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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM TO HOST BIGGEST KOI SHOW IN HAWAII
*4th Annual International Aloha Koi Show to Take Place February 19 & 20***

HONOLULU, HI (January 12, 2011) – On February 19 and 20, 2011, the Waikiki Aquarium will make a splash as it hosts the biggest koi show in Hawaii. The 4th Annual International Aloha Koi Show will feature hundreds of top-quality koi on display in addition to educational seminars, keiki activities and live entertainment such as ninja group demonstrations, taiko drummers and hula dancers.

“We’re so pleased and honored to be able to host one of the major koi shows in the United States here on the Aquarium grounds as an added value to our guests,” said Waikiki Aquarium Director Andrew Rossiter, Ph.D. “Nishikigoi (brocaded carp), more commonly referred to simply as ‘koi’, originated in Niigata Prefecture, Japan. The variety of beautiful colors and patterns we see today are the result of over 200 years of artificial selection by dedicated breeders there. Koi is the national fish of Japan and are also widely prized by collectors around the world. Sometimes referred to as ‘living jewels,’ to many, they epitomize an aesthetic and cultural bridge between East and West.”

The 4th Annual International Koi Show will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 19 and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 20. Entry is free to Aquarium visitors.

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ABOUT THE WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

Founded in 1904 and administered by the University of Hawaii at Manoa since 1919, the Waikiki Aquarium is located on the shoreline of Waikiki Beach next to a living reef and across from Kapiolani Park. The Aquarium – third oldest in the U.S. – showcases more than 500 marine species, and maintains more than 3,500 marine specimens. Public exhibits, education programs and research focus on the unique aquatic life of Hawaii and the tropical Pacific. The Aquarium welcomes more than 320,000 visitors annually, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Honolulu Marathon Sunday and 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.

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