

Kilo iā

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Membership Publication of the Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium

WHAT'S INSIDE:



SEADUCTION

Love is in the air at the Aquarium!



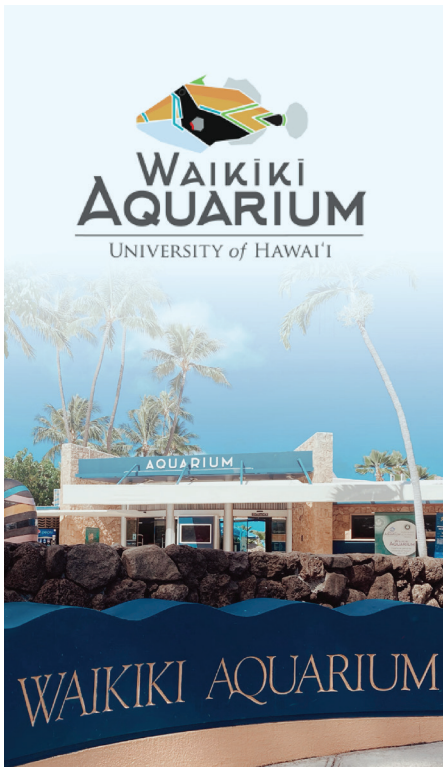
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Maria, The Coral Biologist



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Vania Fusco



WAIKIKĪ AQUARIUM CELEBRATES ITS 120TH BIRTHDAY

Swim over to the Waikīkī Aquarium as we celebrate our 120th anniversary! Get ready for two days of celebration filled with critter encounters, live exhibit demonstrations, hands-on activities, educational booths, and more.

Join us on **Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** for the return of SeaHunt! Keiki can search the lawn for marine-themed prizes and visit booths full of fun, educational activities.

On **Tuesday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, enjoy enlightening experiences in collaboration with our partners at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), SeaGrant, and more. Festivities will include expert talks, cutting-edge exhibits, and interactive workshops.

Mahalo to all our partners, visitors, and especially FOWA members, who have continued to support the Aquarium throughout the years and make our mission possible. We hope to 'sea' you at our celebration!



For more details and updates, scan the QR code or visit the Aquarium's website waikikiaquarium.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We offer a sea of opportunities that provide ocean enthusiasts a chance to share the Aquarium's mission. Volunteers receive professional training, membership privileges, gift shop discounts, and more! We are currently "sea-urchin" for:

EDUCATOR VOLUNTEERS: Our Educator Volunteers are ambassadors, representing the Waikīkī Aquarium by engaging with visitors of all ages and backgrounds in one-on-one conversations. They create memorable connections by sharing their knowledge about marine animals and the importance of ocean conservation. Don't know a lot about marine science or how to talk to visitors? Don't worry! Educator Volunteers take special training courses to prepare them with all the fun facts, information and teaching tips to help them dive into their new role. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.waikikiaquarium.org/support/volunteer/>



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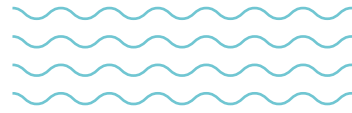
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MANA'O

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.



JOIN FOWA AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



SEADUCTION

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Whether you're spending the day with your Valentine, Galentine or a group of friends, we invite you to spend an unforgettable evening at the Waikiki Aquarium with the long-awaited return of Seaduction! This beloved event makes its return on **Wednesday, February 14**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The evening will feature a champagne reception, a seven-course meal prepared by local restaurant partners, live Hawaiian music and Docents in the Galleries providing tidbits on the mating and reproductive habits of Aquarium residents.

Table for Two: \$300 per table **Sold Out!**

Twenty-five (25) tables for two will be arranged throughout the Aquarium's galleries, fronting exhibits such as Hunters on the Reef, Jellyfish, South Pacific Marine Communities, Seahorses, Weedy Sea Dragons and more. Tables for Two include welcome champagne in a special keepsake glass, bottle of wine (choice of red or white), and dinner service within the galleries.

General Admission on the Lawn: \$75 per person

General admission table seating will be available on the Aquarium lawn, where guests can enjoy a beautiful sunset over Waikiki and an evening under the stars. General admission seats include a welcome champagne in a special keepsake glass and food stations featuring our six restaurant partners.

The evening's menu will feature seven-courses from local restaurant partners including:



SEADUCTION

at the waikiki aquarium • february 14, 2024

MENU

poke nachos (*nico's pier 38*)

fresh ahi poke served on a bed of crispy wonton chips. topped with furikake seasoning and two types of home-made sauces. soy free without kabayaki sauce by request | nut free

abalone salad (*big island abalone*)

fresh big island abalone topped with tofu, tobiko & crunchy sea grapes served on a bed of greens. dairy free | (contains sesame oil)

coconut lemon herb chicken (*da spot*)

chicken in a coconut-lemon herb sauce served with stir-fried aloum farms veggies & a side of lemongrass coconut rice. gluten free | soy free | nut free (contains coconut) | dairy free

macadamia nut crusted mahi mahi (*chart house*)

fresh-caught mahi mahi crusted with macadamia nuts and served with a juicy mango salsa on a bed of manoa lettuce & a side of white rice topped with furikake seasoning.

braised beef (*chart house*)

served with demi glaze & garlic mashed potatoes. topped with wasabi aioli & micro greens.

venison yakisoba noodles (*wailea kitchen*)

yakisoba noodles tossed with locally sourced veggies and local venison, topped with green onions and sesame seeds. dairy free | (contains sesame seeds)

hawaiian style caneles (*canelei*)

an island-version of the french pastry canele, in a tart local lilikoi flavor, macadamia nut brown butter cookie. gluten free

Vegetarian Meal available upon request. You will be contacted for tables of two to confirm your choice of wine.

all proceeds benefiting the waikiki aquarium.
for reservations, visit: fowaquarium.org/seaduction



buy tickets online at fowaquarium.org/seaduction

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Maria Loberg

The Aquarium's Coral Biologist Caring for Clams

Meet Maria, a dedicated coral biologist at the Waikiki Aquarium, whose passion for the ocean, animals, and science led her to pursue a career in marine biology. With a background as an aquarist in California, Maria's current role involves caring for the diverse marine life at Waikiki Aquarium, with a particular focus on the health and propagation of corals.

