

Dolphins at Ho'okena

The pod swam into Ho'okena Bay.
Grabbing mask and flippers,
I flew down the curve of sand,
stroked hard to reach them,
swimming further than ever before.
And then I was among them,
eight adults and two babies,
careful to keep my arms at my sides,
to be more like them,
to not startle them.
They weren't concerned with me
or with the others who joined us.
They circled around each other
in their own way,
tolerating the humans,
not making contact,
keeping their babies close.
Suddenly, one rose,
to leap and spin, plunge down again
in a wild splash.
Others followed suit,
to our thrill and delight.
And just as suddenly,
in some silent agreement,
they flowed in unison,
and swam together out of the bay.
Snorkeling slowly back to shore,
I now saw the extravagance of
neon blue, red and yellow fish,
so recently ignored,
in the face of dolphin lust.