Hawaii State Department of Health
Safe Drinking Water Branch

The Water Spot

April 2011

Volume 15, Issue 2

Hot!

Special points of interest:

- Chromium 6 FAQs
- Sanitary Survey cycle changes
- Emergency sources & CCRs
- AWWA Hawaii Conference in May

On the Spot:

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Joanna Seto Selected as New SDWB Chief

Joanna L. Seto became the new Engineering Program Manager of the Safe Drinking Water Branch, effective March 16, 2011.

Joanna comes to the Safe Drinking Water Branch from the Clean Water Branch where she served as the Engineering Section supervisor since June 2007. She has more than 21 years of combined private and public engineering experience working at Hawaiian Dredging & Construction Company, Sato & Associates, Inc., and the Department of Health. In addition, she was past president of the Hawaii Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is actively involved with Girl Scouts of Hawaii, Kaikamahine Girls Fastpitch Softball Club, and as class representative for the `Iolani Bulletin.

She graduated from `Iolani School and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Drinking water has been a part of her family her entire life. Her father retired from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply where her sister is also currently employed in the IT Section. Joanna has fond memories of attending the 1976 American Water Works Association National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana with her parents and sisters. Locally, she enjoyed trips up and down the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's Halawa Shaft. She hopes that children are able to experience that ride just like she did to see the importance of our water sources.

Joanna believes it is important to continue protecting the waters of Hawaii as it runs thru our vital water cycle. She plans to learn more about the program from the Safe Drinking Water Ohana and looks forward to the new experiences and challenges ahead. One of her first concerns is to visit the neighbor island water supply utilities to better understand the relationship between the Safe Drinking Water Branch and those we serve.

The Safe Drinking Water Branch warmly welcomes Joanna Seto as our new branch chief.

Joanna Seto is the new SDWB Chief

Chromium 6 - Frequently Asked Questions

Aloha all! Regulator Mike here. I'm sure many of you have been hearing a lot about hexavalent chromium (or chromium 6) in the news and from your customers. These Q&A's will provide you with some information that you can pass on if you get inquiries.

What is the BWS and DOH doing in response to the Environmental Working Group's report on hexavalent chromium?

♦The State continues to be in close contact with the regional EPA office in San Francisco for guidance on this issue. The Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) is the lead local agency and has dedicated staff to continuously monitor the regulatory efforts statewide. In addition, the SDWB is working with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply on an island-wide sampling plan to determine the occurrence of hexavalent chromium in their Oahu water systems. This year, the SDWB, the four counties, and some Department of Defense agencies are performing total chromium and hexavalent chromium analyses at most of the regulated public water systems statewide to help them address this issue with their service customers.

What are our thoughts on the report?

♦The report and its data do not provide a scientific basis to conclude that Honolulu's water is unsafe. A single grab sample was used to represent the water quality of a regulated public water system comprised of 650,000 residents with 100,000 service connections, spread out among 2,000 miles of pipeline, with over 100 individual ground water sources pumping over 90 million gallons per day.

Is Oahu's water safe to drink?

♦Yes. Oahu's regulated public water systems (PWS) provide water that meets all current drinking water standards, including total chromium (100 ppb). That said, the Department of Health is concerned about the detection of any contaminant in the drinking water supply. However, it is premature to assume that there is a significant problem with hexavalent chromium before scientific, health based studies have been conducted and thoroughly reviewed. Also, it would not be prudent to make any conclusions when the concentration of hexavalent chromium cited was based on a single drinking water sample.

What kind of recent data do we have on total chromium?

♦Our total chromium data (79 samples, 28 detects between 2008-2010) for the Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor system in the SDWB's database ranges from 2 ppb to 4 ppb, well under the 100 ppb federal limit. Note the infrequency of getting an actual hit, let alone its low levels. The EWG-reported Wilhelmina Rise sampling location is fed by the Kaimuki Pumping Station (2 ppb in 2008 sampling)

♦Statewide, our total chromium data (330 samples, 122 detects between 2008-2010) ranges from 2 ppb to 11 ppb, again well under the 100 ppb federal limit.

