Membership Publication of the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members' Night Annual Meeting Halloween Scavenger Hunt STAFF & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kalene, the Syngnathids Aquarist, & Deb from Live Exhibits



Ke Kani O Ke Kai Plastic Free July OZONE Day Sunset Yoga & Tour

ISSUE #219

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MANA'O

Traditionally, the kilo i'a was an expert of fish and marine life. He studied the behaviors and movements of i'a. The kilo stood at a high point of land overlooking the ocean to watch for an expected school of fish and steered the fishermen in the school's direction. The success of surrounding the school was entirely up to the kilo.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aloha Friends,

Fall is upon us, and I am excited to share some wonderful updates with you! We recently held our first ever **Sunset Yoga** event, featuring an exclusive after-hours tour of the Aquarium. A special mahalo to Live Exhibits team member **Kalene Rogers** for leading such an insightful tour, and Yoga Instructor **Stephanie Marrack** for generously donating her time to create an unforgettable experience for our members.

As we look ahead, we have an exciting lineup of Fall events planned for you. Our **Tim Guard Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS)** will be back, featuring inspiring speakers who will be sharing their research, conservation efforts, and passion for Hawai'i's marine life.

We're also eagerly anticipating our **Members' Night** Halloween event, a fun-filled evening dedicated to celebrating you–our valued members. We hope you'll also join us for our **Annual Meeting**, where we'll reflect on the past year and share our vision for the future of the Waikīkī Aquarium.

In addition to these events, we have partnered with local artists throughout 2024 to create our **Artists in Residence** program. This partnership, led by **Tamara Moan** and **Denise Karabinus**, not only allows our community to express their creativity, but helps educate them about Pacific marine life while feeling more connected to our beloved Aquarium residents.

As we look towards the future, we would love to hear from you! If there are events or programs you would like to see at the Aquarium, please don't hesitate to share your ideas with us. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to make the Waikīkī Aquarium a place of inspiration, education, and community connection.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Elizabeth Churchill

Executive Director, Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium



BOARD SPOTLIGHT DIRK YOSHIZAWA

Dirk has been a dedicated member of the FOWA Board since 2012. Professionally, Dirk serves as Bank of Hawaii's Senior Executive Vice President & Co-Lead of Commercial Banking Group.

Dirk was inspired to join the board by his sons, who have a deep love and appreciation for the ocean and its marine life. He is passionate about contributing to the conservation of Hawai`i's oceans and wants to ensure that future generations have a place to learn about our unique Pacific marine life and understand the importance of its preservation.

What Dirk loves most about the Waikīkī Aquarium is witnessing the excitement and wonder of young learners and enthusiasts who participate in its educational programs and explore its exhibits. He views the Aquarium as an exceptional educational resource that provides hands-on learning experiences, sparking each child's imagination and nurturing their curiosity about marine life.

When asked about his favorite marine animal, Dirk mentioned his fascination with the octopus. He is interested by its mastery of camouflage, intelligence, and defense mechanisms.

SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

On September 8 and 29, 2024, the public was invited to join interactive drawing sessions as part of its Artists in Residence program. Led by local artists **Tamara Moan** and **Denise Karabinus**, the program offers interactive art activities for all ages, encouraging participants to unleash their creativity while drawing inspiration from the environment of the Waikīkī Aquarium. Stay tuned for upcoming events!



TAMARA MOAN, former President of the Hawai'i Watercolor Society, is a prominent figure in the local arts community, known for her expertise in drawing, painting, and printmaking. Her work has been featured in numerous juried exhibitions.







DENISE KARABINUS, Executive Director of the Honolulu Printmakers, is renowned for her drawing and printmaking, as well as her community service work. In 2014, Denise was an artist in residence in Paradsinga, India through GRAM International Artist Residency in Community Service. Her works have been featured in the Portland Museum of Art, Art in the Open in Philadelphia, Printmaking Center of New Jersey, Honolulu Museum of Art and the University of Fine Arts Hanoi.





ON SALE NOW! YEAR OF THE SEADRAGON MERCHANDISE

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Amazing Adaptations exhibit, Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium launched its exclusive, limited-edition **Year of the Seadragon** and **Syngnathid Summer** merchandise. The collection includes beach towels, stickers, tote bags, and magnets that don these beloved sea creatures. Items are available for purchase online only, with pick up at the Waikīkī Aquarium. Each purchase supports rebuilding efforts for the beloved Edge of the Reef exhibit as well as ongoing educational, conservation and research activities at the Waikīkī Aquarium.



