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**ASSIST THE FISH!
WAIKIKI AQUARIUM VOLUNTEER TRAINING BEGINS JANUARY 16, 2010**

HONOLULU (December 16, 2009) – The Waikiki Aquarium’s Education Department offers a sea of volunteer opportunities for exhibit interpreters. Offering the chance to teach residents and visitors about Hawaii sea life and conservation, the Aquarium will hold free volunteer training beginning January 16, 2010.

Exhibit Interpreters share natural history information on the Waikiki Aquarium’s outdoor reef exhibit, guide visitor observations and answer questions about Hawaii’s marine environment. The training course covers interpretation and hospitality skills, information on exhibit operations, and various marine sciences.

Exhibit training sessions will be held January 16 – February 6, 2010, on Thursday evenings (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday mornings (9:00 a.m. - noon) in the Waikiki Aquarium classroom. One-on-one sessions will then be scheduled for on-the-job training. Interpreters work one two-hour shift per week for a minimum period of six months.

Volunteers receive extensive, hands-on training from the expert staff, as well as continuing education about Hawaiian marine life. Volunteering not only helps visitors learn about rare species and the precious ocean ecosystem in Hawaii, but also helps people of all ages learn how to conserve today’s marine life for tomorrow’s generations. Other volunteer benefits include complimentary Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium (FOWA) membership and free admission, a quarterly newsletter and special event notices. Volunteers also receive gift shop and program discounts.

Interested parties can call 440-9020 or e-mail volunteer@waquarium.org for more information or to schedule a meeting and reserve space in the class.

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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