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**THAR SHE BLOWS!
THE WAIKIKI AQUARIUM CELEBRATES HAWAII WHALE MONTH
WITH FUN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY**

HONOLULU (January 30, 2009) – Offering a whale of a time, and continuing its partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Waikiki Aquarium is celebrating Whale Month in Hawaii with *Whale Wednesdays in Waikiki*. On Wednesday, February 11 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, keiki can learn about Hawaii's humpback whales while enjoying fun and educational activities sponsored by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

Educational activities will highlight whale behavior and biology while hands-on arts and crafts will include humpback whale hat making. In partnership with Diamond Bakery, the Waikiki Aquarium will also give away sample packs of Hawaiian Animal Cookies that include the Humpback whale (*kohola* in Hawaiian), while supplies last.

Adults and their keiki are invited to stop by the Aquarium to take part in the fun. Activities take approximately 30 minutes and will be continuously offered throughout the 2-hour timeframe. For more information about the program, visit www.hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov.

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.

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