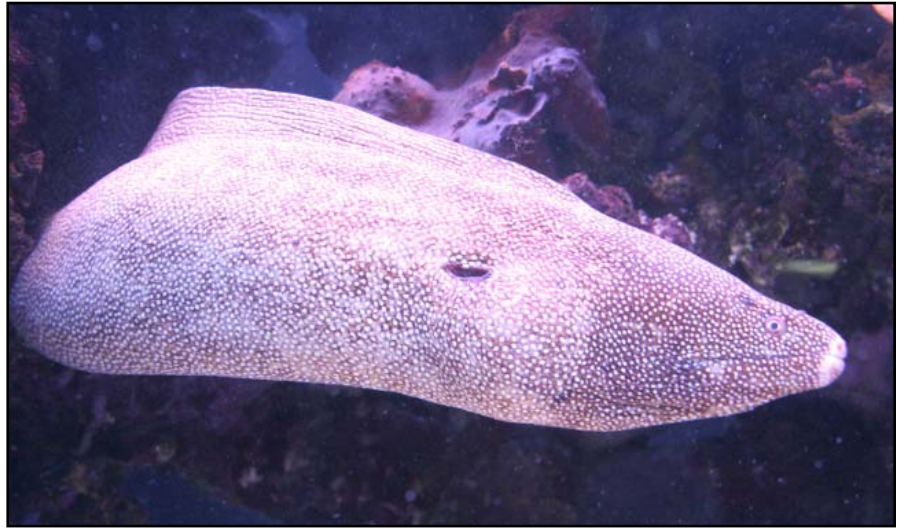




Above, an Orange-spine unicorn. Left, a banded coral shrimp. Below, a juvenile yellowtail coris

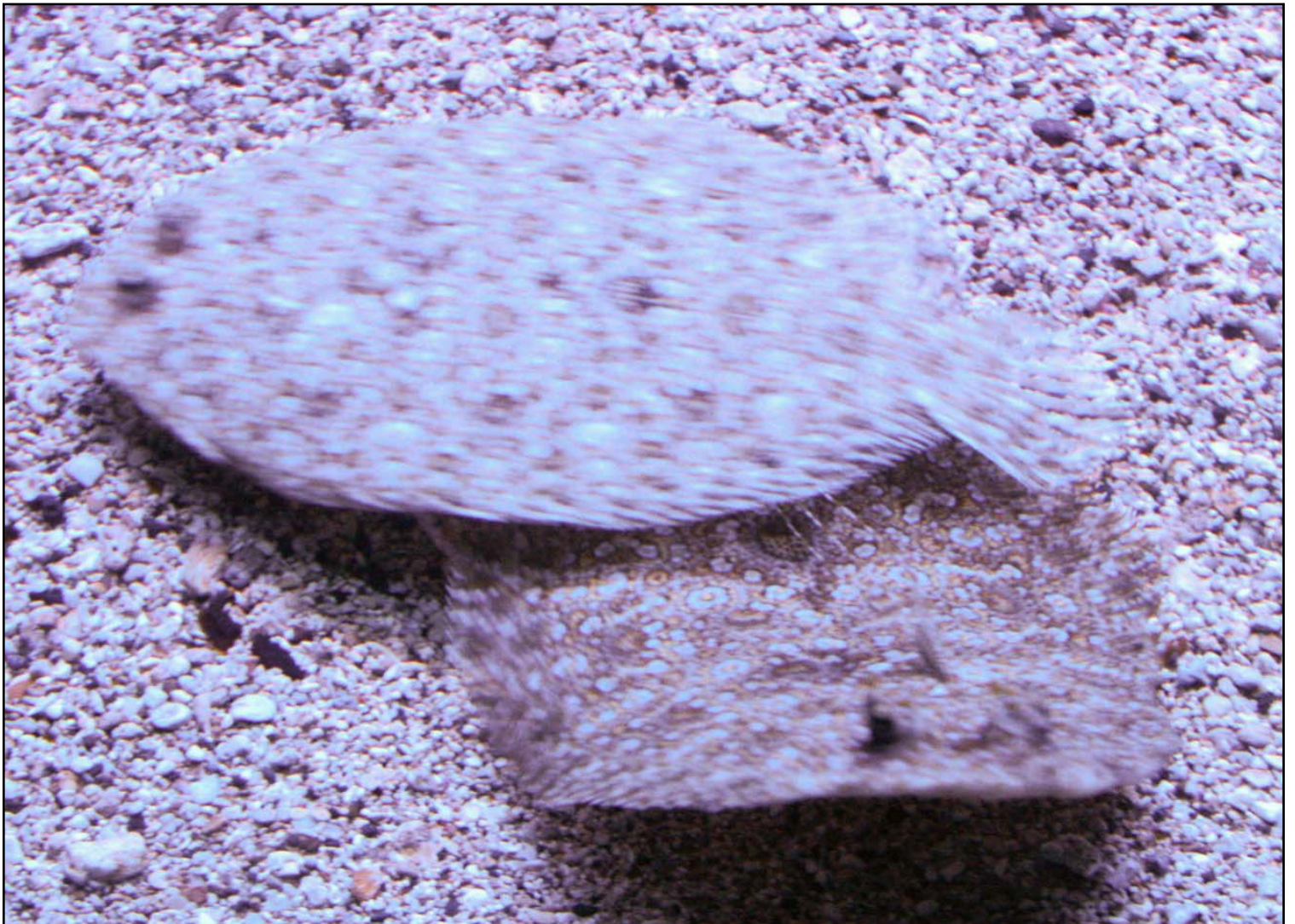
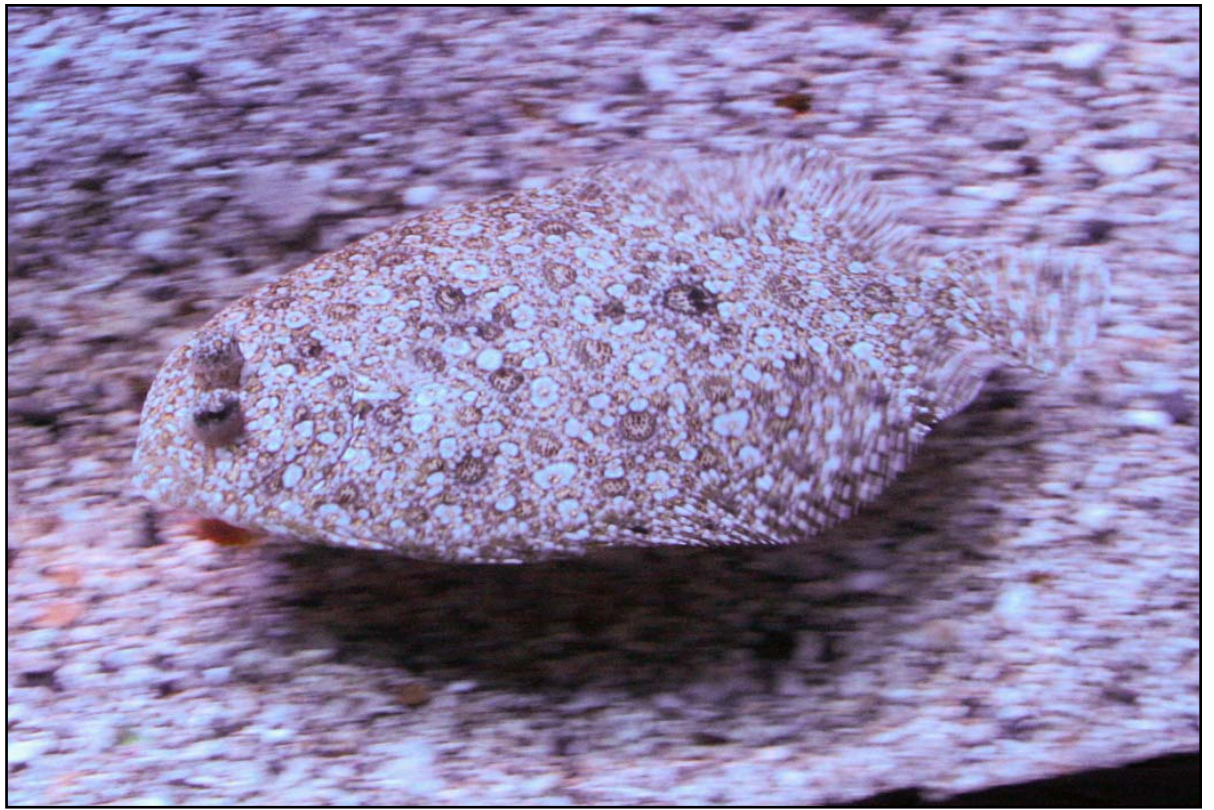










