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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
TEAM UP TO OFFER OCEAN GUARDIAN KIDS CLUB AND CONTEST**

HONOLULU (March 25, 2010) – Children from kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to join the Waikiki Aquarium and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' **Hawai'i Ocean Guardian Kids Club and Contest**. Through April 22, 2010, children are encouraged to submit an original poem, short story, or visual art piece of their favorite endangered, threatened or protected marine life found around the Hawaiian archipelago to win great prizes.

Prizes for each age category (grades K - 2; 3 - 5; 6 - 8) include:

- 1st Prize: Two nights at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki, including a one-day family pass to the Waikiki Aquarium
- 2nd Prize: Flik Flak Swatch Watch
- 3rd Prize: Camp Penguin Lunch Bag and T-Shirt

"This is a great opportunity to begin educating our future generations about the importance of the planet's marine life," said Dr. Andrew Rossiter, director of the Waikiki Aquarium. "Children's imaginations are as vast as our ocean and it is our duty to ensure both are sustained. Education through the arts creates a perfect partnership for both to flourish."

The kids club and contest offers a stimulating opportunity for children to express their insights, observations and understanding of ocean life and coral reefs through the creation of artwork. By becoming a member of the Ocean Guardian Kids Club, children pledge to help the ocean and all the creatures that live in it and around its shores.

All K-8 students in the United States are eligible and encouraged to join. For more information or to download the **Hawai'i Ocean Guardian Kids Club and Contest** entry form, visit online at

<http://www.waquarium.org/ocean-guardian-kids-club.asp>

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 3,500 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.

ABOUT THE NOAA OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

The mission of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is to conserve, protect and enhance the biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of our nation's system of marine protected areas. The National Marine Sanctuary System currently manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters. For more information, please visit www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov.

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