

2021 | WINTER/SPRING ISSUE

Kilo iā

Membership Publication of the Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium

**82,600 Pounds of
Debris Removed from
Papahānaumokuākea
Marine National
Monument**

Page 4

**MarineGEO Biodiversity
Assessment**

Page 8

**Critter Corner:
Masked Angelfish**

Page 11



FOWA MESSAGE

Kilo i'a
Issue Number 215
2021 | WINTER/SPRING

EDITOR
Becker Communications,
Inc.

ART DIRECTOR
Micah Gomes

PHOTOGRAPHERS
James Morioka
Kelly Quin

PHOTO CREDIT:
Front Cover:
James Morioka
Back Cover:
Kelly Quin

PRINTING:
Reskyu

Friends of the
Waikīkī Aquarium
PO Box 15518
Honolulu, HI 96830
Phone: (808) 923-9741
Fax: (808) 923-1771
www.fowaquarium.org

WRITE TO US AT
kiloia@fowaquarium.org
Copyright 2020 Friends of the
Waikīkī Aquarium

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.

Aloha Friends of the Waikīkī Aquarium,

What a year 2020 was! We began the year with many plans and had to adjust accordingly due to the pandemic. We launched our FOWA website and had an exciting line up for Ke Kani O Ke Kai (KKOKK). Then the first shutdown occurred, and we made the difficult decision to cancel KKOKK. Luckily, we were able to use our new website to engage with our members and the community through art and costume contests, our partnership with Ocean Watch writer Susan Scott, and our first virtual Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS) which attracted viewers locally and around the world.

Even with the closure of the Aquarium, our loyal members continued to support us through membership, donations to our Huki campaign and more. With their support we were able to provide the Aquarium \$375,000 to cover operational costs and we anticipate giving another \$100,000 to cover new equipment for the Shark Tank.

2021 brings a fresh start. We are securing speakers and contributors for Kilo i'a and are excited about the potential for a second virtual Distinguished Lecture Series. We've also started discussions with the Aquarium and University of Hawai'i leadership for the possibility of a large-scale renovation. We hope to continue exploring this and plan to create a stronger and enhanced Aquarium.

We are hopeful that the Aquarium will reopen soon and will keep you updated along the way. Your membership will continue to be on hold until the Aquarium reopens. For the latest news and updates, please check our website and subscribe to our e-newsletter. If you have not been receiving our e-newsletters please contact us at membership@fowaquarium.org.

We sincerely appreciate your membership, donations and continued support!

Mahalo nui loa,



Chris Cole
Co-Chair



Dirk Yoshizawa
Co-Chair

KILO I'A MOVING TO TWO ISSUES PER YEAR

Due to the ever-changing situation with COVID-19 and in an effort to continue to be more eco-friendly, FOWA has made the decision to move forward with a bi-annual publication of Kilo i'a in comparison to the current quarterly publication.

You can still stay up to date with our regular e-newsletters and visit our website for all event and membership updates.

EVENTS

WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM CELEBRATES 117TH BIRTHDAY

March 19, 2021 10AM-2PM

Celebrate the Waikīkī Aquarium turning 117 by adopting one of our exclusive and adorable animal plushies. Choose from one of our four adoption packages all of which include an Ocean Friend, Official Certificate of Adoption, Diamond Bakery Sea Animal Crackers, and more! Adopt An Animal packages directly support Waikīkī Aquarium efforts and initiatives. Stop in The Shop to fill out your adoption certificate, take a fun Anniversary photo, and bring home a new Ocean Friend!



AQUARIUM ANNIVERSARY BEACH CLEAN-UP

March 19, 2021 10AM-2PM

Join the Aquarium Anniversary Celebration by gathering your group of up to 5 and help take care of our coastlines! Check in any time at the Aquarium between 10AM-1:30 PM to pick up a bucket and tools for cleaning up the surrounding parks and beaches. All supplies and collected rubbish must be returned to the Aquarium by 2PM. All participants must wear masks at all times, practice social distancing, and follow COVID restrictions. Advanced registration is required and space is limited. Remember to bring your own water and reef safe sunscreen. Mahalo for keeping our beautiful island clean and trash free!