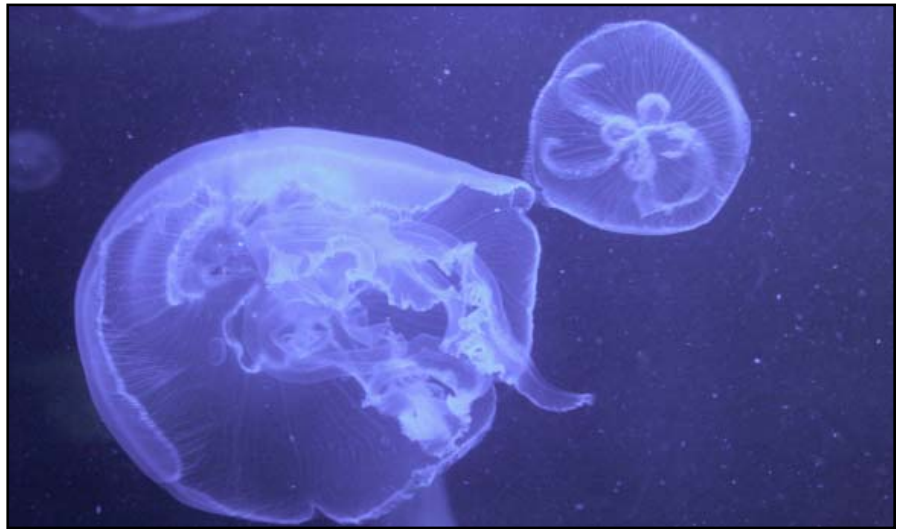
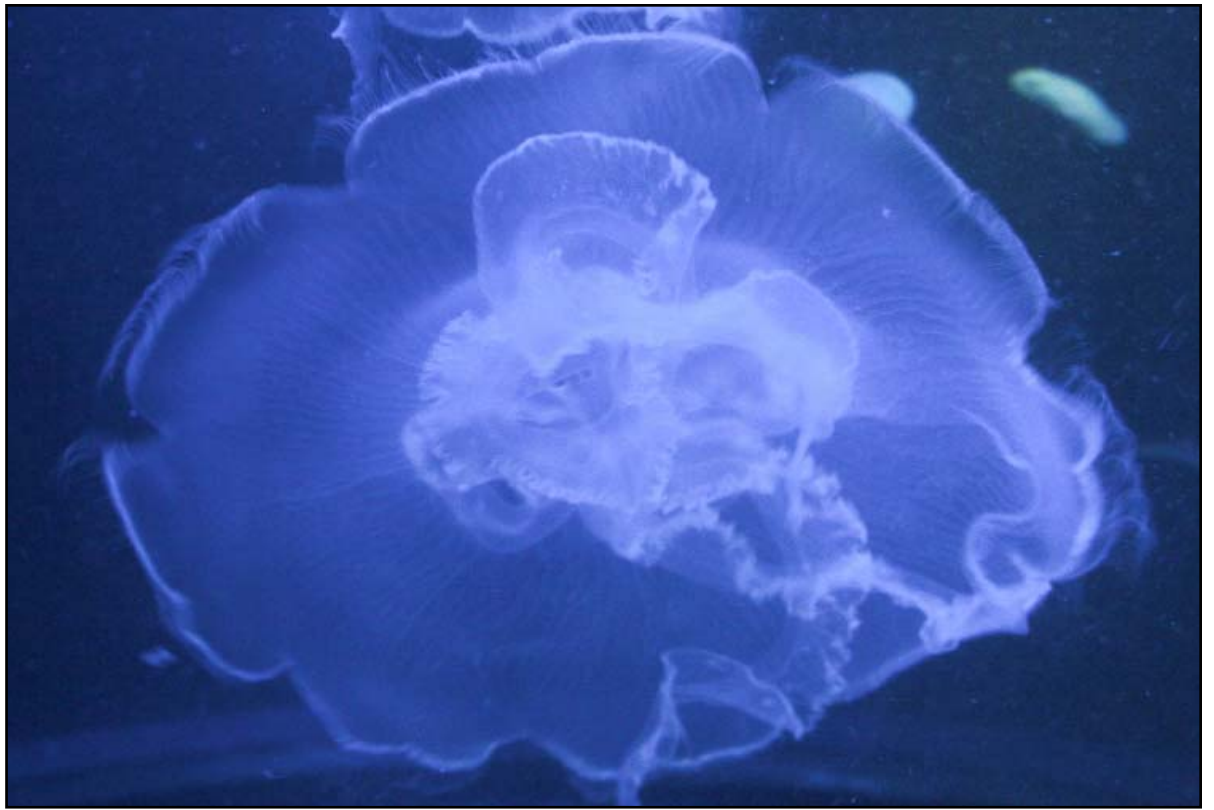


