

## SCUBA LUV DIVE REPORT "CRITTER OF THE WEEK" (808) 870-2738 "SPINEY BRITTLE STAR"



There are five arms and the middle disc may show a five part radial pattern. The tubefeet on the underside are red. They are common under stones, especially on the leeward sides of islands. Arms reach 6" in length. It is the largest brittle star in Hawaii.

Brittle stars are a class of their own. Their organs are actually contained in their arms and serve as the first line of defense. If predators approach and attack the arm simply breaks off and the star takes off. Missing arms are quickly regenerated... There are 2,000 known species.

DATE OF REPORT: APRIL 13, 2014 WATER TEMP.: 76 DEPTH: 41' PHOTO BY: DIANA MADARAS

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