

# Kilo iā

SPRING 2024  
ISSUE #218

Membership Publication of the Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium

## WHAT'S INSIDE:



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Ke Kani O Ke Kai & World Oceans Month!



### ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT

Jellyfish research & 10 years of Amazing Adaptations



### PAST EVENT RECAP

The Aquarium's 120th Birthday & Seasons & the Sea

## KE KANI O KE KAI

**Ke Kani O Ke Kai**, the Waikīkī Aquarium's beloved outdoor oceanside concert series returns with a special one-night-only event on Thursday, June 20, 2024! This year's concert features an all-star lineup of Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning musicians, including **Kawika Kahiapo, Bobby Moderow, Robi Kahakalau, Makana, Halau Ka Lā 'Onohi Mai o Ha'eha'e** with additional artists to be announced soon.

The single concert format is due to a major construction project, which will begin on July 1, 2024, impacting the Aquarium's ability to host its typical multi-concert series. This essential project involves the construction of an injection well, a vital component in being environmentally responsible. The new injection well will prevent discharge of Aquarium exhibit water into the sewer or ocean, thereby meeting Department of Health and C&C Honolulu requirements. The project, unfolding in three phases, will also include demolition of the treasured Edge of the Reef exhibit. Phase one of the project is scheduled to be completed by November 2025.

At present, there are no specific plans to rebuild the Edge of the Reef exhibit, due to funding constraints. Concert proceeds will support rebuilding efforts for this important exhibit, which is critical for education purposes and a favorite among visitors, Hawaii's school children and Aquarium Volunteers.

Beer, wine, and other beverages will be available for purchase at the event, along with food from **Da Spot, Local Poke Bowl, Simply Ono, and Il Gelato**.

**Doors open for sponsors and premium ticket holders at 4:30 PM, with general admission starting at 5:00 PM.** The concert begins at 6:00 PM and will conclude by 9:00 PM. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets or beach chairs for the oceanfront lawn, and clear, refillable water bottles to stay hydrated. Please note that outside food and beverage is not permitted. The concert will take place rain or shine; all sales are final.

For more details and updates, scan the QR code or visit [fowaquarium.org/ke-kani-o-ke-kai-2024](https://fowaquarium.org/ke-kani-o-ke-kai-2024)



### WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM'S 2024 SUMMER CONCERT

# Ke Kani o Ke Kai

AT THE WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM

PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY, JUNE 20 • 6 PM TO 9 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [FOWAQUARIUM.ORG](https://fowaquarium.org)

**ADULTS**  
(AGES 13 AND UP)

**\$55**  
NON-MEMBERS

**\$35**  
MEMBERS

**JUNIORS**  
(AGES 5-12)

**\$20**  
NON-MEMBERS

**\$15**  
MEMBERS

**KIDS**  
(UNDER 4)

**FREE!**

**PREMIUM**  
**\$75**

Includes Early Concert Access, Reserved Seating, and Guided Tour of the Aquarium

Limited availability for tours. First come, first served basis.

## BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

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*Waikiki Aquarium*

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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,

2024 has been a year of both celebration and challenges for the Waikiki Aquarium. We kicked off 2024 by bringing back the extremely popular Valentine's Day **Seaduction** event and moved quickly into celebrating the **Waikiki Aquarium's 120th Anniversary**, including a memorable two-day experience for the community and visitors, organized by the Aquarium's exceptional events team.

While we are excited to kick off the summer season with FOWA's beloved **Ke Kani O Ke Kai** Summer Concert Series, it is bittersweet, as we are only able to host one concert this year due to the required injection well project starting July 1st. In addition, one of the Aquarium's most popular and engaging exhibits, **Edge of the Reef**, needs your help. Unfortunately, none of the State funding for the upcoming 3 phase project has been designated to rebuild Edge of the Reef, so we truly hope you will join us for this very special concert, from which the proceeds will directly benefit a new Edge of the Reef exhibit.