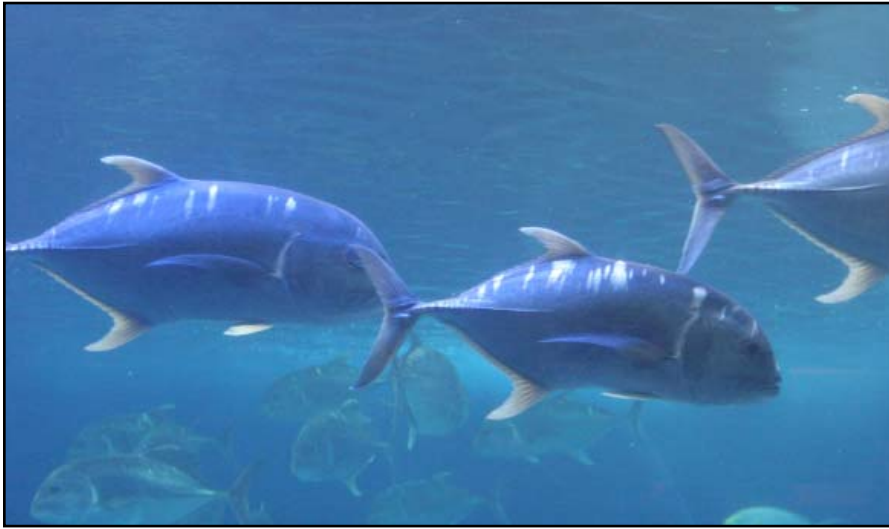
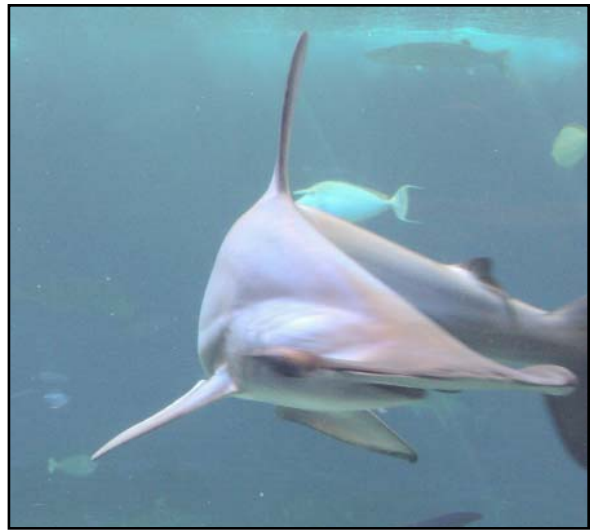
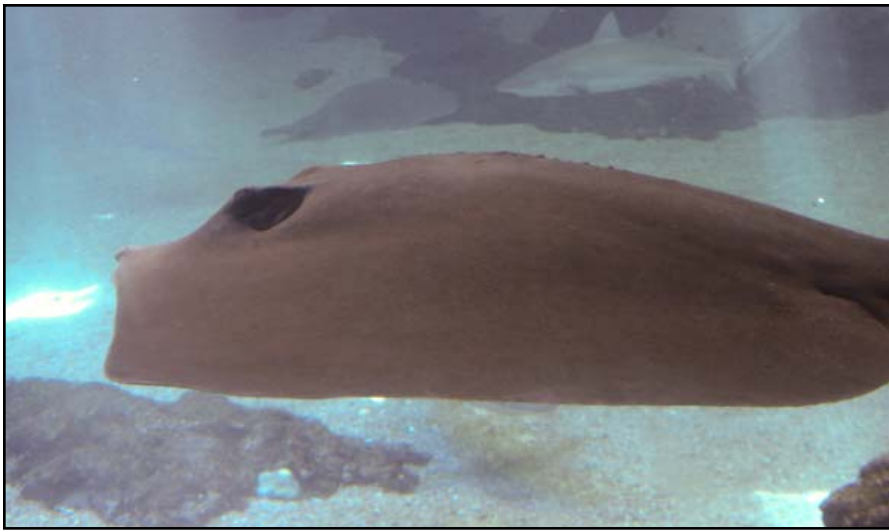