REGISTER TODAY: <https://bit.ly/3t2AvA8>



2021 VIRTUAL OCEAN CLASSROOM TEACHER WORKSHOP

The Waikīkī Aquarium has partnered with the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary to launch the 2021 Virtual Ocean Classroom Teacher Workshop. The two-day webinar will be held virtually on March 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Teachers will have the unique opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers from the Waikīkī Aquarium and NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, including the Aquarium's own Mary Roney. A special welcome will be given by Dr. Andrew Rossiter and Congressman Ed Case.

While geared towards teachers (grades 3-8) in Hawai'i and American Samoa, the webinars are free and open to all interested members of the public. Through the workshops, educators will learn how to implement a variety of new lesson plans ranging from humpback whale biology to coral reef ecosystems and more. Attendees will also learn about the three national marine sanctuary sites in the Pacific Islands as well as programs from the Waikīkī Aquarium.

REGISTER TODAY! March 16: <https://bit.ly/3uS9Es6> **March 17:** <https://bit.ly/3uWbsQR>

KAU KAU BOX FUNDRAISER

Kau Kau Box supports local! For every box you purchase through the link on the Aquarium's website, Waikīkī Aquarium will receive 10% of the proceeds. Kau Kau Box is a unique creation of chef prepared meals paired with fresh, local ingredients delivered straight to your doorstep! Savor home-cooked meals with ingredients from local farmers, fisherman, and chefs from around Oahu.

For more information visit waikikiaquarium.org

82,600 Pounds of Debris Removed from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Kevin O'Brien, President & Founder of Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project

On October 20, 2020,

a team of 11 strong and talented individuals departed Honolulu on the *M/V Imua*, a 180-foot supply ship, headed for Lalo (French Frigate Shoals) within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands). Our group set out with the goal to remove the wildlife hazards caused by hurricane debris and to restore the affected wildlife habitat. Simply getting to Papahānaumokuākea is costly. At \$15,000 per day plus fuel, a multi-week cleanup expedition to these remote islands can quickly mount a hefty bill, so collaboration, cost-sharing and "piggybacking" projects is absolutely necessary.

Many of you have likely heard of marine debris cleanups in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands over the years, or have seen local news coverage of NOAA expeditions returning to Honolulu with shiploads of derelict fishing nets and plastics. Such a remote place is logistically difficult and costly to access, the environment is sensitive, the work is specialized, thus having resource management agencies like NOAA lead the projects makes a lot of sense. NOAA has made a tremendous effort over the years, removing over 2 million pounds of debris since 1996. Coordinating these missions for NOAA was once my job, however, with many competing priorities for scarce resources, it had become increasingly difficult for NOAA to be solely responsible for funding, planning, staffing and executing these complex expeditions. The outlook was grim for the long-term continuation

of these critical cleanups, and without another mechanism to help make this work happen, it was likely to cease altogether, leaving the wildlife in peril. Seeing the writing on the wall, I departed my position at NOAA and founded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to leading collaborative marine



Aerial photo taken in 2018, showing half of Tern Island at Lalo; the location of the cleanup project. Photo: Steven Gnam, NOAA

debris removal efforts in Papahānaumokuākea. The creation of the organization allowed us to expand the funding base for this important work, and to serve as a focal point for rallying collaboration and support for these cleanups from the managing agencies of Papahānaumokuākea and the for the first time, from our community.



This debris pictured was deposited on the north side of Tern Island at Lalo by a hurricane storm surge. Photo: James Morioka, PMDP



Photo of the cleanup team, comprised of 8 PMDP staff and 3 USFWS staff, sitting on top of 82,600 of debris removed over the course of the cleanup project. Photo: Dan Link, USFWS

Access to the islands of Papahānaumokuākea is highly restricted. There is no mainstream visitor program and all proposed activities must undergo a careful vetting process and be permitted as conservation, research, or cultural activities. The federal government cannot legally accept donations for their work, so there's been very little anyone can do to help out the cause.