Friday, October 11 from 5 pm-8 pm

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBERS' NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 11, 2024, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to join FOWA for the **2024 Annual Meeting and Members' Night!** FOWA board members will present a year in review and a look to the future.

This year's event features a "Hide 'N Seek" theme, offering a fun-filled evening for the whole family. Join us for spooktacular games, educational activities in the classroom, a scavenger hunt, a Halloween costume contest, a mermaid photo opp, underwater pumpkin carving, and food and drinks from local vendors!

For more information and to register, visit **fowaquarium.org/ members-night-2024/** or scan the QR code below:

Purchase Tickets Today!

SCHEDULE

4:30pm FOWA Annual Meeting (Classroom) 5:00pm Doors Open; Activities Begin 5:45pm Under the Sea Pumpkin Carving 6:30pm Halloween Costume Contest 8:00pm Pau

ADMISSION

FOWA Members \$15 for Adults, \$5 for Children (ages 4-12)

Non-Members \$20 for Adults, \$10 for Children (ages 4-12)

Children 3 and under FREE





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AQUARIUM UPGRADES



With Aquarium visitorship in a low owing to the shoulder season for travel, the Aquarium is using this opportunity to begin long-planned upgrades to its exhibits.

Foremost among these is a new jellyfish gallery, which will be completed around mid-December. Featuring a greater diversity of jellyfish species and more exhibits and educational insights, we are confident that this will prove a favorite among visitors, building upon the popularity of the existing jellyfish exhibit.

Additionally, in advance of his return in 2025, the home of KP2/Hoa, our Hawaiian monk seal, will undergo a significant refurbishment, which is already underway. Exactly when he will return is still unknown, but will occur after the loud noise and vibrations of the construction related to the injection well project has dissipated.

And at the same time, construction of a new, expanded Edge of the Reef exhibit will take place, to replace the existing exhibit which will be sacrificed as part of the injection well project. With a larger exhibit area, greater depth, more fishes, and with additional education stations, this new exhibit will display Hawai'i's marine inshore reefs in a more-realistic habitat than previously existed.

So bear with us as these exciting changes take place over the coming year and we move towards an upgraded Waikīkī Aquarium.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Dr. Andrew Rossiter

Director, Waikīkī Aquarium

STAFF SPOTLIGHT **KALENE ROGERS**

Syngnathids Aquarist



Originally from Honolulu, Hawai'i, **Kalene Rogers**' love for marine life began at a young age. Tide pooling around the Makapu'u area sparked her fascination with the ocean's diverse creatures, and she found snorkeling to be far more thrilling than surfing. This early passion led her to pursue a career dedicated to marine life.

Kalene joined the Waikīkī Aquarium team in 2018, starting as a volunteer before moving to a front desk position where she remained until 2020. Later that year, she became part of the Live Exhibits team and is currently the Syngnathids Aquarist. She cares for the Aquarium's seahorses, seadragons, and pipefish–feeding them, maintaining their tanks, addressing health issues, and enhancing their exhibits through redesigns and new additions.

While she loves working with seahorses, her favorite marine animal is the pufferfish because of its unique traits.



MAKING WAVES!

Waikiki Aquarium's Volunteer Spotlight

WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM CELEBRATES

On Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., dedicated volunteers gathered to celebrate **Plastic Free July** by removing over 60 lbs of microplastics and litter at Sherwood Beach. Plastic Free July is a global initiative aimed at reducing plastic use and raising awareness about its environmental impact. During the event, participants learned about the effects of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems. Microplastics found at this cleanup were then upcycled into crafts at an educational table at the Waikīkī Aquarium.



For more information about beach cleanups, visit our website: **www.waikikiaquarium.org/interact/special-events/cleanups/**





DEB LEE

Live Exhibits General Aquarist Assistant Volunteer

Dr. Deborah (Deb) Lee, a pediatric neurologist with a passion for marine life, has been a dedicated volunteer at the Waikīkī Aquarium since 2019. Although her professional journey took her far from the ocean, her love for marine biology has found a fulfilling outlet at the Aquarium.

After graduating from Kailua High School, Deb furthered her career focusing on medicine. However, her long-held dream of becoming a marine biologist remained a cherished ambition. After retiring, she seized the opportunity to dive into the world of marine biology through volunteer work at the Aquarium.

