DIRECTOR OF STATE AQUARIUM

This is a single-position class which is directly responsible for the executive management of the State Aquarium, also known as the Waikiki Aquarium. Such management encompasses the administrative, financial, educational, research, personnel, physical plant and community service functions of the Aquarium. The incumbent directs the work of the State Aquarium with considerable discretion to determine the methods, means, and personnel to carry out the mission and goals of the Aquarium through multiple functional branches. The Aquarium is a quasi-private institution supported in large measure by private donations and proceeds from retail activities; the budget of the State Aquarium is funded by the State as an entity separate from the University (i.e., line item in Culture and Recreation as opposed to Higher Education). The Director is solely responsible for compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations relative to animals in captivity, endangered species, marine mammals, and water quality; the Director, on behalf of the University, deals directly with federal and state regulatory agencies which enforce these provisions.

The Director is responsible for the allocation and management of a multi-million dollar annual budget, an accounting system independent of the University as well as the general fund accounting system, an on-site gift shop with sales of over half-million dollars annually, education programs serving 30,000 children and adults annually, a community membership program with over 4,000 members with substantial contributions to the Aquarium, an active public relations and marketing program, the Blue Water Marine Laboratory, and a variety of sophisticated live exhibits, including interactive video, laser disc and computer equipment. Management also includes responsibility for employer-employee relations such as investigating, hearing and decision-making on employee grievances, EEO/AA complaints, and disciplinary issues.

The Director serves as the chief spokesperson for the University of Hawaii on animal rights issues affecting the State Aquarium, represents the State and the University in dealing with other national and international aquariums, zoos, and museums, and serves as the liaison and ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium.

Work is subject to review by the Senior Vice President for Research and Graduate Education for the accomplishment of program objectives. The Director exercises significant authority, wide latitude for individual initiative and independent judgement in the overall administrative and operational management of the State Aquarium.

The establishment of the class, Director of State Aquarium is approved.

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Eugene S. Imai
Senior Vice President for Administration

May 3, 1996
Date