

THE WATER SPOT

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH

CHIEF'S MESSAGE BY JOANNA SETO

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” ~ Charles Darwin

We have much to be thankful for this past year. Many changes have been implemented and others are on their way.

2016 At A Glance:

- ◆ Support of 54 small water system operators and board members at the 2016 Pacific Water Conference held at the Hawai'i Convention Center in early February.
- ◆ Submitted Corrective Action Plan deliverables for SFY 2015 and SFY 2016 commitments and disbursements.
- ◆ Receipt of the balance of the SFY 2016 Capitalization Grant in March 2016 and the SFY 2017 Capitalization Grant in October 2016.
- ◆ Additions to the DWSRF Program include Mr. Alan Dillon (grants/contracts), Mr. Steven Shimazu (Business Loan Officer), Mr. Evan Watarida (BLO), Mr. Nam Phan (Accountant), and Mr. Michael Cummings (Engineer).
- ◆ Mr. Alain Carey transferred to the Lead and Copper/Capacity Development Engineer position in the SDWB and Ms. Jan Ikeda (BLO) moved from the DWSRF to the CWSRF Program.
- ◆ Mr. Marvin Kam retired from the DWSRF Program in June.
- ◆ Mr. Melvin Hamano retired from SDWB after 40+ years of State service in September.
- ◆ Mr. Robert Spetich completed his two terms of service on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators
- ◆ Mr. Galen Shigeta was confirmed and started his Board term on 7/1/2016 with Ms. Ann Zane on an interim basis.
- ◆ Moved SDWIS Viewer, SATS, and SCRS to the cloud for faster processing of data.
- ◆ Completed the Underground Injection Control System to provide better access to UIC data as well as a place to collect the UIC data from the e-Permitting system.
- ◆ Loans and Grants Tracking System went live in October on the Government Private Cloud.
- ◆ EPA Enforcement Office review conducted.

“Sometimes when you innovate, you make mistakes. It is best to admit them quickly and get on with improving your other innovations.” ~ Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, Inc.

In 2017, looking forward to:

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VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

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- ◆ Supporting our Public Water Systems by preparing for emergencies. Please consider attending the 2017 Pacific Water Conference where Ms. Jennifer Nikaido will be moderating “A Panel Reflection on Drinking Water Emergency Response;” and Mr. Tom Ochwat will present on the “Iao Valley Flood and the Aftermath.”
 - ◆ Training for drinking water samplers. Watch for the schedule online at the SDWB website.
 - ◆ Moving to the Uluakupu Building at 2385 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City. The renovation, civil work, and external building repairs are scheduled to be completed during 2017. We continue to plan for some SDWB personnel to move in June/July 2017. The remaining personnel will move from AAFES around December 2017. We will provide updates to our contact information as the moves occur.
 - ◆ Successfully completing the Corrective Action Plan. There are just four more new deliverables and two on-going deliverables remaining before the July 2017 end date. Please let me know if you'd like to receive the monthly updates to the status of the SFY 2017 commitments and disbursements.
 - ◆ Amending Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-20 and Chapter 11-25. The public hearing(s) will be held in 2017. The notice(s) for the hearing(s) will be posted on the SDWB website.
 - ◆ Introducing the DWSRF Loan Program to our small private water systems. Please consider attending the Pre-Conference workshop on 2/14/2017 and “Creative DWSRF Utilization to Support Water System Asset Management” with Mr. Alan Dillon & Ms. Joan Corrigan at the 2017 Pacific Water Conference.
 - ◆ Hosting the SRF Borrowers 2-Day Workshop in May to provide updates on the DWSRF and CWSRF Programs.
 - ◆ Resuming the 4th Biennial Joint Government Water Conferences in Honolulu, Lihue, Kahului, Hilo, and Kona. They will be held in the month of August during odd numbered years.
 - ◆ Continuing collaboration with other federal, state, and county government agencies. The water cycle involves many agencies. See Mr. Robert Whittier at “Linking Groundwater to Coral Reefs Management” at the 2017 Pacific Water Conference.
 - ◆ Beginning a project to implement the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal, which will allow private labs to submit their data electronically (without CDs).
 - ◆ Supporting the Commission on Water Resource Management's development and implementation of the Water Loss Audit Program per Act 169 (SLH 2016). See Mr. Neal Fujii and Mr. Reinhard Sturm's “Update on the State of Hawaii Water Audit Program” at the 2017 Pacific Water Conference.
 - ◆ Finalizing the Hawaii Water Plan with updated information from the DOH water quality branches and offices.
- Mahalo to our water community for their continued support of each other in times of need ~ U.S. Army, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Maui Department of Water Supply, Hawaii Department of Water Supply, and others who were assisting behind the scenes.
- Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy New Year!

