

EDITORIALS

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Creatures in crisis

Many threats to our ocean

The articles that appear on the front of this section under the heading, "Creatures in crisis," are the independent products of three concerned writers whose efforts came to us unsolicited at roughly the same time.

In that sense it's pure coincidence that the three articles appear on the same page.

But in a more important way, it illustrates the fact that our ocean environment is in deep enough trouble to inspire concern on the part of many caring people.

Ursula Keuper-Bennett, a regular visitor from Canada, writes of her experiences diving among sea turtles off Maui, and

her mounting dread as more of them suffer from tumors.

Annie Szvetez, administrator of Life of the Land, a Hawaii environmental action group, writes about distressing signs that our coral reefs are being destroyed without adequate official response.

And Patricia Tummons, editor of a monthly environmental newsletter, decries state promotion of fish species as food products even as their populations decline, and state failure to address overfishing.

Hawaii's loss of its once-bountiful ocean resources is a possibility made all too clear by these environmental whistle-blowers.