As a General Aquarist Assistant Volunteer in the Live Exhibits department, Deb helps with maintaining and feeding a variety of exhibits including Edge of the Reef, juvenile porcupinefish in the Miniature Marine Life exhibit, anemones in Galleries 1 and 2, as well as the chocolate chip sea star and carpet anemone in the Mangrove exhibit. One of Deb's most memorable experiences was learning how to target feed the porcupinefish while all the other Edge of the Reef fish were distracted. Her time volunteering has allowed her to develop a deep care for the animals at the Aquarium.



To learn more about how you can become a volunteer, scan the QR code or visit **waikikiaquarium.org/support/volunteer/**.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Name: Julio Lemus

Position: Former Student Aquarist

Favorite Marine Animal: My favorite marine animal is the Giant Trevally (Ulua Aukea). It's the most powerful reef fish and I love large predators. They are also a sign of a healthy reef ecosystem.

What were your previous roles and responsibilities at the Waikīkī Aquarium?

During my time as a student aquarist at the Waikīkī Aquarium, I cared for a wide variety of tanks and marine species. My supervisor, Tony, recognized my enthusiasm and skill, which led to opportunities to take on additional responsibilities. I helped maintain the live feeds production and cleaned multiple tanks, including the large shark exhibit, and collected fish and invertebrates for display. Each day brought new tasks, from bagging fish for shipment to maintaining UV light filters, giving me a broad spectrum of aquarist knowledge over my ten months there before graduating from the University of Hawai'i.

What sparked your interest in your field of study?

I've been a saltwater aquarium hobbyist since the age of ten. I've maintained multiple mixed reef tanks over the years and currently manage a 10-gallon nano reef tank. My passion for the hobby led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in marine biology, where I gained professional husbandry experience.

Can you tell us about your recent research cruise with the UH Mānoa Dive Office?

I was onboarded as a research assistant and scientific diver for the Larvae Across the Pacific research cruise onboard the RV Thompson, where we explored Wake Island and Johnston Atoll.

What was the purpose of the cruise? What are some key insights?

The purpose of the cruise was to provide new and comprehensive insights into the historic and potential future role of these two places as biological stepping-stones for movement of marine species between the Hawaiian Islands and other archipelagoes of the North Pacific Ocean.

Thousands of tissue samples from multiple species of urchins are still being processed and no conclusions can be drawn yet but hopefully soon.

Why do you think people should support the Waikīkī Aquarium?

I think the Waikīkī Aquarium is an invaluable resource to get the local and foreign community excited about Hawaiian ocean creatures, as well as teach them about its diversity and vulnerability along the way.



ΚΕ ΚΑΝΙ Ο ΚΕ ΚΑΙ

On Thursday, June 20, 2024, summer officially began with the return of our beloved summer concert series, **Ke Kani O Ke Kai**, with a special one-night-only event! This year's concert featured an all-star lineup of Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award-winning musicians, including **Kawika Kahiapo**, **Bobby Moderow, Robi Kahakalau, Makana, Crossing Rain,** and 2024 Merrie Monarch Festival overall winner, **Halau Ka Lā 'Ōnohi Mai o Ha'eha'e**.

Mahalo to all who joined this year's concert and to all our sponsors and partners for their support!





OZONE DAY

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, in honor of World Ocean Month, Outrigger Resorts & Hotels celebrated a full day of activities for everyone to enjoy. **OZONE Day** at the Waikīkī Aquarium brought together non-profit partners for a day of education and fun, featuring partners such as the Board of Water Supply, Genki Ala Wai Project, Raw Elements, Surfrider Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Marine Debris Project, SeaGrant, Hawaiian Music Live, Hawai'i Pacific University Center for Marine Debris Research, Kanu Hawai`i, Bishop Museum, Eat Pono and Kona Shave Ice.

SUNSET YOGA & TOUR

On Thursday, August 15, 2024, the public enjoyed the first ever **Sunset Yoga & Tour**! The evening began with an informative tour led by Kalene Rogers from the Aquarium Live Exhibits team and was complemented by a restorative sunset yoga session led by Stephanie Marrack, a seasoned yoga instructor who currently teaches Malama kou kino (Care for the Body) at Queen Emma Summer Palace in Nu'uanu. Stay tuned for future yoga events!





NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS (May through August 2024)

Marjorie Akamine Christine Akamine Carol Aki Tony Altomare Ricky Amii Tsuya<u>ka Arakaki</u> Liane Arakawa Tricia Araki Kei Ashizawa Alisa Au Shaunna Au Anne Au **Ginger Banner** Stephanie Batzer Narvana Baumer Thomas Baxter Jordyn Beltrol-Navarro Liana Benn **Diane Bennett** Donna Bennett Stephanie Bentley Anri Biehl **Regine Bishaw** Michael Bishop Eddie Bisquera Addison Bonner Dana Brackett Michael Brown Alika Brown Rob Bryant Karen Buote Peter Bushell Christie Busto Mary Jane Cabahit Olga Caldwell Elizabeth Camat Chancy Cameron Ashley Campos Kari Cardona Keely Paola Carey Nathan Carl Malcom Carr Jessica Carrillo Joey Casabay **Clayton Chan** Chia Hua Chang Anna Chapman Davin Char Susie Chen Hong-Ru Chen Jamieson Chevy Melissa Ching Leslie Ching Glenn Ching Diane Choi Kristen Chun Louise Chung William Cicchetto Travis Clegg

Thomas Clement Jorge Clemente Maegan Cleverdon Judith Cordel-Nakashima Carol Cozzi-Schmarr Larissa Cruz **Michelle Cyphers** T Dau Tyler Davenport Arist De Wolff Romeo Delarosa Alexi Drouin David Drown William Dryer Karl Ekroth Charlene El-Swaify Viyana Elledge Galanto Ellery Matthew Eng Daniel Esselbach Sarah Estrellado Ronja Evans Robin Ficklin Amy Forsyth Spencer Freitas Katherine Frystak Tarah Fudge Adrienne Fujimori Lynne Fukuda **Francis Fuller** Anna Geisler Jordon General Ryan Gillia **Bridget Gould** Sharon Greene Kyle Greiving Alexandra Grillion Shuo Grimes Aja Halweg Jason Hanley Kay Haring **Brian Hartman** Gary Hashiro Fred Hawley Maija Herman Andrew Higa Ryan Higaki Joshua Hitchcock Tomoko Hodnefield Quyen Hong Anne Hong Ashley Houlihan

James Inase Lauren Inouve Mark Inouye Wade Isobe Tony Iwakawa Christie Izutsu Malia Jansson Marsha Johnson Renee Jong Erica Jul Ben Karsin Marilyn Katzman Denis Kawamoto . Morgan Kaya Kana Kikuta Zachary Kim Daniel Kim Kelly Kimura Loriann Kira Margrethe Kleiber Erik Klein Keiko Kobayashi Darin Kohara Garret Kojima Meghan Koon Colin Kop David Kowen Candide Krieger Donald Kroessig Won Ku Kvle Kunioka Sherrie Kuroda Christopher Lam Aube Lamothe **David Larlick** Vu Le Mary Isis Lee Sarah Lee Jonghyun Lee Christopher Lee Serena Legg

Maya Legrande Erin Lemay Laura Lenĥarr Steve Leonard Alison Leong Emily Lew Shuai Li Kathleen Libby Jae Lim Grace Lin Mike Lindsey Margaret Lippert Jocelyn Liu Jessica Lobo Jerik Love Justin Lum Cecilia Mah Lisa Mahan Jessie Makainai **Mitchell Mallory** Valerie Mangrobang Colette Maran Rachel Mark Stephanie Marrack Earl Maruishi Takahiro Masuda Nate Masunari **Erin Matias** Randall Matsumoto Hajime Matsuzaki Catherine Matthews Michael Mcconnell **Charles Mccrorie** Emma Mcdermett Beth Mclachlin Debbie Meza Leanna Mix Yuhei Miyake Haruki Miyamoto Jamie Mizusawa Raynee Mochizuki Marilyn Moku Erin Molina Tamara Montgomery **Brian Moore** Nancy Morgan Rhys Morishima Avis Moriyama Bartosz Mrugalski Andrew Muccio Sarah Mulleady

Alyssa Myers Kristyna Nakamatsu Keri Nakamura Mihoko Nakamura Tatsunori Nakamura Harvey Nakano Kaitlin Nakano Terri Nakasone Reyn Nakayama Jasmine Nguyen Cam Nguyer Rachel Niiro Lucy O'neil Brittany Obando Mervin Obrero Jr Christina Ohira **Raymond Ollero** Marcia Omura Ashley Onishi Eric Ösaki Robin Otsuka Jeff Page Genieve Pai Attila Pal Andrew Pang Jan Papirmeister Paul Passantino Summer Peach Mary Anne Penton Kristen Placek **Myles** Porter Marc Putman Sarah Ramos Rose Anne Joy Rasay **Emily Reis** Porsha Renteria Lucy Richards Koo Im Robbins Keli Robertson Jenna Robinson Thomas Rodgers Igor Rodin Sophia Rodriguez Courtney Rogers Peter Rosegg Corbett Roy Jason Rudrud Inga Rysevas Norma Saito Keiko Sakoda Nattida Samanukom Joshua Savage Mary Schmitz **Margot Schrire** Mary Scott Huiwen Shi

