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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW
NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS PUBLIC DISPLAY
* New Exhibit Slated to Open in Spring 2011 ***

HONOLULU (May 26, 2010) – The largest single area dedicated to conservation in the United States, and one of the largest in the world, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is home to over 7,000 marine species, a quarter of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Offering visitors a nearly once-in-a-lifetime experience to see some of these fishes and corals in their natural habitats, the Waikiki Aquarium has begun work on a new Northwestern Hawaiian Islands exhibit, which will feature a living reef ecosystem representative of that found in the world’s most isolated islands.

“With a mission to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of Pacific marine life, it is only fitting that the Waikiki Aquarium would dedicate resources to develop a world-class exhibit to bring the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to the people,” said Director Andrew Rossiter, Ph.D. “Many of the species that will be on display are abundant around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but are extremely rare or absent around the Main Hawaiian Islands.”

Among the unique organisms to be featured in the 4,000-gallon public display will be table corals, masked angelfish, yellow barbel goatfish and Japanese pygmy angelfish. Interactive touch screens associated with the exhibit will provide additional information on the significance of the islands, their ecology and biodiversity, and the importance of preserving this almost pristine marine ecosystem for future generations.

The new \$300,000 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands exhibit is slated to open in late spring 2011. Until then, a portion of the Aquarium's Gallery 4 will be closed for construction. The new exhibit is being developed in partnership and with support from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

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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