What could be the cause of hexavalent chromium in the water?

♦Chromium sources are mainly from textile, steel plating, wood preservation and leather tanning industry. Not having such industries locally, our chromium sources are likely from the erosion of natural deposits.

Do the trace levels of hexavalent chromium in Hawai'i's groundwater post a significant health risk (estimated between 1 to 10 ppb)?

No:

♦It's naturally occurring, and similar to levels found anywhere in the world (1 to 20 ppb);

♦Hawaii levels are thousands of times lower than levels demonstrated to cause health effects in laboratory animal studies;

♦Trace levels of hexavalent chromium in drinking water have never been demonstrated to pose a significant health risk;

♦Why is the cancer-based, California Public Health Goal (0.02 ppb) and the USEPA Tap water Goal (0.043 ppb) for hexavalent chromium so low? They are based on the level of

SEE CHROMIUM 6 FAQS, PAGE 3

"Is Oahu's water safe to drink? Yes. Oahu's regulated public water systems provide water that meets all current drinking water standards, including total chromium…"

Chromium 6 - Frequently Asked Questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

hexavalent chromium reported to cause cancer in laboratory animal studies divided by a factor of more than one-million. Many in the scientific community believe that these are worst-case screening levels, based more on policy than science, and are not appropriate for use as drinking water standards;

♦The USEPA will look at several other factors as a "reality check" to the initial Public Health Goal in order to set a final standard, including natural background, other types of health risk laboratory studies (e.g., more reliable non-cancer studies), and natural dietary exposure.

Why can't the DOH immediately require stricter standards like the proposed health goal of 0.02 ppb in California?

♦California has proposed a public health goal (PHG) of 0.02 ppb chromium 6, which is basically an administrative step in ultimately developing an actual State MCL for the specific contaminant. While it is health risk-based and developed through rigorous study, it is not a regulatory standard. Drinking water can still be acceptable for public consumption if it contains contaminants at levels higher than the PHG. A PHG is a health-protective level of a contaminant in drinking water that California's public water systems should strive to achieve *if* it is technically and economically feasible. – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California EPA Fact Sheet, August 2009.

It is interesting to note that naturally occurring background hexavalent chromium levels outside the area of contamination in Hinkley, CA (the "Erin Brockovich town") are calculated to be around 3 ppb based on a 2007 CH2M-Hill study - 150 times the PHG!

Why can't anything be done sooner by the State of Hawaii?

♦The USEPA and the state of California are currently well into their own health assessment studies for hexavalent chromium, with final reports expected this year. These reports are expected to ultimately lead to true health-based standards that can be used to regulate Hawaii's drinking water quality. It makes no sense for the state of Hawaii to start right now on a redundant study. The best we can do at this time is to develop a comparative database of hexavalent chromium data so that a rational, science-based, regulatory direction can be determined for our state water systems when the time comes.

What do other states do regarding the regulation of hexavalent chromium?

♦There are no states that currently regulate Hexavalent Chromium. In March 2010, the USEPA concluded in their mandatory Six-Year Review of existing regulated contaminants that the revision of the total chromium standard was "not appropriate for revision at this time". However, in response to new Hexavalent Chromium data, they initiated a health

SEE CHROMIUM 6 FAQS, PAGE 4

"Drinking water can still be acceptable for public consumption (even) if it contains contaminants at levels higher than the public health goal."

Links to the Latest on Chromium 6

http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=221433
http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/chromium/guidance.cfm
http://www.boardofwatersupply.com
http://www.hawaii.gov/health
http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/sdwb/index.html

Chromium 6 - Frequently Asked Questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

effects assessment that was published in draft form in September 2010, and is currently undergoing technical peer review. A final report is scheduled to be completed in 2011. A recommendation of a lower total chromium MCL, as well as the establishment of a new MCL for Hexavalent Chromium is expected to accompany this report. Progress of these EPA actions can be found here: http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=221433. Regulation by individual states will follow the establishment of a federal MCL.