U.S. ARMY & HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY ASSIST WITH WATER SHORTAGE

On the evening of October 19, 2016, the second of two wells failed at Kunia Village, affecting the water supply to 600 residents in an agricultural community on Oahu. With both wells out-of-service, repairs expected to take several weeks to months, and only two to three days water supply in the tank, the community began extreme water conservation measures. Kunia Village water system immediately began contacting various agencies and water systems for alternative water sources.

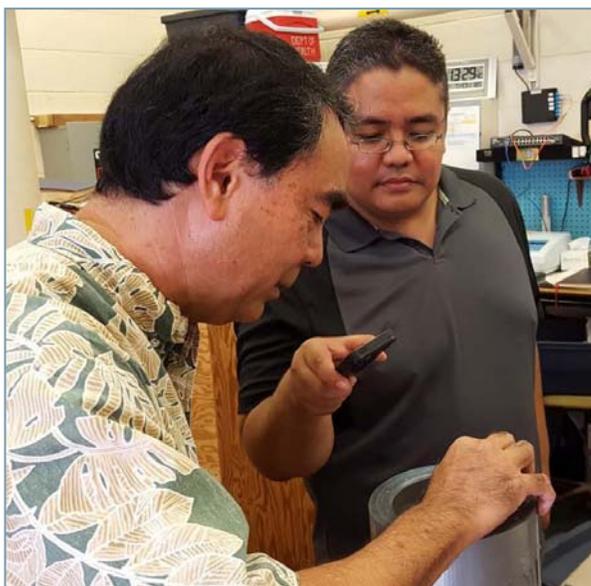
The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) quickly stepped in to provide a 500-gallon water buffalo for drinking water and replenished the water daily for the community.

The U.S. Army rapidly mobilized to install an emergency interconnection from its adjacent Schofield Barracks water system. To complete the interconnection, Kunia Village installed, flushed and disinfected 800 feet of buried HDPE pipe, and bacteriological testing was done to ensure water quality. Water started flowing again into Kunia Village's tank after nine days had passed.

The emergency interconnection between Schofield Barracks and Kunia Village operated for 2.5 weeks before Well #4 was repaired. Kunia Village residents were able to manage, thanks to the help from the U.S. Army and HBWS.

WATER SYSTEMS COLLABORATE TO PIN MEMBRANES

Due to a new reporting requirement, the Mililani Memorial Park water system discovered that they needed to pin fibers in their membrane filtration system. Realizing that he needed help, Robert Pagliai, the operator, consulted with Mililani Memorial's



Operator Chris Retuta gives a lesson in pinning membranes to SDWB's Mike Miyahira.

engineer, Elson Gushiken, and the manufacturer's representative, Paul "Scotty" Scott. Elson contacted the County of Maui, Department of Water Supply for support. Without hesitation, two County of Maui operators promptly flew over to Oahu to demonstrate and train Robert and his co-worker on pin repairs.

Much mahalo to Chris Retuta and Kamuela Len-Wai for sharing their expertise!

TANK VANDALISM LEADS TO CONTAMINATION CONCERNS BEFORE MAJOR HOLIDAY

During a routine inspection of their tanks on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 (two days before Thanksgiving), Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) staff discovered the access hatch covers on side-by-side 3.5 million gallon tanks were intentionally damaged and removed. The last inspection of the tanks was five weeks prior.

Could the tanks have been intentionally contaminated?

DHHL and SDWB staff started scrambling to investigate, conduct water quality sampling and inform the public. An inspection of the site and access road to the tanks revealed NO suspicious discarded containers, and an inspection of the tank interiors did not show any visible contamination. DHHL called the police and an initial investigation was conducted and police report generated. With the help of RCAC Circuit Rider Joy Gannon, a few sample bottles were located at a nearby water system, Kawela Plantation. SDWB coordinated with the airlines and the State Lab to ensure that the samples could be brought to Oahu for analysis. SDWB provided DHHL staff with a template for a “Do Not Drink” notice to be distributed to their customers. The State Lab staff began analysis immediately upon receiving the samples on that Tuesday at 6 p.m., and expected to work on Thanksgiving if necessary. Results were expected on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

DHHL staff first contacted the Mormon Church on Molokai to send an e-mail and text blast to their parishioners, and contacted Homestead Association Presidents,

including Kilia Purdy-Avelino of the Ahupuaa o Molokai and they all helped to get the word out. In addition, DHHL staff led by Acting District Supervisor E. Halealoha Ayau went door-to-door delivering the notices to the Hoolehua community of 1,800 people until 10:30 p.m. DHHL also set-up a filling station at their offices for Hoolehua residents.