As such, it's not exactly the kind of situation that has rallied huge crowds of people behind supporting the ongoing marine debris removal efforts in this place. At PMDP we are hoping to change this. Jacques Cousteau once said, "you protect what you love," and at PMDP it has become a mantra of sorts. As one of the entities whose work has allowed us to visit this stunning and incredible place, is our responsibility to communicate

what there is to love about it to those who have not been there. And there is a lot to love. Papahānaumokuākea is a place beyond time. These islands play a central role in Hawaiian cosmology and many important cultural narratives, and the power of these stories can be felt everywhere you visit. The wildlife is so unused to human presence that seabirds will land on your head and omilu will swim around your legs in knee-deep water. Basking Hawaiian monk seals litter the beaches like bowling pins, and unlike the main Hawaiian Islands, large predators dominate the waters like they did in centuries past. I believe it is perhaps the most stunning and unique place in the world. And it's right here in our own backyard.

PMDP was fortunate to partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to plan and execute the 16-day Lalo debris removal project. The USFWS provided the charter vessel and PMDP put together a specialized team of eight to tackle the technical aspects of the difficult removal operation. USFWS provided three of their staff members to assist in removal efforts and oversee the complex operation and its sensitive wildlife interactions.

The Lalo cleanup was a bit unorthodox compared to the usual northwestern Hawaiian Island projects, which have mainly involved derelict fishing net and plastic removal. In October of 2018, hurricane Walaka passed well south of the main Hawaiian Islands as a weak storm, and barely a palm frond was ruffled. However, as it moved west, Walaka rapidly intensified and swung due north into Papahānaumokuākea, striking Lalo



The cleanup team is proud of their work which would not be possible without the support of agency partners and community donors.
Photo: James Morioka, PMDP



Concrete features and steel cable are entrapment hazards for seals and sea turtles. The team removed these shoreline hazards.
Photo: James Morioka, PMDP



A Hawaiian monk seal basking in the vicinity of an entrapment hazard. This mass of steel cable was removed during the cleanup. Photo: Jon Schneiderman, USFWS

(French Frigate Shoals) as a category three hurricane. Lalo sits 550 miles to the west-northwest of Honolulu, just past the more famous rocky islets of Nihoa and Mokumanamana. Walaka's wind and storm surge hit a handful of low, sandy islands at this atoll with an intensity we had not seen in quite some time. Tern Island, at just a little over a half mile long, is the largest island at Lalo. It has seen heavy anthropogenic impact since its days as a U.S. Navy airfield in World War II, which later served as a U.S. Coast Guard long-range navigation radio station, and more recently as a field research station.

Storm surge scattered debris from the island's relic infrastructure across Tern Island. Lumber, roofing, steel cable, scrap metal, boat hulls, tires, fiberglass, concrete slabs, barrels, as well as the usual accumulated derelict fishing nets and ocean plastics had been cluttering large areas of the island for the last two years. During this storm, a neighboring island, East Island, eroded so badly that it nearly disappeared. The loss of terrestrial habitat here displaced the majority of French Frigate Shoals' nesting green sea turtle population, creating extra reliance on the island as a critical habitat. Since the storm, the hurricane debris cluttering Tern has posed a major hazard to wildlife, routinely entangling and entrapping green sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, and seabirds. The debris has taken valuable space on this tiny island that would otherwise be a habitat for wildlife. The total land area of the islands at Lalo is only 67 acres compared to its 232,000 acres of coral reef habitat. With over 90 percent of the Hawaiian

population of green sea turtles (*honu*) relying on Lalo's sandy shorelines for a nesting habitat, and tens-of-thousands of seabirds (18 species) relying on the interior areas of the islands for burrowing, perching and nesting, every single square foot counts. Debris taking up valuable real estate directly translates into the loss of successful reproduction for wildlife. In addition to all the debris, the storm caused extensive erosion of Tern Island's shoreline areas, further exposing finger-like remnants of rusting WWII era



It took two full days of shuttling the 82,600 pounds of debris from the island to the ship via this vessel. Photo: James Morioka, PMDP

corrugated steel sea-wall, which has acted as a fence, routinely trapping monk seals and sea turtles on the beach or in small pools of water during tidal shifts. The PMDP/USFWS teams' goal was to eliminate as many of these hazards as possible during our ten-day stay on the island.