We are also planning the return of the **Tim Guard Distinguished Lecture Series** later this year, as well as our **Members' Night** in the fall.

The Waikiki Aquarium could not have reached such an impressive milestone of 120 years without the dedication of our loyal members, visitors, volunteers, and staff. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for your steadfast support and invaluable contributions. Your continuous commitment to the Aquarium serves as the foundation of our mission to foster understanding, appreciation, and conservation of Pacific marine life.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

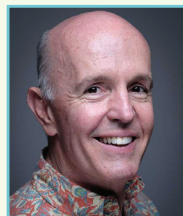
*Elizabeth Churchill*

Interim Executive Director

Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### **BRYAN TEPPER**



Bryan joined the FOWA Board in 2019, bringing a wealth of experience and a deep love for the ocean. Education is a big reason why he's involved. His commitment to the Board is to "help people of all ages learn about and appreciate our ocean animals and environment."

Before joining the Board, Bryan had a fascinating career. He retired as a Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for Hawaii Electric. Now, he manages his sons' 11-acre coffee farm on the Big Island. He's also starting a new venture, distilling coffee cherries into unique vodka and gin!

When asked about his favorite marine animal, Bryan loves the endangered Hawaiian Monk seal, and looks forward to when Ho'ailona returns. In the meantime, he gets his daily dose of Monk seal sightings by paddling his outrigger canoe past the Aquarium.

Among the exhibits, Bryan's top pick is the Dragon Eel whenever it's on display. He finds these eels to be fascinating, like something out of a sci-fi movie.

JOIN FOWA AT OUR

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JUNE IS WORLD OCEANS MONTH

Throughout June, the Waikīkī Aquarium will celebrate **World Oceans Month** with a series of special activities. Join us as we host engaging educational programs, a beach cleanup, Outrigger Resorts' OZONE Day, and the highly anticipated return of Ke Kani O Ke Kai.

These events aim to raise awareness of ocean conservation and provide opportunities for active participation in protecting our oceans. Together, let's make a positive impact and ensure a sustainable future for our planet.

### WORLD OCEAN DAY COASTAL CLEANUP

Saturday, June 8 • 10 AM - 12 PM

Join us at the Aquarium to take action to keep our island free of debris. Buckets and tools will be provided upon check-in. At the end of the event, all collected rubbish will be weighed. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water and reef-safe sunscreen. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult.



For more information, visit our website:

[www.waikikiaquarium.org/interact/special-events/cleanups/](http://www.waikikiaquarium.org/interact/special-events/cleanups/)

### OUTRIGGER RESORT'S OZONE DAY

Saturday, June 29 • 9 AM - 1 PM

Visit the Aquarium as we partner with Outrigger Hotels and Resorts for the **8th Annual OZONE Day**. Outrigger's OZONE (Outrigger's ZONE) conservation initiative provides enriching experiences for their guests, hosts, and the local community. Outrigger ensures their properties actively do their part to protect Hawaii's oceans so they will thrive for generations to come. OZONE Day at the Waikīkī Aquarium brings together non-profit partners for a day of education, fun, and games.

## ON SALE SOON! FOWA GEAR

Stop by the FOWA table at **Ke Kani O Ke Kai** to see our new gear!

BEACH TOWELS



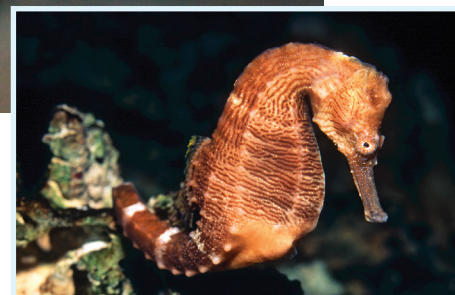
STICKERS



TOTEBAGS



WINE TUMBLERS



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF **AMAZING ADAPTATIONS**

This July 4th marks 10 years of our beloved **Amazing Adaptations** exhibit! Since its debut in 2014, this gallery continues to provide guests with the opportunity to view incredible animals and learn about their unique environmental adaptations. Located within a 60-foot, 3,000-gallon gallery, Amazing Adaptations showcases a diverse collection of **seahorses**, **seadragons**, and **pipefish** alongside real coral propagated by our live exhibits team.

