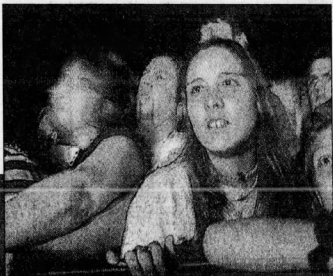


# Band polishes musical pearl in Maui show



*Pearl Jam, featuring singer/guitarist Eddie Vedder (at left), worked out its kinks on a mellow crowd, which seemed to enjoy the show despite the few moments of pure jam.*

**BY KEN IGE**  
Star-Bulletin

Moments of pure jam were few, but the excellent sound had fans wanting seconds

Fans pour into Kahului. A-10

**BY NADINE KAM**  
Star-Bulletin

**A**SSESSING a few rough spots in Pearl Jam's performance last night at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, singer Eddie Vedder apologized to the crowd of

5,000, "I just wanted tonight to be perfect, I've been waiting for it for a long time."

But fans who had been waiting a long time too were more than forgiving. "I'd give it five stars out of four," said Adam Kuklok, a Vedder lookalike from Tacoma, Wash., about the concert.

If Pearl Jam had intended to work out its kinks on a mellow crowd, the band couldn't have picked a better venue. Lulled by the ocean, palm trees and clear canopy of stars, the crowd was far tamer than any Oahu

crowd would have been.

Signs posted on pillars warned against stage diving, but the center's staff didn't have to worry. There were a handful of crowd surfers, but no divers and, shockingly, no mosh pit. Instead, thousands merely danced in place to a set list that drew from all five of the band's major recordings.

Mudhoney took the stage a little after 7 p.m., launching into a 40-minute punk frenzy that drew little reaction from the somnolent audience.

After a 30-minute break, the lights  
**PLEASE SEE PEARL JAM, A-10**

# PEARL JAM: Vedder adds isles to 'Wishlist'

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went out on stage and the crowd roared. With an 'Alooooo-ha' from Vedder, wearing a blue silkie-looking aloha shirt, Pearl Jam opened its set with a rousing "Corduroy." Behind him, wisps of smoke wafted from an incense burner in the shape of a rooster.

The band continued its attack with "Hail Hail" from the album "No Code," and "Brain of J," from the new album "Yield."

At this point, Vedder urged the crowd to get comfortable. "We're just getting warmed up."

They slowed the pace with the lush-sounding "Faithfull."

The sound throughout was clear and balanced, without an excess of decibels or boom of bass. In spite of the excellent sound, the band had few moments of pure jam and showed none of the abandon of musicians caught up in a groove. There was little divergence from songs as recorded.

There was little onstage communication between the band members, making it seem as if they had not put aside all their

past personal conflicts.

Even so, those who had come to hear the music barely noticed, pressing close to the stage until the barricade was near collapse. "Apparently, they've set up the Mariah Carey barricade," said Vedder, taking a swipe at the pop songstress set to perform at Aloha Stadium tonight.

The band then gently eased into "Wishlist," with Vedder changing some of the lyrics to, "I wish I was a 4-foot wave breaking on the North Shore." It drew a cheer from the crowd that intensified when the band introduced the classic "Even Flow."

The audience next helped turn "Better Man" into a sing-along song, but when they failed to respond in kind to "Jeremy," Vedder again apologized. "That wasn't the best version of that song, but I promise this one will be good."

"This song" happened to be the soaring "Given to Fly," which is now getting a lot of airplay.

Two more old favorites were up next, "Daughter" and "Black," before Pearl Jam returned to the present with "In

Hiding" and "Do the Evolution" off "Yield."

After an hour and a half, the band left the stage, coming back for a stirring version of "Once."

Meanwhile, some environment-conscious fans held up a banner saying "Save Maalaea." Vedder got ahold of it and lay it on the stage floor like a carpet, studying it before holding it up to the crowd to approve.

"Good work," he told the sign wavers. "You got a whole bunch of people to agree with you."

Clutching a harmonica he would later give away to a man in front, Vedder and the band continued the encore with "Smile," and the last song of the night, "Yellow Ledbetter."

Fans refused to leave for about a half hour afterward, hoping the band would return, even as the microphones and cords were packed away.

Many agreed it wasn't the best show Pearl Jam has done. The energy level wasn't quite there. But still, under the stars, it was a magical experience no one wanted to see end.

Many plan to return for a second helping tonight.