What can people do while the BWS and DOH wait for guidance from the EPA (filters, etc.)?

As stated previously, Oahu's drinking water meets all EPA and state drinking water standards, and is safe to drink. The SDWB does not recommend the use of home treatment devices. However, if you are still uncomfortable about drinking the water, one source of information is at www.nsf.org and click on "Information about chromium in drinking water" to find NSF certified (not EPA approved) treatment products.

As a caveat, consumers must be careful to do their research before purchasing any treatment system and to understand what contaminants, and to what levels, they have been tested to be effective. Finally, too many people fail to understand that installing a treatment system must be combined with proper testing, operation and maintenance in order to work properly.

Can the State laboratory analyze my samples?

Currently, the DOH State Laboratories Division does not have the capability to analyze for Hexavalent Chromium. However, they have been analyzing drinking water for Total Chromium, which is currently regulated, with a reporting limit of 2 ppb. The technology does exist to analyze Hexavalent Chromium to a detection level of 0.02 ppb as the EWG study claimed.

What if my system wants to do its own sampling? Does the SDWB have a recommended sampling and analysis protocol?

Given the likelihood of hexavalent chromium being regulated at an entry point-to-distribution (EPD), sampling points should all be located at EPDs.

Where possible, the number and location of samples in an individual PWS should reflect the density and geographical distribution of its service population.

The initial round of sampling should be followed by a confirmation round of sampling.

Samples should be analyzed for both Total Chromium using EPA Method 200.8 and Hexavalent Chromium using a modified version of EPA Method 218.6, "Determination of Dissolved Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water, Groundwater and Industrial Wastewater Effluents by Ion Chromatography" as described in EPA guidance published January 21, 2011, and found at the following link: http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/chromium/guidance.cfm

The maximum holding time for properly collected and buffered drinking water samples should be 5 days per the aforementioned EPA guidance.

The lab should analyze and report results to a minimum reporting limit of 1 ppb for Total Chromium and 0.05 ppb for Hexavalent Chromium.

How do I view ongoing test results from the HBWS and the State DOH?

The latest test results are posted on the BWS website at **www.boardofwatersupply.com** and on the DOH website at **www.hawaii.gov/health**.

"The SDWB does not recommend the use of home treatment devices."

NEW

Top Ten Ways Utilities Can Save Water, Energy & Money

Check out EPA's list at

www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/pdfs/TopTenBookletClimateChg.pdf

Sanitary Survey Cycle - 3 Years or 5 Years?

Under the Ground Water Rule (40 CFR 142.16(o)(2)), the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) is required to conduct sanitary surveys of community water systems no less frequently than every three (3) years unless the water system is determined to have met outstanding performance criteria. The initial sanitary survey for each community water system must be conducted by December 31, 2012, unless the water system meets the outstanding performance criteria.

For community water systems meeting the outstanding performance criteria and for non-community water systems, the SDWB must conduct sanitary surveys no less frequently than every five (5) years and the initial sanitary survey must be conducted by December 31, 2014.

The SDWB has defined outstanding performance criteria as providing 4-log treatment of viruses before or at the first customer for all ground water sources OR meeting all of the following conditions:

- No significant deficiencies identified in the system's most recent sanitary survey OR all significant deficiencies have been corrected to the satisfaction of the SDWB staff; and
- No waterborne disease outbreaks attributable to the system since the most recent sanitary survey; and
- No Total Coliform maximum contaminant level violations since the most recent sanitary survey; and
- No Total Coliform Rule monitoring and reporting violations since the most recent sanitary survey; and
- Compliance with the operator certification program.

All groundwater systems were informed of their specific sanitary survey schedules in mid-January. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact Jennifer Nikaido at 586-4258 or jennifer.nikaido@doh.hawaii.gov.

