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**WAIKIKI AQUARIUM INVITES FAMILIES TO A
“CIRCUS UNDER THE SEA” ON AUGUST 23**

HONOLULU, HI (August 12, 2013) – Sea cucumbers, sponges and worms, oh my! The Waikiki Aquarium will transform into a “Circus Under the Sea” for its annual Family Night on Friday, Aug. 23 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

“The Waikiki Aquarium is really looking forward to this year’s Family Night, which combines a variety of fun, marine-related activities with real circus entertainment the whole family can enjoy,” said Dean Spencer, acting director of education at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Highlights of the activity-filled evening event include:

- An Oddities exhibit with animals such as sea cucumbers, worms, mantis shrimp, octopus and sponges
- A Creatures of the Deep exhibit that will turn the Aquarium’s theater into the “deep sea,” a glow-in-the-dark game for kids in which they find glowing deep sea animals based on their bioluminescent patterns
- A Side Show exhibit that will feature marine creatures possessing odd traits and behavior, such as the ability to reproduce appendages or change gender throughout its life cycle

Family Night will additionally feature a fortune teller and circus performers such as tightrope walkers, jugglers and unicyclists. Take-home arts and crafts include a “pearls of Aphrodite” sea cucumber dropping keychain and an Adaptation Station, where keiki can join the circus with painted-on gills and props such as horns, spines and tails.

The State of Hawai‘i’s Agricultural Plant Quarantine Branch will also be on hand to speak with families about invasive and potentially invasive marine plants for the circus-themed event.

Admission to Family Night: Circus Under the Sea is \$9 per person (\$12 for non-members). New members (who have signed up for membership one month in advance of the event) will be allowed two free entries. All ages are welcome; children age two and under are free. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, call 440-9011 or e-mail reservations@waikikiaquarium.org

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, call (808) 923-9741 or visit www.waikikiaquarium.org.

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