The ship's landing craft departs Tern Island with another load of debris bound for the ship which waits offshore. Photo: Kevin O'Brien, PMDP



The team arrives home with shipping containers full of debris. Photo: Dan Link, USFWS

On October 22, we arrived on the uninhabited island with 50 water jugs, 12 tents, a dozen pallets of tools, and equipment. I had last been on the island in October of 2018, just immediately following the hurricane. The disaster aftermath I saw then had been on my mind ever since and was the motivation for pitching this project idea to the co-managers of the monument. Despite having very strong impressions at the time, things had changed over two years. Our first full morning on Tern Island was spent walking the half mile length of the island, taking inventory of the debris and planning our removal efforts. Once that was complete, we set out to work.

When every minute of time in Papahānaumokuākea costs so much, not a minute is wasted. There are no days off built into the schedule or time set aside for lounging by the beach. This go, go, go routine can be grueling and tough on the crew, however it is necessary to maximize our positive impact with the little time we have. Our days at Lalo started around 5 a.m., with big cups of coffee in the cook tent, followed with breakfast, eaten by the light of our headlamps. Hundreds of wedge-tailed shearwaters and brown noddies croaked their pre-dawn songs in the darkness of our camp. Some of the team found it hard to sleep with such a racket, but this worked well for our early wake-up times. The crew was fed, packed and ready for the day by the time there was enough light to see. We began each morning as the sun rose with Hawaiian protocol, led by two of our crew, Ka'ehukai Goin and Mahie Wilhelm, to honor the place and those

here before us, to seek permission to work, and set intentions for our work together. The team would then split into groups to tackle the various removal projects of the day. Lumber was cut, piled, and bagged, scrap metal was chopped and palletized, plastics and fishing nets were pulled from the beaches, concrete slabs were demolished, and sections of steel seawall were strategically cut out to provide escape pathways for turtles and seals. After ten hot, sweaty, dirty, but satisfying days, the ship returned to collect us and the 82,600 pounds of debris that we had removed from the Tern Island's terrestrial habitats. A huge thanks to the USFWS and all of PMDP's donors for making this project a success!

PMDP has a lot planned this year, with two large scale cleanup missions on the books for April and September in partnership with NOAA, the State of Hawaii and USFWS. The cleanups will visit many of the other islands and atolls within Papahānaumokuākea and will focus on removing ocean plastics from the shorelines and derelict fishing nets from the reefs to eliminate entanglement hazards for birds, seals and turtles.

For more information, or to learn more about our work, visit www.pmdphawaii.org. If you or your business are interested in becoming a major sponsor of our cleanup efforts, contact Kevin at kevin@pmdphawaii.org. Also, follow us on social media @pmdphawaii for updates and breathtaking photos to inspire your own love of Papahānaumokuākea.



Scrap wood from a WWII era wood water tank is stacked and cut for removal by the team. Piles of lumber like this have been entrapment hazards for green sea turtles. Photo: James Morioka, PMDP



The PMDP/USFWS cleanup team, enjoying a break during a hot day of cleanup activities. Photo: Kevin O'Brien, PMDP

MarineGEO Biodiversity Assessment Ola I Ke Kai (Life Emanates from the Sea)

Mary Hagedorn, Claire Lager, Lynne R. Parenti and Emmett Duffy - *Smithsonian Institution*

Pacific waters are extraordinarily rich in biodiversity, nurturing two-thirds of the world's marine species. Studies in Hawai'i are key to understanding how these systems work as the islands and reefs are home to an abundant and diverse plant and animal population. But this is threatened by marine habitat degradation and fragmentation. To support informed management of these challenges, in the spring of 2017, the Smithsonian Institution and the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology invited local, national, and international professionals at all levels to participate in a biodiversity assessment of Kāne'ohe Bay to take the pulse of the bay.

What is a biodiversity assessment and why is it important?

A biodiversity assessment is like the U.S. Census in that we try to collect and identify as many species, from as many groups (i.e., invertebrates, algae, fishes, etc.) as possible to understand what is living in the bay at a given time. It is important because the assessment gives us a snapshot of the health of the bay that provides a benchmark both for future studies of the

bay and for comparisons with other sites around the world. If a marine census is carried out in the same way elsewhere, we may understand and compare which areas of our oceans are doing better than others. Most importantly, it gives our state managers tools to make decisions about our local waters. MarineGEO Ola I Ke Kai encompassed three main areas: cultural awareness and training, student training, and science assessments. In this first installment, we describe the cultural training.