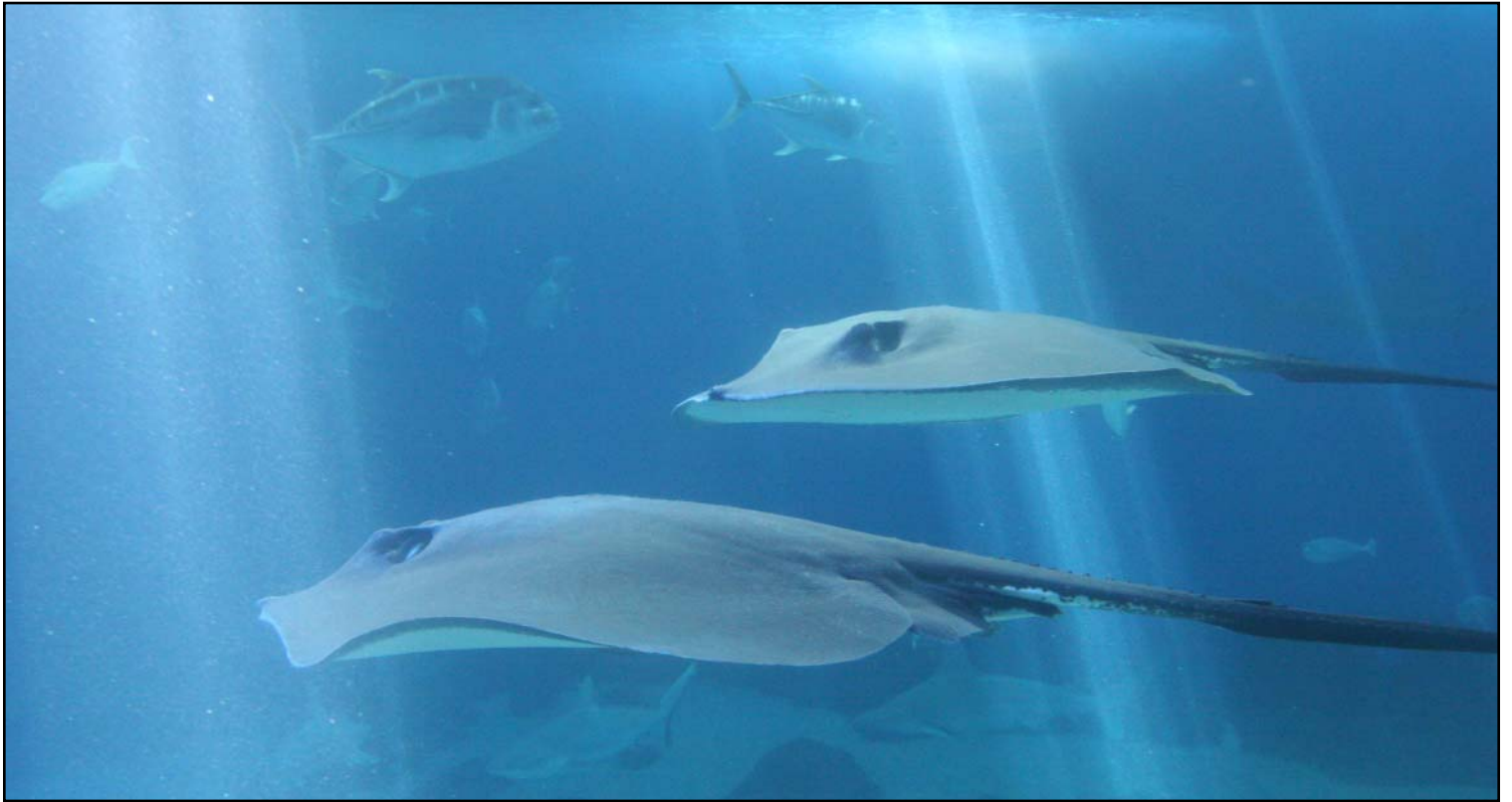
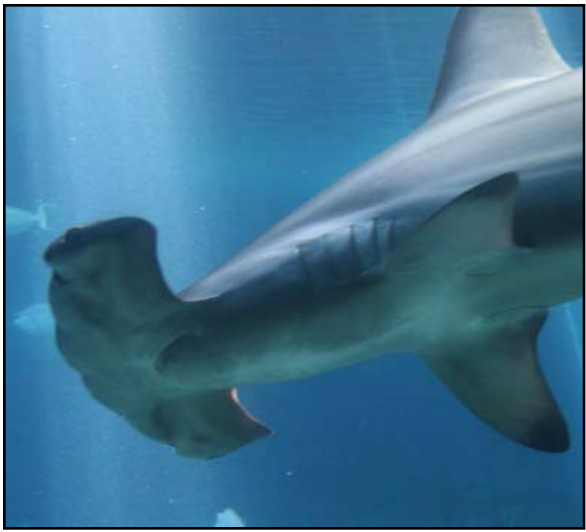
A display of starfish was outside, in a shallow tank. You could gently touch them if you wished.

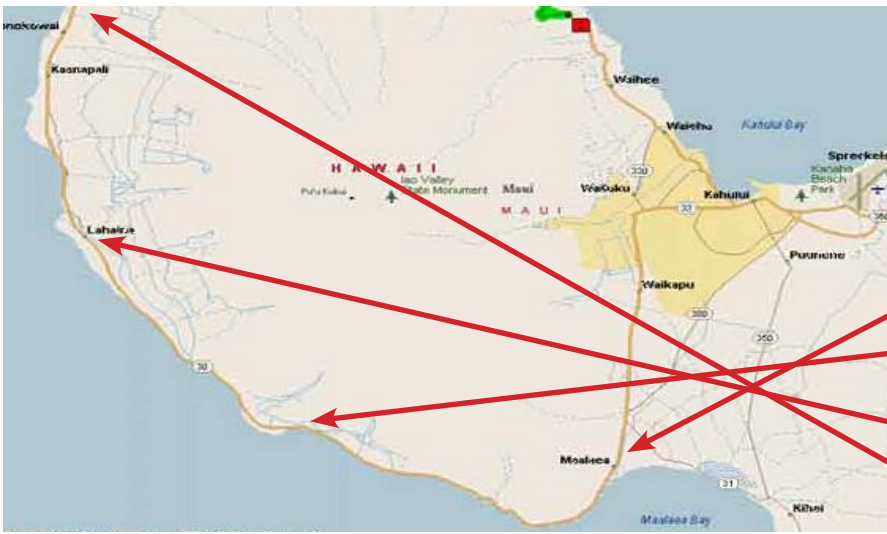












While we were in the Aquarium, we heard several police sirens. We didn't think much about it. When we left at 3:30, traffic was backed up to the Aquarium. We got in

line and traffic was not moving.

