Each year the zoo animals get to celebrate Christmas. Friends of the Zoo prepare special treats which are given to the zoo residents on the first Saturday in December. For the monkeys, the food is wrapped in boxes and the monkeys love this; they unwrap the present and find their Christmas treats inside. We had a great turn out, everyone met at the primadome, which was also the first stop,

Below you can see the monkeys have just found a box and now they are curious as to what’s inside. They rattle the box which gets them curious about its contents. Then they tear it open where they find peanuts, raisins, bananas and other monkey delights. They also received watermelon which they really enjoyed. That nice cool refreshing taste on a hot zoo day! Bottom right, you can see one of the spider monkeys with a satisfied look on his face, having secured a Christmas box for himself.
Tzatziki, our male Bengal tiger, instantly noticed a smell in the air, and in no time located his treat. With one mighty leap he jumped on to the platform and grabbed his bone, dragged it off and threw it into the air with delight.

Next came Sriracha, our female Bengal tiger. She picked up the scent and raced towards it. Cautiously circling around it to make sure it was safe, she then grabbed the bone and settled in for a delightful treat.
The kinkajou, above, loved getting watermelon treats which were scattered throughout their enclosure making it a bit like a treasure hunt for them.

The Marmoset monkeys got live crickets. The marmoset on the right and lower left are each happily munching on a cricket. After the cricket treats they didn’t care for anything else; they only wanted to feast on crickets!
The lemurs got fruit, kale, sweet potato and raisins. Above, on the left, you can see the ring-tail lemur looking around for her treat. She found it seconds after the photo was taken. On the right is our brown lemur, Gandalf, feasting on kale and other veggie treats. The Binturong on the left also enjoyed fresh watermelon, kale and other binturong treats. Iggy our sweet turkey vulture got fresh organic free range eggs, which he delighted in. He carefully cracked the eggs one at a time to enjoy their contents. Our feral pig, Bojo, got all sorts of fresh veggies.

All the animals at the zoo received special treats. It was a wonderful fun-filled day with so much love for the animals and with everyone in awe of seeing them enjoy themselves. Truly a special day!

A special thank you to Barbara Thomason who organized this wonderful special day for the animals.
Tucked away in a small area of the Zoo, across from the donkeys and emus, you will find a circular cage in which our two endangered I`o or Hawaiian Hawks reside. One of them is old and blind. Her name is “Fierce”, because apparently she used to be. The other I`o is named “Kapono”. He is also old and arthritic but is still able to contribute. This story is about the interesting life of Kapono.

I`o are found mostly on Hawaii Island and are indigenous to Hawaii. Since Kapono is imprinted on humans, he is unable to be released into the wild, but he has represented his species well in many ways. He has visited with school children and been taken to public gatherings by Zoo personnel and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This happened when he was still a youngster. Then later he was able to go to the Petting Zoo on Saturdays so that children and adults could see an I`o up close. More recently he has contributed to the release of the native Hawaiian Crow, the Alala. These birds are critically endangered. So endangered are they that the Alala Project, a venture of the San Diego Zoo and several State of Hawaii and Federal agencies, was started to try to save them.

Before the Alala Project released captive reared birds into the wild, a few years ago, there were no known Alala in our forests. Now there are several, thanks in part to the work of Kapono.

Since he is “glove trained”, Kapono will sit on the arm of his handler. He is used to train the Alala to be afraid of hawks, their natural predator in the wild. The Alala Project workers bring Kapono to the site where the soon-to-be released Alala are living. There they play recorded Alala “alarm” calls at the same time as Kapono, sitting on the arm of a worker, is seen flapping his wings. The Project workers also play recorded “distress” calls of the Alala and show Kapono with the pelt of an Alala in his claws while flapping his wings. In this way, the Alala are trained to know that this is a dangerous creature which also lives in the wild which they will soon inhabit.

The tactic of training the Alala to be afraid of an I`o has been successful in the last two of three Alala releases. The first release resulted in two of five released birds being killed by an I`o. With more extensive training, the last two releases have seen no fatalities.

When he is not “working”, Kapono lives with Fierce at the zoo. Why not stop by and visit this interesting fellow on your next trip to our wonderful Zoo.
Have you been to the petting zoo on Saturday lately? If you have, you’ve met our new very large rabbit Charley! He is a large white Californian Buck, but he is a sweetie and waits patiently on his sturdy red table for petting and attention.