CCR Deadline

July 1

Deadline for annual distribution of CCR to customers & SDWB for report covering year 2010

"... any contaminants detected in an emergency source must be reported in the CCR."

Emergency Sources & the CCR

A question has arisen as to whether water quality data from emergency sources needs to be included in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR language requires that "reports must contain information on the quality of the water delivered by the systems and characterize the risks (if any) from exposure to contaminants detected in the drinking water..." The CCR requirements do not distinguish between water from an approved source under the drinking water rules (Chapter 20, Section 29) or an emergency source approved by our branch. Therefore, any contaminants detected in an emergency source must be reported in the CCR.

Reported data must include:

- Detected contaminants from monitoring required under the emergency use approval (such as turbidity results and coliform results)
- Detected contaminants from the most recent new source testing (such as chromium and nitrate)

If you have questions on the information which must be included in your CCR, please call Kumar Bhagavan at 586-4258.

Operator Certification

WTPO Exam Pass Rate Remains High

The pass rate for the January Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) exam remained high at 67%, dropping slightly from last July's pass rate of 71%. Out of the 12 operators that sat for the exam, 8 passed. The passing rates by grade are displayed in the table. The exam was held on Maui, Kona and Hilo.

Congratulations to those who passed!

Math continues to be the area requiring the most improvement. This is true for operators that failed as well as passed the exam across all grade levels.

Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	6	9	67%
2	2	2	100%
4	0	1	0%
Total	8	12	67%

Overall WTPO pass rate remains high at 67%.

Resources are available to help you prepare for math problems. Hawaii Rural Water Association (HRWA) offers a free Math Conversions class (see page 5) and the Operator Library has a Math study guide book available to borrow.

The next WTPO exam will be given during the last week of July 2011. Applications will be due on April 26, 2011 for those who want to sit for the July exam.

CT Calculation Formulas and Factors

Table 3-2 Baffling Factors

Factor	Description
0.1	None, agitated basis, very low length to width ratio, high inlet and outlet flow velocities. Enclosed circular or rectangular tank with single inlet and outlet line. Enclosed circular or rectangular tank with inlet on top and outlet on the bottom, either directly below or on the same side as the inlet line.
0.3	Single or multiple unbaffled inlets and outlets, no intra-basin baffles. Enclosed circular or rectangular tank with inlet on top and outlet on the bottom on the opposite wall.
0.5	Baffled inlet or outlet with some intra-basin baffles.
0.7	Perforated inlet baffle, serpentine or perforated intra-basin baffles, outlet weir or perforated launders.
1	Very high length to width ratio (pipeline flow), perforated inlet, outlet, and intra-basin baffles.

Table B-2 CTreq values for 4-log virus inactivation of viruses by free chlorine in mg/L•min

Temperature (°C)	pH	
	6-9	10
0.5	12	90
5	8	60
10	6	45
15	4	30
20	3	22
25	2	15

$$Total\ detention\ time = \frac{Lowest\ operating\ volume}{Peak\ flow}$$

NOTE: The operating volume should be taken during peak hour demand but the lowest operating volume may be substituted with SDWB approval.

$$Contact\ time = Total\ detention\ time \times Baffling\ factor$$

$$CT\ calc = Residual\ chlorine\ concentration \times Contact\ time$$

$$Inactivation\ Ratio = \frac{CT\ calc}{CT\ req}$$

$$4\log virus\ inactivation\ check: \quad Inactivation\ ratio \times 4\ \geq 4 \rightarrow OK!$$

$$4log\ virus\ inactivation\ check: \quad Inactivation\ ratio \times 4\ < 4 \rightarrow Rework\ Calculated\ Parameters$$

Operator Certification

Operator Library Open for Business

The Operator Library contains hundreds of books to help you prepare for an exam or to use for reference. The books found in the library were selected from the Association of Boards of Certification's (ABC's) listing of reference material for distribution and water treatment examinations. All the answers to the exam questions can be found in these books.