The announcer on the radio said there was an accident at mile marker 13 as we approached mile marker 6.

Where we started at 3:30, at the Aquarium

Where the accident occurred at 11:30 (three cars, two people helicoptered out)

Where we stopped for dinner at 5:30

Where we were staying





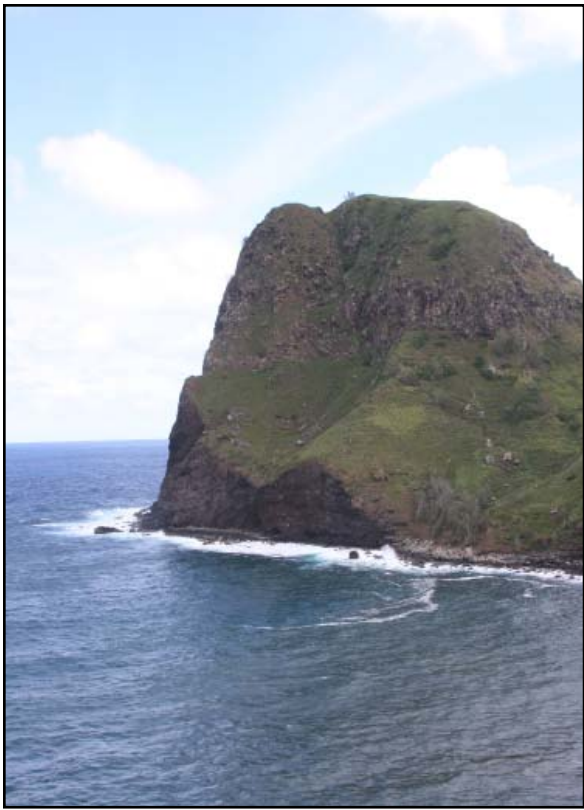


In the "winter," the winds blow from the north west and the big waves can also be found on the north west shores of the islands. Here we see surfers, kayakers and body surfers









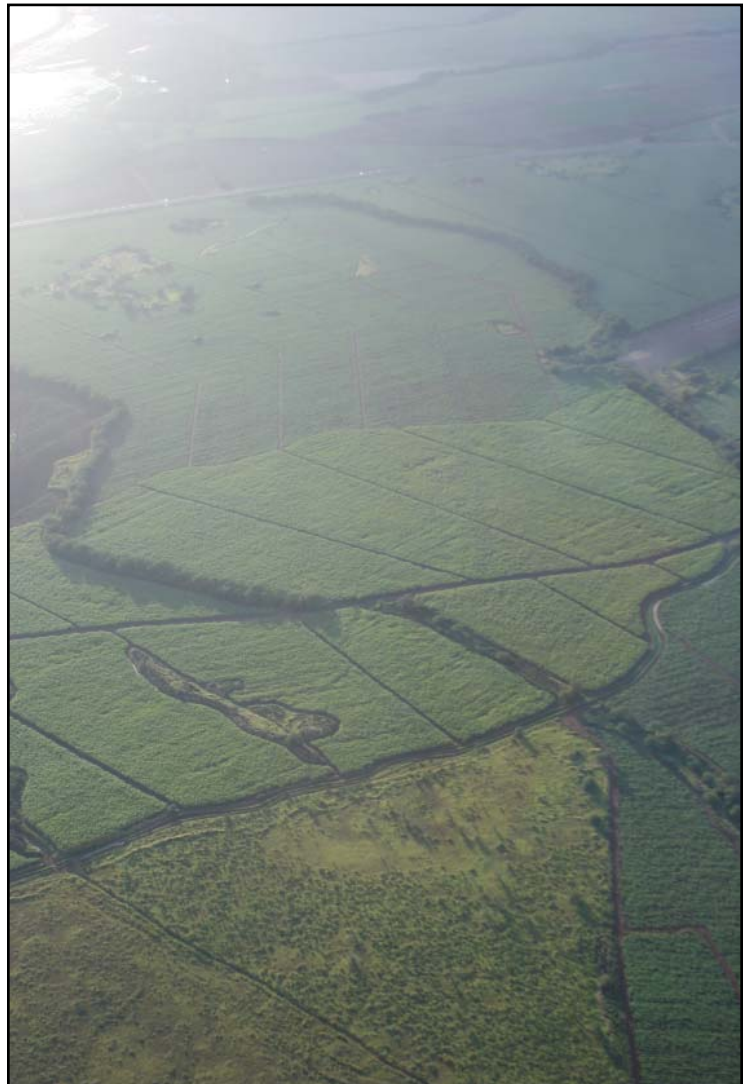
The 10-miles of road around the northern part of the island is little more than one lane. It is paved, but too narrow for oncoming traffic to pass. Occasionally there are

spots scraped away for one car to pull over so the other car can pass. You can see the cluster of cars on the road in the city in the valley below. There is a short

yellow school bus overlooking the valley where one could buy a snack. The little store was powered by an extension cord that came out of the bus and ran down the hill.