These fascinating fish, members of the Syngnathidae family, boast distinctive traits. Features include elongated bodies protected by external skeletal armor, prehensile tails, fused snouts, and a constant need to eat due to

the lack of a stomach. Notably, the males carry the eggs, while females provide no parental care. They are the only species known to experience male pregnancy. There are nearly 225 pipefish species, 46 seahorse species, and just three seadragon species.

Two years ago, the Waikiki Aquarium successfully bred a weedy seadragon, placing it among a small, select group of aquariums worldwide to breed this distinctive fish. The egg transfer happened just before Father's Day in 2022, with the eggs hatching on August 2nd. Native to southern Australia and Tasmania, weedy seadragons are in the Syngnathidae family and are relatives of seahorses and pipefishes. Like seahorses, male

weedy seadragons brood the eggs; however, the eggs are incubated on the underside of the tail instead of in a pouch. Weedy seadragons perform an elaborate mating dance, spinning snout-to-snout and moving up and down in a water column to transfer the eggs from the female onto the male's tail, fertilizing them.

Want to see these AMAZING creatures for yourself? Visit us! As you explore the Amazing Adaptations gallery, see how all our fascinating friends are thriving a decade later.

# MAKING WAVES! Waikīkī Aquarium's Volunteer Spotlight

## WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM

### BEACH CLEANUPS

With the help of over 700 volunteers last year, our Waikīkī Aquarium team was able to clean up our coastlines and remove over 700 pounds of marine debris, including microplastics, cigarette butts, food wrappers, fishing nets, and more. With the rising marine debris crisis and the impact of plastic and other forms of litter becoming more prevalent each year, it is vital for us to place a renewed emphasis on the importance of protecting marine ecosystems for future generations. Our beach cleanups combat this issue by curbing the amount of improperly discarded trash from ending up in our ocean.

With a focus on education, the cleanups teach participants ways to make conscious choices and implement eco-friendly changes in their everyday lives. Volunteers also learn about the harmful effects marine debris can have on the ecosystem as well as marine life through ingestion and entanglement.

The Waikīkī Aquarium hosts 6-8 cleanups annually, and invites the public to get involved. Participants enjoy an active day at the park and beach by helping pick up man-made debris along our coastlines. This year, the Waikīkī Aquarium beach cleanups have already collected over 200 pounds of rubbish. With summer right around the corner, we are looking forward to our upcoming cleanups and encourage ocean enthusiasts to participate!



For more information, visit our website:  
[www.waikikiaquarium.org/interact/special-events/cleanups/](http://www.waikikiaquarium.org/interact/special-events/cleanups/)



## IN MEMORY OF JEAN CARR

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of our longtime volunteer, **Jean Carr**. As a Waikīkī Aquarium Volunteer since 1998, Jean made a lasting impact. With more than 1,500 hours of service, she educated thousands of guests about marine life and helped with numerous special events. She volunteered at the Edge of the Reef exhibit, where she taught guests about Hawaiian reef animals, natural history, shoreline, and marine habitats. She loved helping and educating visitors from all over the world. She will forever be a part of our Aquarium 'ohana and is truly missed by all.

