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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM ENRICHES LANDSCAPE  
WITH NEW “COASTAL GARDENS” NATIVE PLANT EXHIBITS**

HONOLULU (January 14, 2009) – Home to more than 3,000 marine specimens, the Waikiki Aquarium has made room for more native Hawaiian life with its new “Coastal Gardens” exhibits. Although visitors won’t see the new additions swim, dive or burrow, they will be captivated by the beauty and rich cultural heritage of these coastal plants.

With self-guided tours of the Coastal Gardens beginning in early 2009, Aquarium visitors will get a glimpse of native Hawaiian plants adapted for life close to the sea, including the ‘Uki’uki, a member of the Lily family; Ma’o hau hele, a member of the Hibiscus family; the endangered Ahinahina; and a rare, newly planted Kou Tree. These new plant displays can be found interspersed among State Foundation on Culture and the Arts exhibit “Tropical Sounds,” featuring Jun Kaneko’s well-known ceramic sculptures fronting the Aquarium. Additional Hawaiian native plant exhibits are located along the Aquarium’s inner lawn.

The Waikiki Aquarium has made its mission to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of Pacific marine life, and the new Coastal Gardens exhibits emphasize the link between land and sea, drawing attention to the importance of Hawaii’s native environment.

## **About the Waikiki Aquarium**

Founded in 1904, the Waikiki Aquarium is the third oldest public aquarium in the United States. A part of the University of Hawaii since 1919, it is located next to a living reef on the Waikiki shoreline. Exhibits, programs, and research focus on the aquatic life of Hawaii and the tropical Pacific, with roughly 320,000 people visiting the Aquarium each year. Over 3,000 organisms are on exhibit representing more than 500 species of aquatic animals and plants. The Waikiki Aquarium is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Christmas Day. Admission is \$9 for visitors; \$6 for local residents, active duty military with ID, students with ID and seniors; \$4 for youths ages 13-17 and persons with disabilities; \$2 for juniors ages 5 to 12; and free for children 4 and under and Friends of Waikiki Aquarium (FOWA) members. For more information, call (808) 923-9741 or visit online at [www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org).

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