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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM SUPPORTS CREATION OF  
THREE NEW NATIONAL MARINE MONUMENTS**

HONOLULU (January 16, 2009) – On January 6, 2009, President Bush launched the largest marine conservation endeavor in history as he announced three new areas in the Pacific Ocean, totaling around 195,274 square miles, as national monuments. As one of six aquariums signing a letter of support for this measure, Waikiki Aquarium Director Dr. Andrew Rossiter made the following statement:

“The Waikiki Aquarium’s mission is to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of marine life, not only in Hawaii but throughout the Pacific. Given the current state of the oceans, it is a passion and priority to concentrate our efforts on this mission through our exhibits, events, research and education programs.

“Six members of the federally funded Coastal America Learning Centers, including the Waikiki Aquarium, made the initial leap to support this movement. It gives us great hope to see this measure prosper from its foundation to its fruition, and we see this as an important step in focusing on the importance of our coastal resources. Other outreach activities with Coastal America are planned in 2009.

“Expanding the preservation of these Pacific marine monuments will continue to allow for the discovery and conservation of important marine species and we look forward to continuing our support of this effort.”

## ABOUT THE WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

Founded in 1904 and administered by the University of Hawaii 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 3,000 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. For more information about the Waikiki Aquarium, including membership, please call 808-923-9741 or visit [www.waquarium.org](http://www.waquarium.org).

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