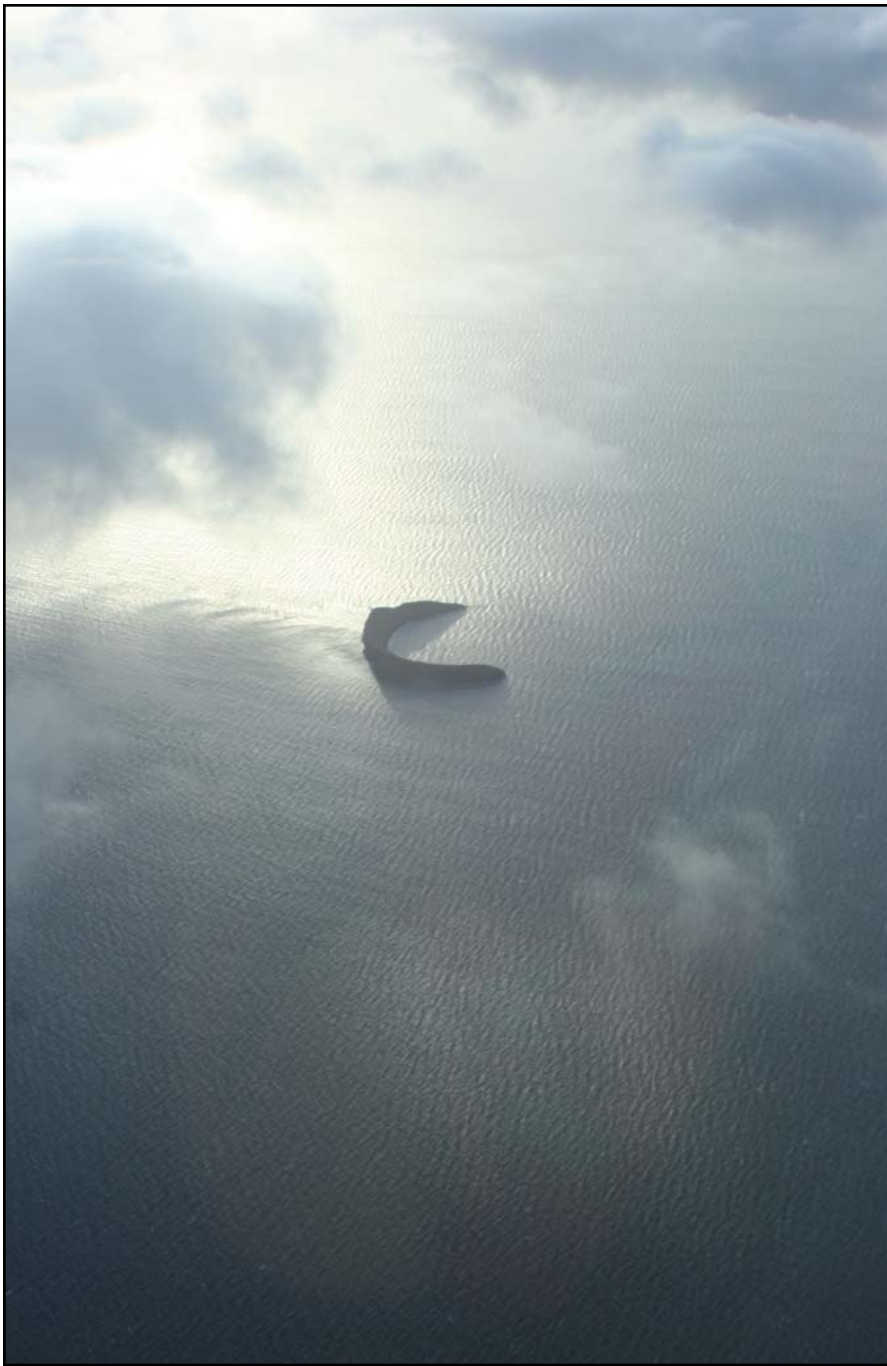


As we flew from Maui to the Big Island, you could see that large areas of the islands are still dedicated to agriculture.



The sun was setting over the ocean as we left for the Big Island. In the front of the plane, the young lady sitting there unzipped a bag and a small dog popped out. The dog was very well-behaved, looking out the window and looking at the other passengers in the plane.