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

# JOSEPH DONOVAN

My name is **Joseph Donovan**, and I am the Gelatinous Zooplankton Specialist for the Waikiki Aquarium. What that means is that I am responsible for the aquaculture and care of aquarium's jellyfish and the planktonic organisms used to feed them. As an individual, I have always been passionately interested in animal life. Over the course of my career, I have worked with an extremely wide range of species from various taxonomic groups within the animal kingdom. In the past decade, my focus has shifted from the study and culture of terrestrial life to marine invertebrate zoology. My interest in jellyfish arose when I began studying cnidarian life during graduate school. During my master's degree, I was formally educated on the biology on Scleractinia corals at University of Miami and conducted my final research project on an invasive species of sea anemone while learning how to culture jellyfish at the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk. While there, I became captivated by jellyfish and decided to seek them out to continue my professional development. Cnidarians are fascinating in the sense that, despite their simplicity, there is a great deal to know about them. They exhibit significant variation in their life histories, morphologies, adaptations, symbioses, and life strategies. Their care and aquaculture are uniquely challenging in the sense that they are exceptionally delicate animals, and their successful aquaculture often requires a significant amount of literature review and troubleshooting.

In animal husbandry, practices are continuously changing as a result of trial and error, while new discoveries that are constantly being made. Here at the Waikiki Aquarium, we continuously strive to further ourselves in terms of our husbandry practices. For the jellyfish department, this can mean using new cues that could potentially lead to the production of medusae by a dormant hydroid, attempting to use various types of nutrient solutions or food combinations to ensure healthy and expedient growth of the animals, experimenting with different tank parameters, or attempting to treat animal health issues with the knowledge that cnidarian medicine is in its infancy. In this field, new discoveries are made every day, and the collective body of human knowledge is constantly growing. As an aquarium, it is our job not only to provide a public service by educating the public but also to further the science of animal husbandry in the event we need provide threatened species with ark to ensure their survival into the future.

Those who wish to promote the conservation of cnidarians and gelatinous zooplankton can do their part by taking proper care of the ocean, participating in beach cleanups, reducing their carbon footprint, and ensuring that trash ends up where it belongs instead of in the ocean.



# SEADUCTION

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the public was invited to spend an unforgettable evening at the Waikiki Aquarium with the long-awaited return of **Seaduction!** Whether attendees were celebrating with a Valentine, Galentine, or a group of friends, everyone enjoyed an evening of romance and festivities. The event began at 5:30 p.m. with a champagne reception, accompanied by live Hawaiian music.

Twenty-five romantic tables for two were arranged throughout the Aquarium's galleries, fronting exhibits such as Hunters on the Reef, Jellyfish, South Pacific Marine Communities, and Weedy Sea Dragons, while other guests enjoyed a mini Food & Wine festival outside on the great lawn during a gorgeous sunset. Tables for Two included welcome champagne in a special keepsake glass, a bottle of wine (choice of red or white), and seven-course dinner service within the galleries.



# MAUKA TO MAKAI

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, more than 2,000 attendees celebrated the 17th Annual **Mauka to Makai Environmental Expo!** This FREE, family-friendly event, presented by the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Facility Maintenance, the Hawai'i State Department of Health Clean Water Branch, and the Waikiki Aquarium, promoted the importance of keeping Hawai'i clean and free of pollution from the mountaintops to the ocean.

Guests enjoyed live entertainment, a native plant giveaway, interactive activities from various organizations, (including hands-on learning), arts and crafts, and educational exhibits that showcased ways to protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment.

The event was free and open to the public and free parking was available at Aquarium partner, Jefferson Elementary School, with a free shuttle to and from the Waikiki Aquarium courtesy of Waikiki Trolley. Guests were also invited to bring refillable water bottles to stay hydrated at Aquarium water stations.

# SEASONS & THE SEA

On Thursday, May 2, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., the Waikiki Aquarium and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation invited visitors and Hawai'i residents to experience Seasons and the Sea. This annual sunset cultural observance, held on grounds Ewa of the Aquarium, symbolizes the transition from Ho'oilu (wet season) to Kawela (hot or warm-dry season) as the sun sets into the crown of Pu'u o Kapolei.

Cultural advisor **Sam 'Ohukani'ohia Gon III** led guests through captivating hula performances, mesmerizing chants, and intriguing mo'olelo (stories) that explained the significance of change and the profound links between our lives, responsibilities, and the ocean world.