Embracing her passion for corals, Maria joined the Waikiki Aquarium in May of last year. Her primary responsibilities revolve around ensuring the well-being of the facility's animals in the Live Exhibits Department. Maria fragments corals to encourage growth and treats them with different baths for various issues. Currently, she is caring for the clams donated by the National Aquaculture Center in Kosrae, Micronesia.

When asked about her favorite marine animal, Maria finds it challenging to choose just one. Her affinity lies with the animals she has raised and cared for, such as the Hawaiian cleaner shrimp and cabezon. However, Maria is particularly fond of *Acropora valida*, a coral species known for its stunning mix of blues and purples.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Vania Fusco

A Remarkable Volunteer Making Waves at the Waikiki Aquarium

Since January 2022, Vania Fusco has made a significant impact as a volunteer at the Waikiki Aquarium. With her dedication and passion for conservation, she immersed herself in various volunteer programs, including Live Exhibits, Aquarium Activator, Gift Shop, and Special Events. Through these endeavors, Vania accumulated the most volunteer hours in the past year.

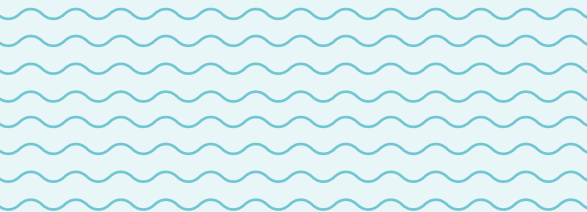
Inspired by the transformative experience of becoming a parent, Vania and her family sought ways to shape their daughter's life positively. This aspiration led her to prioritize giving back to the community and becoming actively involved in organizations focused on sustainability and conservation.

Vania's volunteer responsibilities encompassed a diverse range of tasks. On Activator Volunteer days, she engaged with visitors by hosting a craft table, sparking creativity and environmental awareness. On Live Exhibits days, Vania's attention was drawn to the captivating world of syngnathids and the playful octopus, ensuring these marine creatures receive the care and attention they deserve. In addition, Vania volunteered in the gift shop and at special events.

Reflecting on her memorable experiences at the Aquarium, Vania shared a heartwarming encounter with a family from Australia. As they passed by her craft table, one of the children showed an interest in the activity. They spent a while immersed in the craft, much to the surprise of the child's mother. Approaching Vania, she exclaimed, "He never stays still for longer than a minute, but he has been so focused crafting!" Moments like these serve as an unforgettable experience.

When asked about her favorite marine animal, Vania's eyes light up when it comes to seahorses. Fascinated by their enchanting nature, she admires their unique characteristics. With a touch of humor, Vania playfully adds to her favorite marine animal, "Until scientists discover seachickens".

The Aquarium wishes Vania all the best in her next adventure on the mainland and sends her a big mahalo for her great contribution as an Aquarium Volunteer!



ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT GIANT CLAMS

Introducing the newest addition to the Aquarium's diverse marine family - the Giant Clams! Last year, the **FSM-National Aquaculture Centre** in Kosrae, an island in the Federated States of Micronesia, heard about the passing of the Waikiki Aquarium's beloved Giant Clam *Tridacna gigas* and felt compelled to help. They generously donated 47 clams of six different giant clam species.

A month after hearing the news of the clams' donation, a Micronesian high school group felt inspired to visit the Waikiki Aquarium as part of "The Madau Project." This program aims to reconnect Micronesian high school students to their navigational heritage. After observing the diverse array of marine species up close, the students left the Aquarium with a renewed dedication to protecting our oceans.

Today, under the care of Aquarium coral biologist Maria Loberg, the

clams are thriving. Maria ensures their well-being through daily checks of the clams, fishes, and tanks. She observes the animals to ensure they are accounted for and not displaying abnormal behavior. She monitors temperature, water flow, incoming and outgoing lines, and water clarity. Maria also maintains optimal conditions for the clams. When examining the clams, she makes sure they remain open, their mantles display no color changes and are free from parasites and excessive algae.

Clams enjoy a unique diet through their symbiotic partnership with zooxanthellae algae, which find shelter within their tissues. However, to combat invasive parasites and algae, Maria employs physical removal methods. Using forceps, she is able to inspect the clams and remove parasites hiding within their shells, and using tools such as an electric toothbrush, she can scrub

algae from their shells. Maria also performs freshwater dips and uses parasite eating fish on the clams to minimize parasites and algae populations. With these measures, the clams can thrive and continue to grow.

Upon receiving the clams and hosting the delegation from the National Aquaculture Centre, Maria expressed her gratitude for the remarkable donation. This generous gesture highlights the outstanding work and efforts of the Micronesian community. Meeting the CEO/President, Martin Selch, and his family was a wonderful experience. She was delighted to hear that the clams had been successfully reared in Micronesia and helped repopulate the wild clam populations, which have declined due to overharvesting.

FRIENDS OF THE WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

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