From May 20 to June 2, 2017 more than 100 participants convened at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. A year of planning, fund raising, and talking story with our cultural ambassadors paved the way for this event. Our cultural ambassadors helped us to understand the importance of traditional ecological knowledge and the importance of asking formal permission to enter the nine ahupua'a of the bay to engage in our studies. The ceremony emphasized that together we can better understand and appreciate the bay's marine life and the consequences of ecological change.



During a welcoming ceremony, Kahu Aaron Mahi and other kūpuna blessed and granted MarineGEO participants' permission to enter the Bay and catalogue the organisms therein (Photo: Don Preisler, Smithsonian Institution).



Leialoha Kaluhiwa “Auntie Rocky” shares the long history of her family’s endeavors to save the natural beauty and heritage of Kāne’ohe Bay (Photo: Don Preisler, Smithsonian Institution).

Throughout the Biodiversity Assessment, our cultural ambassadors provided cultural training and shared their knowledge of the history of the region and history of Kāne’ohe Bay, as well as the fish, limu (seaweed) and invertebrates. They also taught the scientists the importance of Hawaiian fishponds and the extraordinary management of natural resources that these ponds represent in helping to feed the Hawaiian people. Additionally, students shared hula with our international group during the closing festivities. Some visitors have not experienced the beauty and grace of hula and were entranced by it. Videos of their stories will be soon available on the MarineGEO Hawaii website.

The Ola I Ke Kai bioassessment married global and local—twenty-four institutions from nine countries

participated in the research project. Twenty-eight students from high school to post-doctoral fellows trained alongside six teams of expert scientists. Training and inspiring the next generation of marine scientists and museum curators was vital to our process. We partnered with Educational Programs of the Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), Pacific American Foundation, Bishop Museum, and the Smithsonian’s Youth Access Program to engage and train Hawai’i students about the importance of maintaining biodiversity, how it relates to cultural heritage and knowledge, and how we all benefit by working together.

This article is the first of three parts. Stay tuned with our next two issues of Kilo i’a for further MarineGEO updates.

Two students working with HIMB’s Research in Marine Science Program volunteered with MarineGEO experts and shared the beauty of hula with guests during the closing festivities. (Photo: Mary Hagedorn, Smithsonian Institution).





Hey
kids!

SEA SQUIRTS

Did you know, there are 115 different kinds of butterflyfishes?
24 of these butterflyfishes live in Hawai'i...including me!
Can you name my brothers and sisters pictured below?

Draw a line connecting the name to the correct butterflyfish!



A

Pyramid

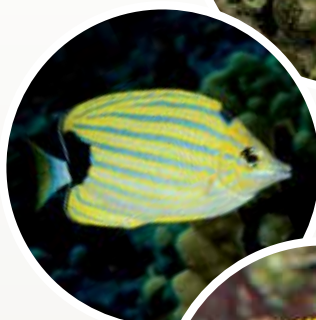
Saddleback



B

Longnose

Bluestripe



C

Raccoon

Milletseed



D

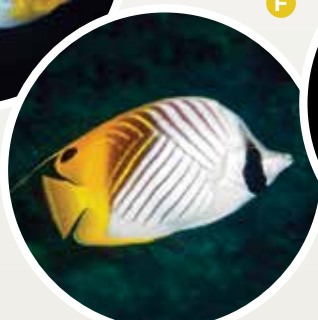
4-Spot

Threadfin

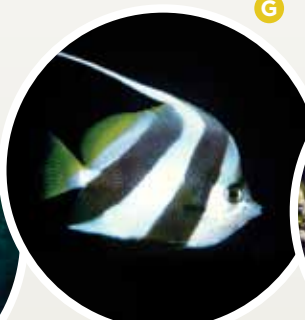


E

Pennant



F



G



H



I

Remember, you are only seeing one side of this fish...



