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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM TO CELEBRATE WORLD OCEANS DAY ON JUNE 8, 2009,
WITH BEACH CLEAN-UPS, ON-SITE ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROMOTIONS**

HONOLULU (May 14, 2009) – Building greater awareness of the crucial role the ocean plays in peoples' lives, the Waikiki Aquarium will celebrate United Nations World Oceans Day on Monday, June 8, 2009. The State Aquarium has partnered with several other organizations and businesses, including NOAA Pacific Services Center, Duke's Waikiki, Kona Brewing Company–Koko Marina Pub and elle Couture Jewellers, to host beach clean-ups, on-site activities and special promotions that honor the world's oceans.

World Oceans Day festivities will kick off with two separate beach clean-ups hosted by the Waikiki Aquarium and Duke's Waikiki at Kaimana Beach and Waimanalo Beach, respectively. NOAA Pacific Services will also be on site at the Waikiki Aquarium throughout the day, offering kid-friendly activities such as "NOAA's Honua," a science sphere offering data visualizations on oceans and climate; and "Oceans Today," a kiosk presenting video vignettes from oceans around the world.

In addition, Kona Brewing Company–Koko Marina Pub in Hawaii Kai will donate a percentage of its proceeds from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on June 8 to the Waikiki Aquarium. Also in celebration of World Ocean Days, elle Couture Jewellers will kick off a special Waikiki Aquarium promotion during which 10 percent of the sales of its Roberto Coin sea-life inspired jewelry through the end of the year will be donated to the Friends of Waikiki Aquarium.

“The Waikiki Aquarium is pleased to take the lead in Hawaii in celebrating World Oceans Day,” said Director Andrew Rossiter, Ph.D. “World Oceans Day provides an opportunity to get directly involved in protecting our future and raising consciousness of how our lives depend on the ocean.”

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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