

HMS *Challenger* was a three-masted, square-rigged wooden ship of 2,300 tons displacement and overall length of 62 meters. Although officially termed a “steam corvette” with a 1,200 horsepower engine, she was effectively a sailing ship. All but two of the original seventeen cannons were removed, and the main deck was converted to scientific laboratories in preparation for its three-and-one-half-year, worldwide voyage of discovery. The *Challenger* expedition, jointly sponsored by the Royal Society of London and the British Admiralty, departed from Sheerness, England with a complement of 23 officers, a crew of 220 “Bluejackets” and a scientific party of seven including naturalists Charles Wyville Thomson, Henry Moseley and John Murray, and official artist, J. J. Wild. The *Challenger* expedition established the foundations of modern oceanography with many results published in the 50-volume series, *Challenger Reports*. On 27 July 1875, the *Challenger* set anchor in Honolulu Harbor “within a stone’s throw of town.” This display commemorates that historic event.