Bonus! What kind of butterflyfish is Wili? _____

CRITTER CORNER



Masked Angelfish

This stunning ivory, black and orange masked angelfish was first scientifically described in 1975. It is endemic to Hawai'i and is extremely rare around the main islands of the archipelago, where few of these creatures are seen except in deeper water of over 200 feet (60 meters). Rather, it is more commonly found at Midway and Kure atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), in shallower water (60 to 90 feet/18 to 27 meters) above submerged banks with sparse coral cover. The extensive reef habitat in the NWHI and cooler water temperatures appear to provide a more suitable habitat for this unique endemic species.

Like other angelfishes, the masked angelfish is recognized by a heavy, curved spine on its "cheek" near the edge of the gill cover. Its slender, disc-shaped body is well-suited to life on a coral reef, enabling it to dart in and out of crevices when seeking shelter. Angelfishes are very dependent upon the shelter of boulders or coral caves and crevices and are rarely

seen over sandy stretches or other areas that offer little cover. They are characteristically territorial and spend most of their time near the bottom of the sea in search of food. Angelfishes have small mouths and many flexible, comb-like teeth that they use to pluck or scrape their food from the rocks. Most species feed on algae, invertebrates like sponges, corals, sea squirts and worms, or on organic matter that has accumulated on the surface of rocks. In contrast, the masked angelfish feeds predominantly on zooplankton, foraged in open water above reef drop-offs.

Male and female masked angelfishes display different color patterns. The female masked angelfish is ivory colored with a black mask across the eyes and black at the base of the tail. Females are capable of sex reversal as they grow older, those that change sex and become males develop the male color pattern of a pale-yellow face mask and bright orange fins. Look for this beautiful endemic species among the myriad other unique fishes in our large Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Exhibit in Gallery 4.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Farewell to a Dear Friend

We are saddened to share news of the passing of our long time volunteer, Wayne Yempuku. Wayne joined the Aquarium 'Ohana in 2010. He volunteered for over 1,100 hours in the gift shop, education, and at countless special events. We appreciate his dedication to and his care for the Aquarium over the years. He will be greatly missed.



A Hui Hou, MaryLou, Alan, & Josh!

After 12 years of dedication to the Waikīkī Aquarium, **MaryLou Foley** has officially retired. Always striving for innovation and the very best for the Aquarium, MaryLou created countless programs, media opportunities, partnerships, and so much more. We are very grateful for her time and care. She will be spending much of her time with family, consulting, and hopefully traveling more once it is safer to do so. Mahalo to MaryLou for everything she has done for the Aquarium!

After working at the Aquarium for over 30 years, **Alan Nelson**, Waikīkī Aquarium Biologist, has officially retired. We are very thankful for his hard work and commitment. Always seeking to give the best care to the animals and provide them with nutritional food, Alan made a lasting contribution. We appreciate all of Alan's hard work over the years and wish him the best in retirement.



Mahalo to **Joshua Maxwell**, Waikīkī Aquarium Coral Biologist, who will be moving off island. His efforts in coral propagation and exhibit maintenance benefitted the Aquarium immensely. We are very grateful for Josh's time at the Aquarium and wish him all the best in his new position at SEA LIFE New Jersey.

'Tis the Season for Giving

In an effort to keep the community engaged and provide children with the opportunity to learn more about the ocean and marine life, we donated fun and educational materials to the Ronald McDonald House and Toys for Tots.



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Sarah Alex
Eve Anderson
Brenda Becker
William F. Brandt
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Christensen
Carole & Bernard Chun
Janie Culp
Joanna DeRyke & Shannon Walker
Phillippe Fernandez-Brennan
Matt Gilbert & Noriko Bansai
Allen & Esetera Hanamoto

Leolani & Wain Iwaki
Jay & Karin Kaneshige
Cheryl LaMont
Maile & John Romanowski
Jane Schoonmaker & Gordon Tribble
Morgan & Chris Scott
Nicole Sung
Forrest Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford G. Wong
Cindy Wong & Titus Tan
John Yap

A HUI HOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aloha,

There is a saying that “all good things must come to an end” and that includes my position as the Executive Director of FOWA. I have truly enjoyed my time here, as it gave me an opportunity to connect with old and new friends and give back to an organization that is a part of my heart and history. However, another opportunity presented itself that I couldn’t pass up.