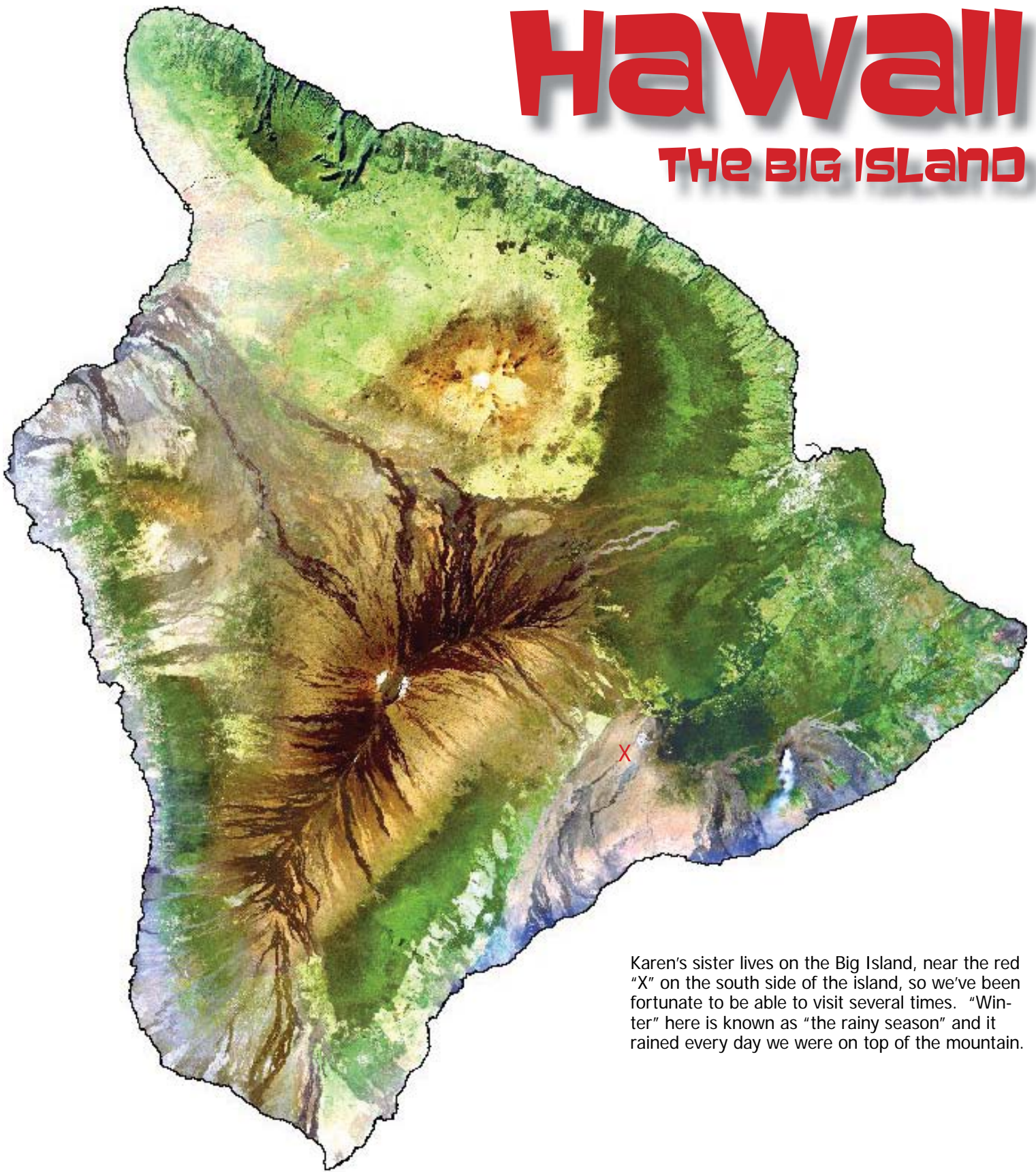


We flew past Molo-kini Crater (left) and a whale had just jumped out of the water (below).



Hawaii

THE BIG ISLAND



Karen's sister lives on the Big Island, near the red "X" on the south side of the island, so we've been fortunate to be able to visit several times. "Winter" here is known as "the rainy season" and it rained every day we were on top of the mountain.

Friends of the Zoo

Welcome you to the

Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens

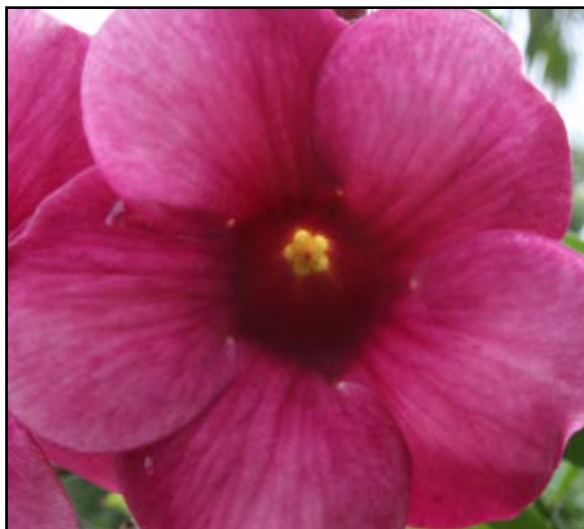


Namaste, the white tiger, is the feature of the small Zoo outside of Hilo, Hawaii. The tiger is joined by a number of birds, primates and amphibians.



Arnie, at left, was a water buffalo that liked to interact with visitors to the Zoo. He would walk over to the fence of his pen to get scratched behind the ears.

He passed away Marched 12th, at 44 years of age. He was missing one horn and is believed to have arthritis.





At right is a Hawaiian hawk, an Io, and a crested crane to the right of that. (The crane is African). Below is a Ne Ne, a Hawaiian goose.





Colorful macaws are present at the Zoo. To the left is a Hawaiian owl, a Pueo.

Below, a sulphur-crested cockatoo reaches out to grab Tom's camera.

Below are Guinea fowl, dart frogs and a monarch butterfly.

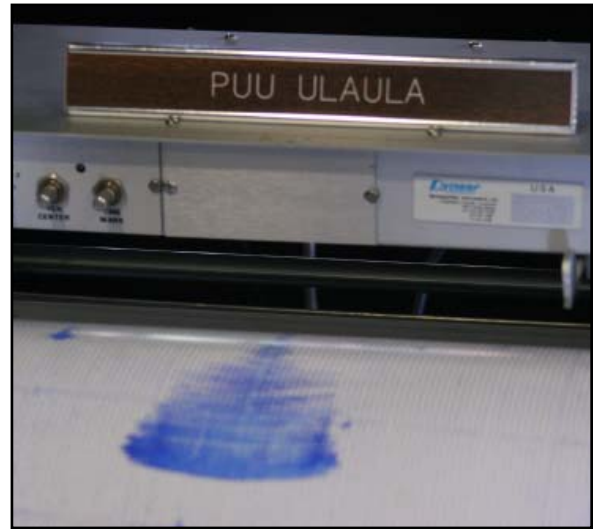






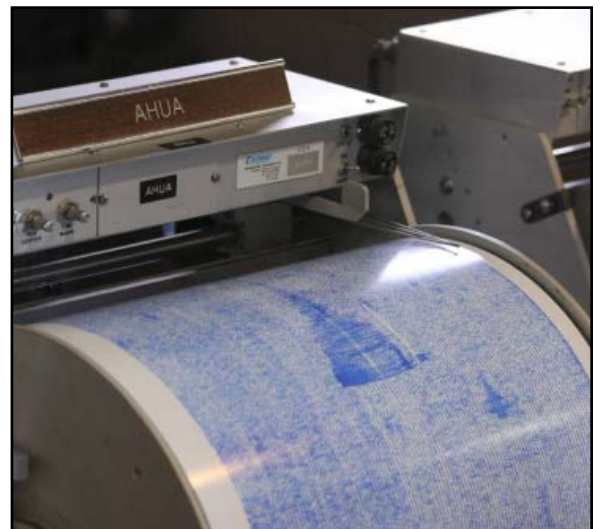
Sunday morning is the farmer's market in Volcano. Fresh fruits and vegetables are sold along side balms, prepared foods and art. (I bought the Arts and Crafts style lamp at the right end of the picture in the center.)