## ANNIVERSARY RECAP SEA-LEBRATING 120 YEARS

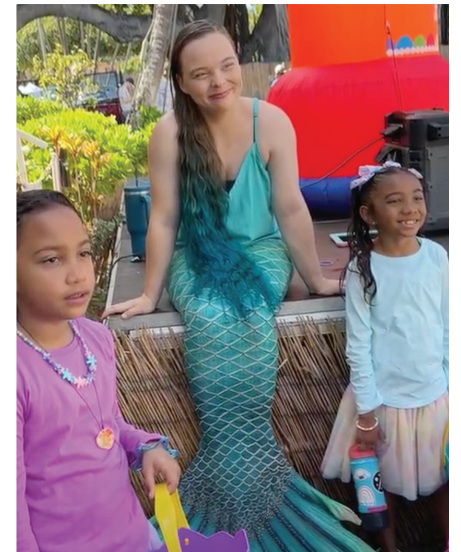
For 120 years, the Waikiki Aquarium has been a cornerstone of ocean education and conservation in the community. Founded in 1904 and administered by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1919, the Waikiki Aquarium is located on the shoreline of Waikiki Beach next to a living reef and across from Kapiolani Park. When the Aquarium first opened its doors, it offered 35 exhibits with over 400 marine animals.

In 2024, the Waikiki Aquarium reached its 120th year milestone. On Saturday, March 16th, and Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Aquarium was bustling with activity as it celebrated its birthday.

On Saturday, families enjoyed the return of the popular SeaHunt event. Kids had a blast searching the lawn for ocean-themed treasures and visited

educational booths with fun activities. Then, on Tuesday, the Aquarium partnered with NOAA, SeaGrant, and others to offer an enlightening experience. Visitors savored talks from experts, explored cutting-edge exhibits, participated in interactive workshops, witnessed a fish release, and were treated to captivating performances from Taiko drumming and the UH Rainbow Band.

The journey of the Waikiki Aquarium is far from over. Today, the Aquarium proudly features over 500 marine species and houses a collection of more than 3,500 marine specimens. As the Waikiki Aquarium celebrates its 120th anniversary, its mission remains unchanged- to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of Pacific marine life.



## 120TH ANNIVERSARY BEACH CLEANUP

In continuation of its 120th birthday celebration, the Aquarium invited all ocean lovers to get involved and help remove litter along the Waikiki coastline and surrounding beaches and parks. Buckets and tools were provided upon check-in. At the end of the event, 122 pounds of trash was collected.



# HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The **Waikīkī Aquarium** opens on March 19, featuring 35 exhibits and 400 marine organisms. **Frederick Potter**, a former Honolulu Rapid Transit Company clerk, assumes the role of the first director, with Potter's Angelfish (*Centropyge potteri*) named in his honor.

1904

The **C. M. Cooke Estate** initiates funding for a marine biology laboratory, marking the beginning of the aquarium's research tradition. **Charles Edmondson**, the islands' first professionally trained zoologist, oversees the laboratory's establishment.

1912

The Aquarium and laboratory are incorporated into the **University of Hawai'i**.

1919

A new facility is opened, designed by renowned architect **Vladimir Ossipoff**, located 100 yards from the original site.

1940

**Spencer Tinker**, a prominent zoologist and author, assumes the directorship role and lends his name to Tinker's Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon tinkeri*).

1955

**Dr. Leighton Taylor** becomes the director, implementing various initiatives such as exhibits master planning, launching educational programs, and establishing support organizations. Taylor's Goby (*Trimma taylori*) is named in his honor.

1973

Spencer Tinker retires from his position.

1975

**Dr. Bruce Carlson** becomes the fourth director, emphasizing naturalistic exhibits showcasing Hawai'i and western Pacific aquatic life and habitats.

1990

The aquarium is recognized as a **Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center** by the Coastal America Partnership.

