



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Ocean Awareness Training Offered in Waikīkī

Training promotes responsible use of O‘ahu’s marine and coastal resources

The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program has joined together with marine conservation organizations to offer a special Ocean Awareness Training in Waikīkī next month. The participants will learn about sea turtles, humpback whales, coral reef ecology, marine life identification, marine debris, and water quality in addition to current ocean conservation efforts and how to get involved.

The program is recommended for anyone wanting to learn more about Hawai‘i’s ocean environment, in particular those employed or volunteering in the fields of marine education or recreation. University scientists, government agency staff, environmental educators, and conservation practitioners will be on hand to share their first-hand knowledge and experience with the participants.

The first Ocean Awareness Training on O‘ahu was hosted by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in November of 2008 and had a waiting list of over 150 people. Approximately 100 people will be accommodated in March and other trainings are planned for later in the year. “We’re really excited to bring the training to Waikīkī through the support of Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts,” said Jennifer Barrett of the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program. “The Sheraton Waikiki is a great venue and we’ll be able to increase the class considerably.”

Barrett also noted “We’re really grateful to our many partner organizations. This has been a collaborative effort and the representation from so many island organizations creates an exceptional experience for the training participants”.

Registration for the five-day class is \$20 and includes training materials, refreshments, and parking. Those who complete all the training sessions and a field experience will receive a C.O.R.A.L Card (Care of our Culture, Ocean, Reefs and Animal Life) that demonstrates their ocean knowledge.

Program Details:

- Advance registration is required
- Schedule: March 7, 14, 21, 28 from 8:15-11:45 a.m. at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, plus a special evening at the Waikiki Aquarium.
- To register: Please email oceantraining@gmail.com or call 397-2651 ext. 249. Emails will likely elicit a faster reply.

For more information about the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program, visit <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/SEAGRANT> or contact Cindy Knapman at (808) 956-7410.

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The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region and nation. Science serving Hawai‘i and the Pacific for 41 years.