Borrowing has never been easier. Just select a book from the library listing and check it out through Jodi Yamami via phone or email. If you live on Oahu or in Hilo, you may pick your books up at the local Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) offices. For everyone else, your books will be mailed via US Postal Service directly to you. Once you're finished studying, return the books to the proctor at your next exam.

The Operator Library was created to help you. Please make the most of it.

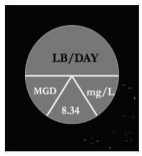
"The books found in the library were selected from . . ABC's listing of reference material . . ."

FREE

Math Conversions!

Ready For Math!

This is a Math Conversions class to assist operators with the Math problems for certification exams. Topics include fractions, decimals, percentages, equations, unit conversions, and word problems. We will also work with the formulas for area, volume, pressure, flow, velocity, chemical dosage, and other water works topics.



Brush up on your Water Math before it matters! Have HRWA do a training for your system.

Math Conversion Classes being held now!

Hawai'i Rural Water Association

Available for training and technical assistance on all the Hawaiian Islands.

Tel 808-495-0264

Email erinvanderzee@gmail.com to schedule your free Math Conversions Class today

This class may be worth up to .3 CEUs. Please specify if you would like to receive CEUS for certified operators.

AWWA Hawaii Section

presents

37th Annual Conference

Hawaii Convention Center

May 2 - 5, 2011

Ua Ka Ua, Kahe Ka Wai

Let the Rains Fall, Let the Waters Flow

Pre-Conference, May 2, 2011

Pre-Conference Workshop A: Distribution Systems Operations

Pre-Conference Workshop B: Sustainability and Green Practices

Check www.awwa-hi.org for details and registration form

Announcement!

Contact Operator Certification

Contact: Jodi Yamami
Phone: 808-586-4263
Fax: 808-586-4351
Email: jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov

www.hawaii.gov/drinkingwater/opcert

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Hawai'i Rural Water Association
1325 South Kihei Road
Suite 200
Kihei, HI 96753
Telephone: 808-495-0264
Fax: 808-495-0264
E-mail address: karrie@hawaiirwa.org
Website: www.hawaiirwa.org

AGENDA

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Welcome/Registration & Informational Update *Gary Byrd, HRWA*
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	The Need For Standard Operating Procedures *Gary Byrd, HRWA*
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Creating Standard Operating Procedures *Gary Byrd, HRWA*
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Review and Evaluation *Gary Byrd, HRWA*

The Hawai'i Rural Water Association is providing FREE "Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)" training sessions at the following locations and dates. The sessions will provide information to water and wastewater system personnel regarding the need for Standard Operating Procedures that need to be carried out by the utility's personnel for all occasions and in all departments. Thus providing a uniform work environment. In addition, each course will provide 0.6 CEU credits, as approved by the Hawai'i Water and/or Wastewater Board of Operator Certification. We encourage individuals to register at least two weeks ahead of a session scheduled date by completing the attached registration form and returning it to the HRWA office. This will assist us in planning and preparing for each session.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2011			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8 Princeville (Kaua'i)	9	10 Lihue (Kaua'i)	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
	Kaua'i (Princeville) - Princeville Utilities Co, 5-3541 Kuhio Hwy, Princeville Airport, Building B, 2nd Floor, Princeville, Kaua'i **Kaua'i (Lihue)** - Kaua'i Department of Water, Board Room, 4398 Pua Loke Street, Lihue, Kaua'i						
April 2011						1	2
	3	4	5 Honolulu (O'ahu)	6	7 Wahiawa (O'ahu)	8	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	O'ahu (Honolulu) - Department of Health, 919 Ala Moana Blvd, 5th Floor, Training Room, Honolulu, O'ahu **O'ahu (Wahiawa)** - Department of Public Works, Schofield Barracks, Wahiawa, O'ahu						
May 2011	1	2	3 Pearl City (O'ahu)	4	5 Honolulu (O'ahu)	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
	O'ahu (Pearl City) - State Laboratories Division Auditorium, 2725 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, O'ahu **O'ahu (Honolulu)** - Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Engineering Conference Room, 630 Beretania Street, Honolulu, O'ahu						