This doesn’t mean that I don’t still hold the Aquarium in the highest regard. In fact, I’m delighted to announce that I will be joining FOWA’s Board of Directors as its newest member. The all-volunteer Board does incredible work to support the Aquarium’s mission and to protect the interests of our members, donors and sponsors. I look forward to serving in this new role.

I’m incredibly grateful to the staff, volunteers, supporters and partners who welcomed me and supported our many endeavors over the past couple of years. It is so inspiring to see and work with people who share the love and passion for the Aquarium, the environment and marine education. Together, we had one of our most successful Ke Kani o Ke Kai concert series in 2019, and during the pandemic, we created new online content and looked for new ways to engage with our members and the greater community.

While the Aquarium remains closed due to the pandemic, we remain committed to working with the University of Hawaii and other partners to make improvements and to maintain the programs that make the Aquarium a valuable resource in marine education and conservation for Hawaii and the world.

So, this is not goodbye, but rather “sea” you later.

Me ke aloha, a hui hou!
With love, until we meet again!
Lee Higa-Okamoto



FOWA UPDATES

FOWA BOARD SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER ISOBE

This issue we're shining the spotlight on Jennifer Isobe. Jennifer joined the board as a young professional working as a CPA in Honolulu, upon the encouragement of a partner at her firm. She has since become one of FOWA's longest standing board members, who has previously served as Board Chair and most recently as Treasurer. She is grateful to be a part of the countless volunteers who support the Waikiki Aquarium and for the opportunity to work along-side many remarkable FOWA board members over the years, all who have persevered to do the same.

One of Jen's favorite marine organisms is the humpback whale because they're charismatic and fun to watch during the drive home this time of year.



Jennifer (2nd from left) and husband Brian (far right) whale watching with friends.

SPRING BREAK BEACH CLEANUP

March 15 to March 21

This Spring Break, visit your favorite beach and make a positive difference by participating in the FOWA beach clean-up. The clean-up runs from March 15 to 21, allowing individuals and households (groups of 5 to 10) to participate at their own pace in a safe and socially distant manner.

Visit our website at fowaquarium.org/beach-clean-up for six easy steps to make your beach clean-up safe, impactful and fun.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER & VISIT OUR WEBSITE

In an ongoing effort to reduce waste and be more eco-friendly, we encourage all members to subscribe to our e-newsletter. Not sure if you're already on the list? Email membership@fowaquarium.org.

Also, stay up to date with FOWA's latest member news, events, activities and more on our website: www.fowaquarium.org.

HUKI UP!

Although the Waikiki Aquarium remains temporarily closed, the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium remain committed to supporting the Aquarium and its mission. FOWA has extended all memberships for the same amount of time that the Aquarium is closed and continues to offer opportunities to interact with the Aquarium through virtual activities and educational content.

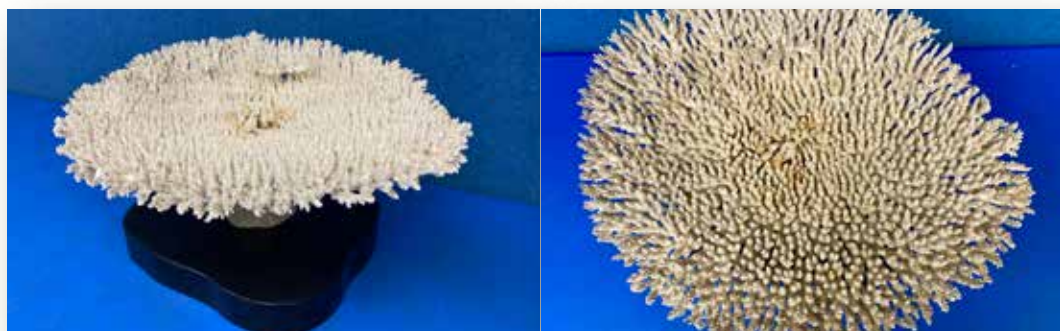
We are asking our members and everyone who loves the ocean to huki the Waikiki Aquarium during this challenging time. In 'ōlelo Hawai'i, huki is translated as, "to pull or tug; to draw, stretch, or reach; to support." Please give to our Huki campaign so that we can pull the Aquarium through this time. With every donation over \$25, you are eligible to receive a FOWA dry bag, great for the beach and other outdoor activities.