The caldera is venting stream and gas. Lava had been thrown out in the past few months.

To the right are seismometers tracking earthquakes around the island. All of them show a 2.0 quake that had occurred the previous night at 12:30am.





The volcanic fumes are high in sulphur and these gases can kill the plants in the area. At the top right of this page, you can see the plants killed by the gas.





Kiluea Lodge is a great restaurant in Volcano that we went to fro brunch.

A cat stood guard outside the front door.



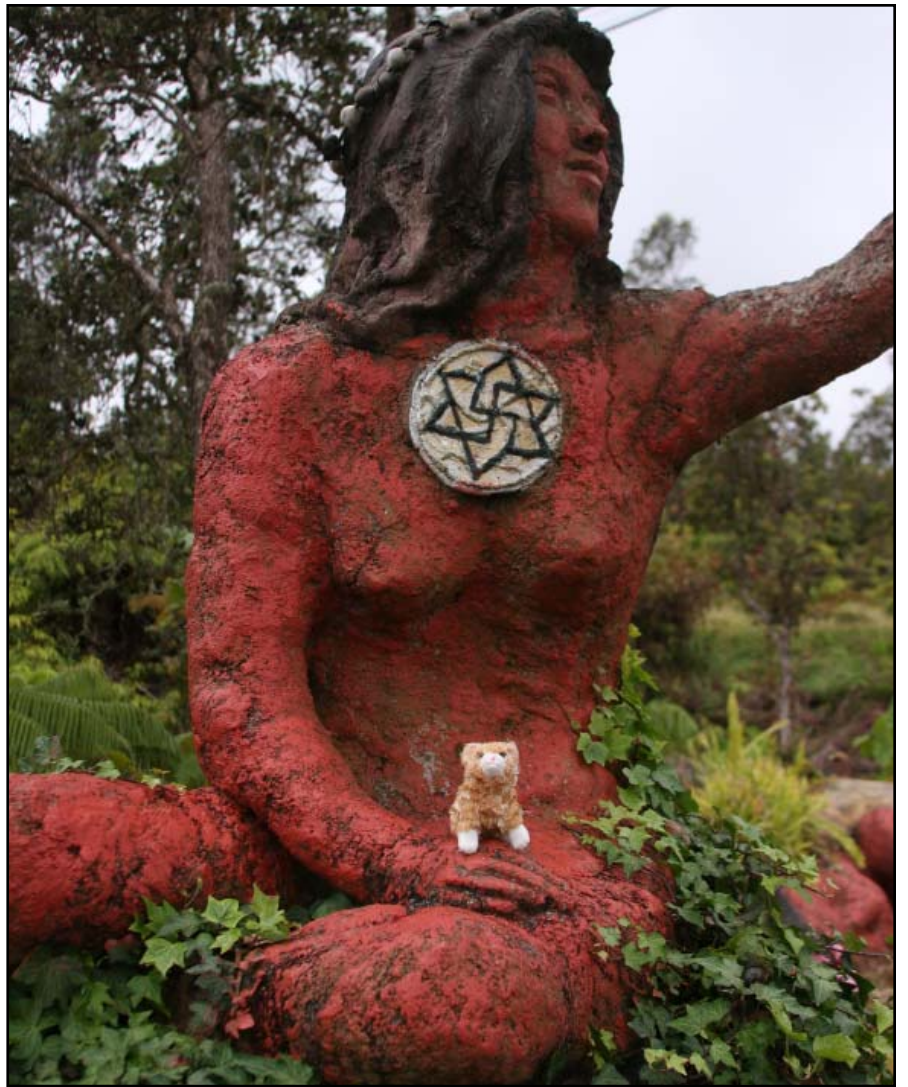


Wee Kitty went to the beach to try and surf. The waves were rough and he wiped out.





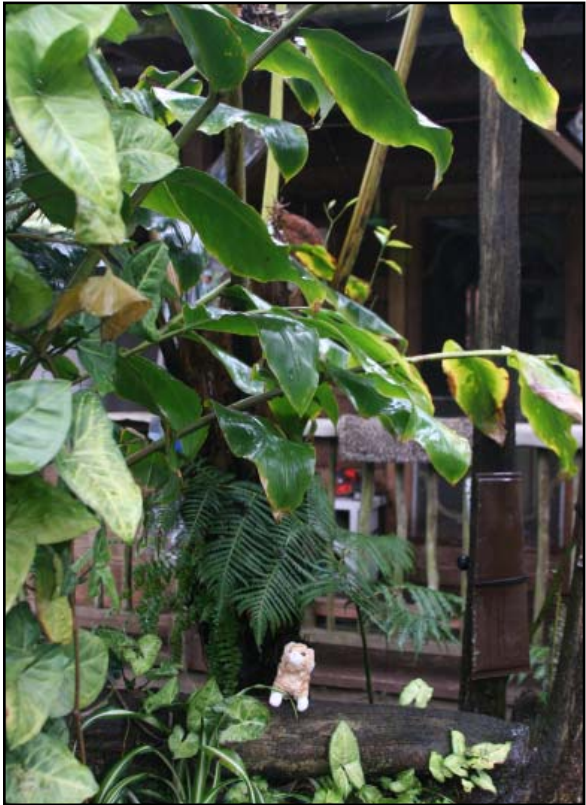
Wee Kitty went to the Japanese garden in Hilo to find some inner-peace.





The "Peace Park" was a small lot in Volcano alongside the road where a local artist had been erecting sculpture made from cement







Wee kitty also went to visit the big kitties of Hale Meow Meow, a one acre lot, fenced in with three structures on it exclusively for cats