2000

Dr. Carlson departs to assume the role of vice president for life sciences at the Georgia Aquarium, with four animal species named after him.

2002

**Dr. Andrew Rossiter** becomes the fifth and current director, focusing on modernizing and expanding the Aquarium's facilities.

2004

The **Amazing Adaptations Exhibit** opens to provide guests with the opportunity to view incredible animals and learn about their unique environmental adaptations.

2014

The **Living Reef Exhibit**, dedicated to Dr. Ruth Gates, a renowned coral biologist, offers visitors and residents the opportunity to observe the rich diversity of coral life from the Pacific Ocean.

2019

The Aquarium temporarily closes due to the COVID-19 pandemic but engages with the community through online activities. Despite closure, significant donations are received through the Huki campaign, and the first virtual **Distinguished Lecture Series** is launched.

2020

The Aquarium reopens to the public after more than a year of closure.

2021

Events gradually resume after a hiatus of over two years, including the beloved **Ke Kani O Ke Kai** summer concert series.

2022

The Aquarium is gifted 40 new clams of six different species from the **Federated States of Micronesia**.

2023

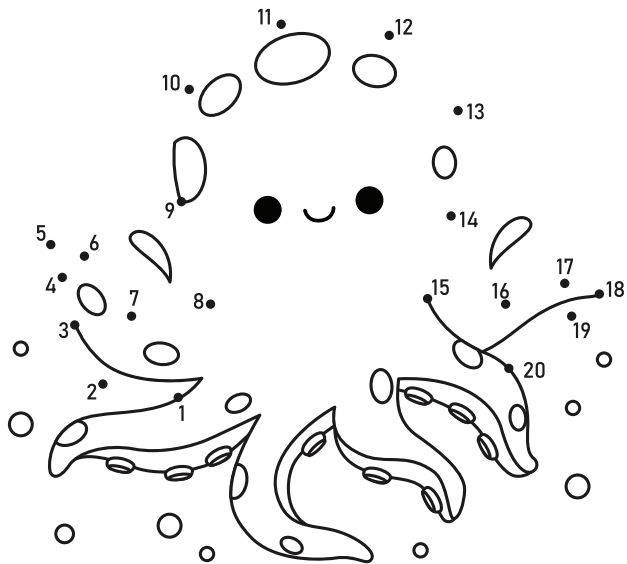
The public eagerly welcomes the return of **Seaduction**, marking a memorable evening. The Aquarium celebrates its **120th anniversary!**

2024

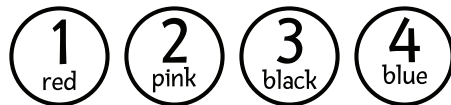
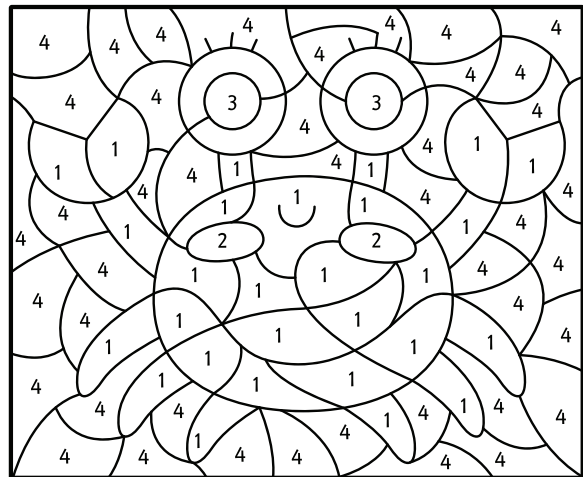
# KEIKI CORNER!

Print this page to complete our Keiki Activities!

