



## WAIKIKI AQUARIUM FACT SHEET

- MISSION:** *To inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of Pacific marine life.*
- DESCRIPTION:** Founded in 1904, the Waikiki Aquarium is the third oldest public aquarium in the United States. A part of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1919, it is located next to a living reef on the Waikiki shoreline. Exhibits, programs, and research focus on the aquatic life of Hawai'i 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.
- EXHIBITS:** Waikiki Aquarium exhibits focus on the diversity of aquatic, shoreline and coral reef habitats and living communities of Hawai'i and the tropical Pacific. Among the highlights:
- **Corals Are Alive!** interactive exhibits showcasing corals, their biology and conservation
  - **SeaVisions Theatre** shows videos that illustrate shoreline conservation and how you can be a responsible reef visitor
  - **South Pacific Marine Communities** features South Pacific habitats and species, including colorful reef corals and fishes, giant clams, groupers and snappers and intriguing partnerships such as anemonefishes and their host sea anemones
  - **Hawaiian Marine Communities** recreates Hawaiian habitats from wave-swept surge zone to deep reef slopes, and from young to ancient reefs; celebrates distinctive reef life, including the longnose butterflyfish
  - **Ocean Drifters Gallery** features a 1,000-gallon moon jelly tank and a seasonally changing jelly wall that may contain white-spotted jellies, blue blubbers, sea nettles, box jellies and ctenophores
  - **Hunters on the Reef** 35,000-gallon exhibit is home to Hawaiian sharks and jacks; shark interpretive panels introduce shark biology, research, conservation and safety. New Spyball camera provides up close shark encounters in real time on a television screen

(more)

## WAIKIKI AQUARIUM FACT SHEET

-2-

- **Edge of the Reef** naturalistic shoreline exhibit offering opportunities for supervised observation and hands-on interactions with selected marine life
- **The Coral Farm** exhibit and working research facility for propagation of reef corals
- **Giant Clams** exhibit and working research facility for propagation of clams
- **Hawaiian Monk Seal Habitat** features the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal found only in the Hawaiian Islands
- **Aquaculture** features moi, a popular food fish, whose numbers have declined in the wild
- **Coastal Gardens** with native Hawaiian plants adapted for life close to the sea

### ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Hawaiian monk seals; 'ōhai (endemic Hawaiian coastal plant)

### UNIQUE SPECIES:

Pacific giant clams; Hawaiian stream gobies; rare deep-reef butterflyfish; bearded armorheads; masked angelfish; and diverse native coastal plants

### CONSERVATION & RESEARCH:

The Waikiki Aquarium is a working research facility, conducting numerous conservation and research programs, including:

- Husbandry, nutrition and behavior of aquatic and marine aquarium specimens
- Husbandry and propagation of chambered nautilus
- Spawning behavior, larval rearing, and propagation potential of selected reef fishes
- Identification & treatment of diseases, parasite infections and other ailments of aquarium marine life
- Coral husbandry, propagation and conservation
- Hawaiian monk seal metabolic and bacteriological research
- Giant clam husbandry and propagation
- Sea jelly husbandry and propagation
- Deep reef coral research
- Coral Ark: archiving and husbandry of rare Hawaiian corals

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

The Waikiki Aquarium offers numerous education programs, including:

- **Interpretive services:** staff or volunteers enrich the visitor experience with explanations of the exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences

(more)

- **Self-tour** opportunities for individuals and groups: interpretive graphics & exhibits, handouts are available.
- **School Program:** presentations and docent-assisted tours for school groups, grades K - 6
- **Outreach and special request** presentations for schools and community groups
- **Community Enrichment Program:** year-round natural history fieldtrips, classes, and workshops for children, families, and adults
- **Information services:** staff answer questions from visitors & community on marine and aquarium-science related topics

**OPPORTUNITIES:** The Waikiki Aquarium affords a number of opportunities to get involved through:

- **Membership:** Join the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium (FOWA) to enjoy the annual benefits of free admission, 20% discount at the Natural Selections gift shop, quarterly mailings of our beautiful and informative magazine *Kilo i'a*, free salt water pick-up, and facility rental privileges at “Family” and “Family Plus” levels. To select the membership level right for you, please see the Visitor Services staff or contact Events and Membership Manager Raina Fujitani at (808) 440-9008 for more information.
- **Volunteerism:** When you donate your time and curiosity to the Waikiki Aquarium, you are rewarded with diverse and challenging opportunities to help make a difference!
  - **Education** – Docents provide on-site presentations and tours to elementary school groups and provide outreach programs for school and community groups. Interpreters at the Edge of the Reef exhibit assist visitors and provide up-close observations of Hawaiian marine life.
  - **Live Exhibits** – Assist with husbandry, tank maintenance and feeding.
  - **Natural Selection Shop** – Assist with stocking inventory and sales.
  - **Membership/Public Relations/Special Events** - Assist with bulk mail outs & communications with Aquarium members, public relations surveys, record-keeping and special events.

**AWARDS:**

The Waikiki Aquarium has received several awards for its research and conservation efforts, including:

- 2008 Keep It Hawai'i Award
- 2003 Munson Aquatic Conservation Exhibit (M.A.C.E.) Award from the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) for South Pacific Marine Communities exhibit
- 2003 Edward H. Bean Award from AZA for Long Term Tropical Pacific Coral Propagation Program

(more)

## WAIKIKI AQUARIUM FACT SHEET

-4-

**DIRECTOR:** Dr. Andrew Rossiter

**EMPLOYEES:** 35 full-time, 36 part-time, 33 affiliate staff

**HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily (except Honolulu Marathon Sunday and Christmas Day)

**ADMISSION:** \$9 for visitors; \$6 for local residents, active duty military with ID, students with ID and senior citizens; \$4 for youths ages 13-17 and persons with disabilities; \$2 for juniors ages 5 - 12; and free for children 4 and under and Friends of Waikiki Aquarium members

**INFORMATION:** 2777 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu  
(808) 923-9741  
[www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org)

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Caroline Witherspoon or  
Tess Staadecker  
Becker Communications, Inc.  
119 Merchant Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 533-4165  
email: [firstname@beckercommunications.com](mailto:firstname@beckercommunications.com)

###