Please visit www.fowaquarium.org/donate to give online or you can complete our donation form and mail to: PO Box 15518, Honolulu, HI 96830.



//////////////////// SEA WALL OF FAME //////////////////////

Mahalo to a local family for donating a coral skeleton which will be used for educational purposes. The family had the coral in their home for decades and when their parents passed, they donated it to support the Aquarium's mission.



A SPECIAL MAHALO

Each and every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a difference. We extend a huge mahalo to our gracious donors during this uncertain time. With your support, we are able to continue the Waikiki Aquarium's mission to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of Pacific marine life. We would not be here without you.

Special thanks to the following Donors, who gifted FOWA \$5,000 or more:

- Weissman Family Foundation
- Marilyn & Schuyler Cole
- Steve & Gloria Gainsley Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation
- Michael J. Marks Foundation

MAHALO TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

Alexander & Baldwin
Lani Almanza
Amica Companies
Foundation
Armstrong Foundation
Eve Anderson
Richard & Corinne C.
Bauske
Gardner & Patricia Bemis
Fund of the Minneapolis
Foundation
Joerg & Rita Braun
Antoinette Brown
Rikki Brown
Mary Rose Cacchione
Barbara Cargill
Karla Casey
Matthew Chapman
Vernon & Evelyn Char
Delores Clark
Nancy Cline
Ashok Do
Jane Earle
Dadia Ellis
Brian & Caryl Fagan
Kathrine Fast
Patricia Faus
Patrice Federspiel
Foodland Supermarket Ltd.
Vicki Fullard-Leo
Matthew Gilbert
Dale Gilmartin

Meredith Glass
Fred Hawley
Emily Herrmann
Lee Higa-Okamoto
Rodger, Wendi
& Chloe Hoffman
Gary Honda
Steven Hong
Lea Hong
Jacqueline Hong
Odell Hubbard
Grace Hutchinson
Karla Izuka
Dale Jamison
Laurel Johnston
Heather Jones
Ronald Kai
Cindy Kaita
Frederique Kandel
Gary Kanemura
Tracy Kazunaga
Richard Klemm
Natalie Kossuth
Toby Kravet
Lynn Larrua
Terese Leber
Leland Lee
Ronald Livingston
Douglas & Mary Luther
Karissa Lyons
C. Macdonald
Michelle Macedonio

Amy Madsen
J. and S. Mann
Suzanne Marinelli
Elena Marx
The McCarvilles
Cliff Montgomery
David Morimoto
Audrey Mueh
Paul Murato
Margaret Murchie
Gloria Nakama-Ly
Kelli Nakamura
& Ella Tamashiro
Linda Nelson
Network for Good
Cynthia Nishimura
Walter Nobuhara
Keith Novak
Alberta Ongies-Vincent
Andrew Pang
Erich & Peggy Pautz
Alejandra Paz
Andrea Pfeil
Steven Premo
Burgess Raby
Keene Rees
Vanessa Rude
Deborah Sakamoto
Helen Sanpei
Sandra Sato
Giovanni Sclarandis
Rae Seitz

Stella Shido
Larry Shiraishi
Mary Silva
Daniel Smith
Erin Smith
Joyce Snider
Lisa Souza
Mark Steiner
John & Carol Stimson
Candace Strong
John & Junie Sullivan
Anne & Ivan Tam
Russell Tanaka
Janice Titgen
Ethan & Gayle Tomokiyo
Eliot Tomomitsu
George Tsuchida
Alan Tsukamoto
Stacy Ujimori
Gaylien Uyeda
Michael Wan
Polly Webb
Claire White
Veronica Willis
David Wilson
Kara Wong Ramsey
Sarah Woodruff
Gay Yamagiwa
Rae Yazawa
Alan Yoshimoto
Brenda Yun

*Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium also received more than \$18,000 through anonymous donations.



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Waikiki Aquarium
2777 Kalākaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815-4027

KILO I'A Issue Number 215
WINTER/SPRING 2021

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 278

