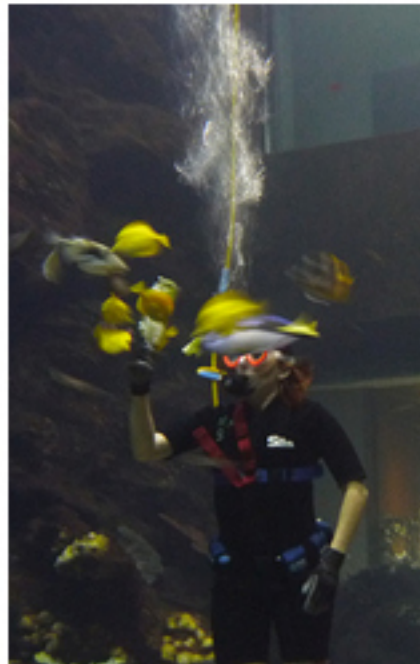


## Awesome Waikiki: Pacific Beach Hotel Oceanarium and The Hawaii Five-0 Premiere at Sunset on the Beach

Submitted by **Jen Russo** on September 23, 2011 – 12:38 pm



As the only state in the union that's located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles from any major land mass, we often get short-changed our fair share of recognition as a refined destination of fashion, pop culture and theater. Honolulu is a well-oiled machine when it comes to events, arts and entertainment, so what they may not know on the mainland won't hurt them. When I heard that Sunset on the Beach in Waikiki was hosting a red carpet premiere of Hawaii Five-0's second season I jumped at the chance to rub elbows with the Honolulu A-listers.

How to Get There:

The most unfortunate thing about traveling inter-island is the round-trip ticket price. It puts a new meaning on "puddle jumper." The most economical Internet search results for cheap tickets is about \$143 round-trip, when you let the airlines choose your travel dates. Wanna choose your own? Then the price will soar between \$170 and \$350.

Sunset on the Beach was held at Queens Beach, the Diamond Head side of Waikiki. A perfect place to stay with plenty of aloha was the Pacific Beach Hotel. Their south end Waikiki spot on Kalakaua Avenue overlooks the ocean and is a moments-walk to Queens. Another bonus? They have a gorgeous three-story oceanarium inside the hotel replete with manta rays, moi, reef fish and mermaids. Kama`aina rates are \$119 with breakfast for up to two people to \$129 for up to four people with buy-one, get one free at their buffet.



The lobby smells incredible the minute you step foot inside. That's at least partly due to their Oceanarium Restaurant, known for its amazing seafood buffet and stunning views of their tank. When I arrived they were setting up their Aloha Friday lunch but they also serve breakfast and dinner; weekend brunch starts at 11am. I indulged in Sunday's brunch, post-premiere and filled up on sashimi, oysters, crab legs, tempura and eggs benedict. Basically, the brunch offers an insane amount of food to consume. I also saw that the dining room was filled with locals in the know — clearly, this was the place to be with an appetite on the weekend.

The hotel is on the mauka side of Kalakaua, but just across the street is a clear view of bustling Waikiki beach. There was a south swell and plenty of surfers this weekend; you can rent boards right across the street. I love the proximity to the zoo and Kapiolani Park. Pacific Beach has a 24-Hour Fitness Gym in their building, and you can get passes at the front desk. Jogging or walking in the park is the way to go: it's a beautiful area of Waikiki. Pampering at their Laule'a Spa is a must, massages start at a reasonable \$45 for 30 minutes. If you're musically inclined, take free lessons from Bruce Shimabukuro (Jake's brother), who runs the ukulele shop in the lobby.

For More Info:

Pacific Beach Hotel

- Website: <http://www.pacificbeachhotel.com/>

- Event listing, including Hawaii 5-0 events:  
<http://www.pacificbeachhotel.com/calendar>

- Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/PacificBeachHotel>

- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/PacificBeachHtl>