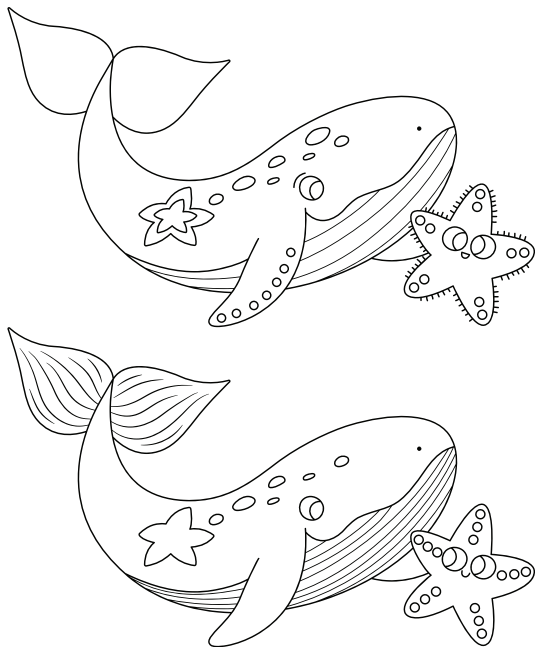
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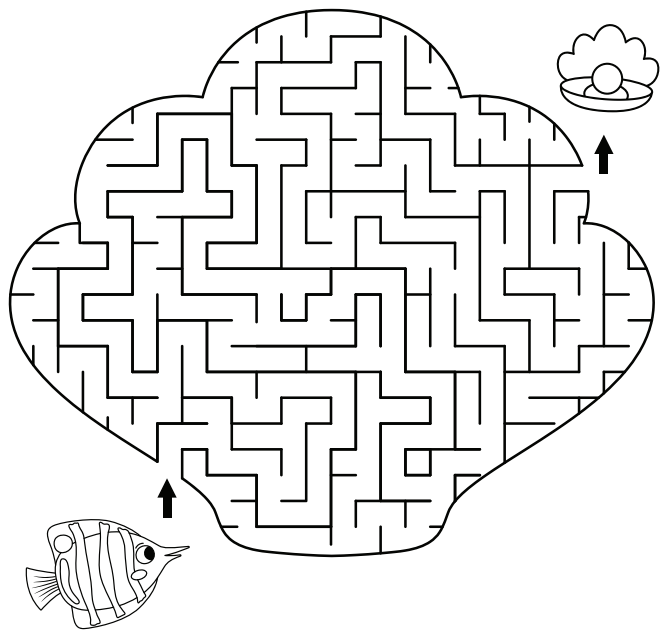
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## SPOT 10 DIFFERENCES

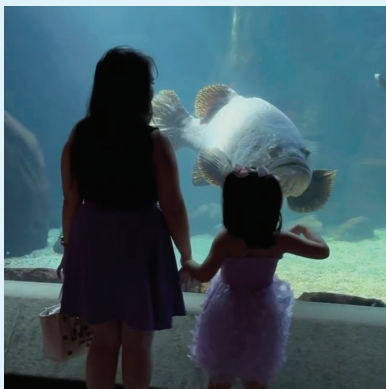
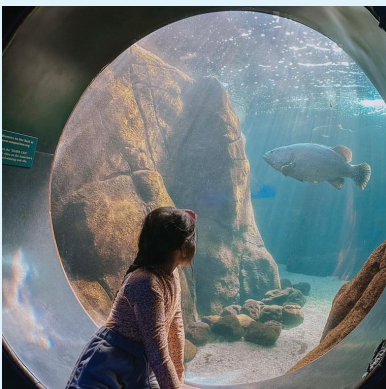


## FIND THE PEARL



# MAHALO FOR VISITING THE WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM!

DON'T FORGET TO TAG US! @WAIKIKIAQUARIUM



## FRIENDS OF THE WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM

PO Box 89573, Honolulu, HI 96830  
Phone: (808) 302-5917  
[www.fowaquarium.org](http://www.fowaquarium.org)

## WRITE TO US AT

[membership@waikikiaquarium.org](mailto:membership@waikikiaquarium.org)