FREE

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 O & E Plan Due	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 ARRA Jobs Created Data Due	9
10	11 CT Report Due MRDL Report Due TCR Report Due Enhanced Coagulation Report Due Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 HOLIDAY	23
24	25 Maui & Kona DSO Exam	26 Oahu & Hilo DSO Exam WTPO Applications Due	27 Kauai DSO Exam	28	29	30

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CT Report Due TCR Report Due	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Board of Certification Meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30 HOLIDAY	31				

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Start of Lead & Copper Monitoring	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 CT Report Due	10 HOLIDAY	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1 CCR Due	

Quarterly Schedule

- **4/1 Operations & Emergency Plan Due**
  Surface Water Systems
- **4/8 ARRA Jobs Created Data Due**
  Systems with ARRA loans
- **4/11 CT Report Due**
  Surface Water Systems
- **4/11 MRDL Report Due**
  Disinfection Systems
- **4/11 TCR Report Due**
  Systems who complete their own tests
- **4/11 Enhanced Coagulation Report Due**
  Conventional Treatment Systems
- **4/11 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
  Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- **4/25-27 DSO Exam**
  Maui, Kona, Oahu, Hilo, & Kauai
- **4/26 WTPO Applications Due**
  July 2011 Examinees
- **5/10 CT Report Due**
  Surface Water Systems
- **5/10 TCR Report Due**
  Systems who complete their own tests
- **5/24 Board of Certification Meeting**
  SDWB Honolulu Office
  10:00 am
- **6/1 Start of Lead & Copper Monitoring**
  Systems notified in March
- **6/9 CT Report Due**
  Surface Water Systems
- **6/9 TCR Report Due**
  Systems who complete their own tests
- **7/1 CCR Due**
  Community Systems

Hawaii State Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch

919 Ala Moana Blvd.
Room 308
Honolulu, HI
96814-4920

Phone: 808-586-4258
Fax: 808-586-4351
E-mail: SDWB@doh.hawaii.gov

The mission of the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Health is to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii's drinking water sources (surface water and groundwater) from contamination and assure that owners and operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community. This mission is accomplished through the administration of the Safe Drinking Water Program, Underground Injection Control Program (UIC), Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP), and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

We're on the Web!
www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/sdwb/index.html

We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at 808-586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor of Hawaii

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

GARY GILL
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

SDWB Up Close - Monitoring Section

The SDWB Monitoring Section's function is to monitor the State's public water systems and groundwater for contaminants.

Dan Chang, the leader of the pack, keeps everyone on their toes with new ideas and leads his group in the right direction. He also is the go to guy for all source water activities within the branch.

Melvin Tokuda, Steven Matsuda, Dan Chang, and David Kawahara of the Monitoring Section (Theresa McGeehan -Takiue missing)

With water systems now collecting their own samples, the Monitoring Section has modified their role in the sampling process. As water systems determine what samples they need, members of the Monitoring Section prepare the sampling supplies and ship them to the water systems. Each has been assigned an island to work with. **David Kawahara** assists systems on Kauai, **Melvin Tokuda** assists the Oahu, Molokai and Lanai systems, **Steven Matsuda** helps the Maui systems, and **Theresa McGeehan-Takiue** assists the Big Island systems. In addition, Melvin and Theresa share the role as Sample Scheduler and coordinate when samples can be sent in from the water systems to the State Laboratories Division.

In order to share all the data the Monitoring Section has gathered, Steven helped in the development of the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) Viewer which can access the SDWIS database for drinking water quality data. David adds new sources and sample points to SDWIS and also has been cleaning up the data within the database.

With chromium 6 in the news, the Monitoring Section has also been collecting samples for testing from water systems and sending them out for analysis.

The Monitoring Section is out and about a lot, but they still make time to answer any of your monitoring questions. Give them a call at 586-4258.