Edward and Edwina Emu who have relocated to their much larger living quarters shared by the donkeys, have started their annual egg laying cycle with the first egg found on November 21st. It weighed in at over 1lb 5ozs. Edwina has laid 4 eggs so far, with the latest one from today (12/7) at over 1lb 7ozs! If an Emu egg is something you have always wanted, stop by the gift shop and you may be lucky enough to find one for sale.

The winter months are now upon us and the temperatures are falling. Our Alligators and Boa Constrictor will begin to slow down. With lower metabolisms their appetites will decrease and they may go for weeks without food. This will continue until next spring when the days get longer and the weather warmer!

See you all at the zoo in the New Year!

To all of you ... From Sriracha, Tzatziki, and all of us here at the zoo, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas!
This crossword is 75% natural (i.e. the answers are mostly from the natural world), organic (huh?), and GMO-free (apart from 4-down): healthy brain food for keiki of all ages! Try it as a family effort. Pictorial clues are given for all ‘natural’ questions. The numbers of letters in each word of each answer are given in parentheses.

Across

1. A favorite at Pana‘ewa (6,5)
6. Fish; with deep voice? (4)
8. Plant base (4)
9. honu (6)
10. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc are the _______ numbers (7)
13. Fish; so-o-o tasty (3)
14. Bird part (7)
17. Bird (6)
19. Persia (4)
20. Tireless worker (3)
21. Frozen waters etc (4)
22. Conifer; largest of its kind (5,6)

Down

1. (11)
2. (4)
3. Narrow, powerful beam of light (5)
4. Unnatural entity (abbr. 1,1,1) - see rubric
5. (11)
7. (5)
8. and 18. Waterproof clothing (4,4)
9. (11)
10. Architectural style (5)
11. (11)
12. (5)
16. Long, heroic poems (5)
18. see 8.
19. Persia (4)

If you’re looking for something fun to do, stop by the Pana’ewa zoo to meet Rowdy the Hyacinth Macaw, and Romeo, the Moluccan Cockatoo. Every Tuesday and Friday, the ladies who work with Romeo and Rowdy take these birds for a walk around the zoo. Romeo happily rides his skateboard while Rowdy is walked around with him. Stop by between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and say hello.

Answers to the FOZ crossword puzzle.

We would love to hear from you. If there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter or a special article, e-mail us at: newsletter@hilozoo.org
FOZ would like to thank everyone who made 2018 a successful year. From the zoo staff who work hard and take care of all the animals, to the people who donated their time to help at the Petting Zoo, where each Saturday they bring out the petting zoo animals. This is a special favorite for the kids, who get to touch the goats, the miniature horses, chickens, turtles, just to mention a few of the animals there.

A special thank you also goes to our Facebook lady, Shirley, who continuously updates FB everyday to keep the readers current. Special thanks also to Barbara and Faith, who are always ready to help and not just with the animals, but also when something is needed for them, like toys, tubs, leases, halters or a cage that needs to be fixed. They quickly jump in and get the job done. Many thanks to the Enrichment Team: each week they carefully take the petting zoo animals out and let them enjoy the grass and take the larger animals for walks. The ladies (Carol, Barbara and Jean) who socialize with the birds and take them on walks through the zoo on Tuesdays and Fridays also deserve a big mahalo. The birds don’t know how lucky they are.

There are many faces that help make the zoo a special place to visit, have a picnic, sit on a bench and watch the world go by or just walk around, relax and visit the animals.

Aloha Roger

After almost 13 years of working at the Pana‘ewa zoo, Roger, one of the zoo keepers is retiring. Roger is a kind and caring person who took wonderful care of the animals and they all responded well to him.

Roger and his wife, Carolyn, plan on staying in Hawaii, where the only animals he will be handling are their dogs and chickens. He loves flying and one of the first things he plans on doing is to go paragliding as often as possible.

The animals will really miss him, as will the zoo staff and Friends of the Zoo. We wish him all the best in his retirement and next adventure in life.
Symbolic Animal Adoptions
With Christmas just around the corner, why not get a Symbolic Animal Adoption for your kids, friends, wife, husband or for all of them? You donations help enhance and create new habitat, provide treats and toys, veterinary services and medication, procure supplies, upgrade enclosures, funding for small exhibits and enrich the animals’ experience. It’s easy, just follow the link to our web page and choose your animal. http://www.hilozoo.org/adoptions.html

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The years seem to fly by and before you know it, the time has come to renew your Pana’ewa Zoo Membership. Your continued support helps enhance the animals life, from treats and toys to medical expenses.

Whether you are renewing your membership or would like to join, it’s easy and fast. Just follow the link below, fill out the form and mail it in.

http://www.hilozoo.org/assets/-membership.pdf

Thank you for your support!