Dennis Shimabukuro John Shriner Dominique Sia Nora Slater Steffanie Sobitz Sarah Solomon Shaina Sonobe Clark Sorensen Heidi Soriano Caitlin Stafford **Priscilla Stafford** Barbara Stephanic Jordan Stephanos Justin Stephens John Anthony Suarez Carol Sunada Michelle Tavares **Brian Taylor** Hudson Taylor Michael Thompson Mia Thornsbury Stacey Tighe Andrea Tjemsland Ross Togashi Aaron Tom Lianne Tomishima Gail Tomomitsu Sara Tomonari Miles Trela Michelle Tremblay Christopher Tsue Lu'isa Tupea May Uemura Bob Van Duijn Valerie Vanderhoof Krystal Vera Melinda Vixaysakd-Katagiri . Keith Vodzak Megan Wall Luisa Walter Wayne Wang Sally Watts Joel Weber Melissa Willke **Emily Wobb-Lau** Michael Wong **Evelyn Wong** Kristie Wong Amy Woodward Shuhui Xu Maya Yamamoto Matthew Yamamoto



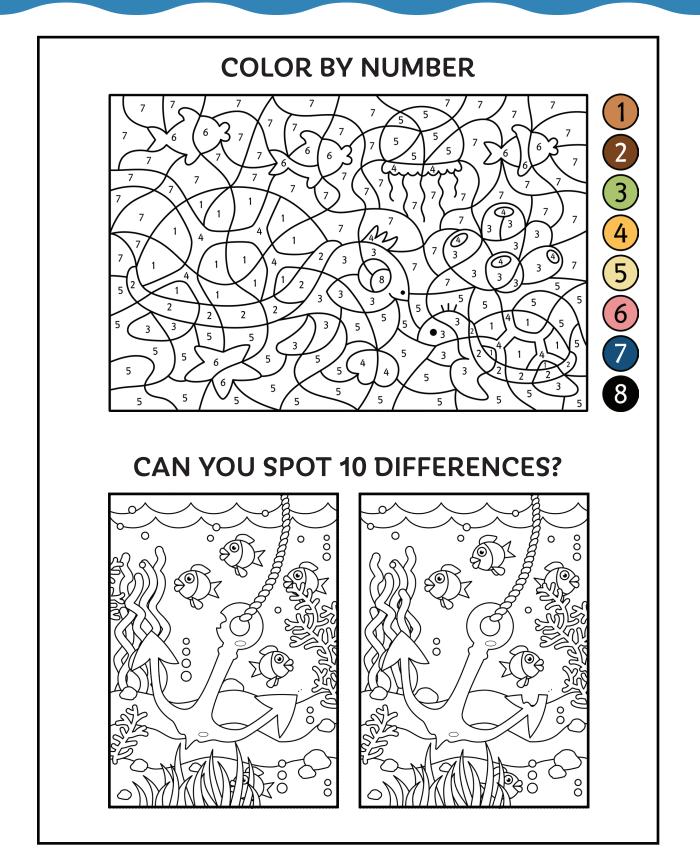
Join the global movement of generosity on **Giving Tuesday**, a day dedicated to supporting various non-profits, including Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium. On December 3, 2024, celebrate Giving Tuesday by renewing your membership, giving a gift of membership to a loved one, or making a donation to support the mission of the Waikīkī Aquarium. By supporting FOWA, you are helping our organization develop new and exciting initiatives to enhance visitor and member experiences.

To donate, visit the Waikīkī Aquarium front desk, mail a check to Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium, P.O. Box 89573, Honolulu, HI 96830 or scan the QR code to donate on our website:





Print this page to complete our Keiki Activities!



MAHALO FOR VISITING THE WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM!

DON'T FORGET TO TAG US! @WAIKIKIAQUARIUM













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Phone: (808) 302-5917

WRITE TO US AT membership@waikikiaguarium.org

