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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM HOSTS PROFESSOR J. RUDI STRICKLER FOR
"OCEAN LIFE: IN A NUTSHELL" SEMINAR**

Honolulu, Hawaii (December 22, 2009) - The Waikiki Aquarium welcomes the new year and a new professor to its repertoire of 2010 educational programs. On Thursday, January 14 at 6 p.m., Professor J. Rudi Strickler will journey into the microscopic realm of plankton. Attendees will learn Strickler's secrets of developing the optical instrumentation to study the ocean at millimeter and millisecond scales, as they dive deeper into the incredible underwater world.

Shaw Distinguished Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Professor J. Rudi Strickler has been featured in film, television, and written publications highlighting the observations planktonic copepods. He also received the John Martin Award, which recognizes a paper in aquatic sciences judged to have had a high impact on subsequent research in the field.

"We are thrilled to host Professor Strickler at the Waikiki Aquarium," said Dr. Andrew Rossiter, Director of the Waikiki Aquarium. "His lecture not only assists the Aquarium in efforts of ocean awareness, but also develops our appreciation for the mystical world of plankton."

The program is free and open to the public. To RSVP please call 440-9020 or email volunteer@waquarium.org on or before January 7. For more information, visit planktonsfari.net.

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 3,000 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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