



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Caroline Witherspoon or
Tess Staadecker
Becker Communications, Inc.
(808) 533-4165

**DISCOVER AND PROTECT THE UNDERWATER WORLD WITH THE WAIKIKI AQUARIUM
AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, PACIFIC
SERVICES CENTER, SEPTEMBER 13 – 18, 2009**

HONOLULU, HI (September 10, 2009) – The Waikiki Aquarium and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Services Center have partnered to offer a sea of activities this month focused on raising community awareness of ocean habitat, health, and human impacts. The activities will take place at the Aquarium from September 13 through 18, 2009.

Kicking off the week-long events will be a casual concert on the Aquarium's lawn from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 13. Hoku Award winner and master slack key guitar artist Kawika Kahiapo and Martin Pahinui will serenade guests, and storyteller Matt Kawaiola Sproat will share stories about Hawaiian special guardians (aumakua) - the shark, turtle, octopus and more.

In addition, from September 13 – 18, the Aquarium's theatre will host the NOAA Pacific Services Center Honua, a spherical data visualization tool that features global projections of data on the impact of carbon in our climate, coral reef ecosystems, El Nino, the hurricane season in the Pacific Ocean, marine animal migration routes, and the impacts of humans on the world oceans. During this time, the NOAA Marine Debris Program will also provide information relating to the impacts of marine debris with displays of debris collected from local beaches.

All ocean awareness activities will be included in regular admission to the Waikiki Aquarium.

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.

###