Overnight, the story was picked up by every major news agency in the State and four schools were closed on Wednesday as a result of the vandalism.

The next day, DHHL reported that people were stopping by their office to fill water jugs and the County of Maui, Department of Water Supply would be providing a 5,000 gallon water buffalo/tanker at the Lanikeha Community Center. SDWB staff drafted additional public notices for DHHL to issue that evening depending on the water quality results.

By 7 p.m., the State Lab staff completed their analysis and the results were negative for bacteriological and chemical contamination. DHHL immediately issued a public notice lifting the “Do Not Drink” advisory to the media and community.

DHHL continues to work with the police to investigate the vandalism and will be contacting the FBI for assistance to help bring the culprits to justice.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, DHHL, SDWB and State Lab staff were all committed to ensuring the community was informed of the situation and water quality confirmed as soon as possible.

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **1/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **1/10 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **1/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **1/10 Enhanced Coagulation Report Due**
Conventional Treatment Systems
- ◆ **1/10 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- ◆ **1/23-25 WTPO Exam**
Kona, Maui, Hilo, & Oahu
- ◆ **1/25 DSO Applications Due**
April Examinees
- ◆ **2/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **2/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **2/14-16 Pacific Water Conference**
Hawaii Convention Center
- ◆ **2/24 DSO Exam Registrations Due**
April Examinees
- ◆ **2/28 Board of Certification Meeting**
SDWB Honolulu, 10:00 am
- ◆ **3/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **3/10 TCR Report Due**
Systems who complete their own tests

JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 HOLIDAY	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CT Report Due MRDL Report Due TCR Report Due Enhanced Coagulation Report Due Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due	11	12	13	14
15	16 HOLIDAY	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Kona & Maui WTPO Exam	24 Hilo WTPO Exam	25 Oahu WTPO Exam DSO Applications Due	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2017

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 Pacific Water Pre-Conference	15 Pacific Water Conference	16 Pacific Water Conference	17	18
19	20 HOLIDAY	21	22	23	24 DSO Exam Registrations Due	25
26	27	28 Board of Certification Meeting				

MARCH 2017

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	25 HOLIDAY	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CONFERENCE

HRWA/HWWA CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Congratulations to the Hawaii Rural Water Association (HRWA) and the Hawaii Water Works Association (HWWA) for their first annual conference collaboration on November 2-4, 2016 at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort on the island of Maui. Although this was HRWA's first annual conference, the meeting was HWWA's 55th. The partnership was a great success.

The conference theme "Water, A Clear Reflection of Our Future" was captured by the opening speaker Dr. T. Kaeo Duarte, Vice President, Community Engagement & Resources for Kamehameha Schools, who gave an enlightening talk with respect to water issues of ancient Hawaii. One of his anecdotes described a Molokai ahupua`a (land division or water shed that stretches from the mountain to the sea) which was one of the last that exclusively utilized and managed a traditional system of `auwai (irrigation ditches) and lo'i (taro fields) instead of the more modern system of wells, pumps and piping that we use today. An early 20th century internal Bishop Estate memorandum described how local residents believed that the appointed luna wai (water manager) was mismanaging the wai (freshwater), and they wanted action. Dr. Duarte's message emphasized that although it is our current kuleana (responsibility) to sustainably manage our fresh water resources, this issue is not new and was clearly recognized in prior generations.

The conference included three concurrent tracks covering technical water and wastewater topics, asset management, funding,

education and outreach, workforce development, and water loss control. SDWB presented at a few of the sessions. Alan Dillon enlightened the audience about the Creative Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Utilization to Support Water System Asset Management. Bob Whittier spoke on Using Stable Isotopes to Investigate Nitrate Contamination. And the Department of Health's Development & Implementation of a State Groundwater Monitoring Program was introduced by Dan Chang.

Also new this year was an operator expo that featured more hands-on sessions outside of a classroom setting. And over two dozen vendors participated in the conference displaying their exhibits.

We want to thank Mahana Gomes and her HRWA crew who gave careful consideration to attendee needs and did a great job in organizing a wonderful conference!

The SDWB provided \$20,000 for conference funding through the DWSRF set-aside program. We look forward to HRWA & HWWA having another successful conference collaboration on the Big Island next year.



A view from the infinity pool at the Wailea Beach Marriott

DSO PASS RATE REMAINS LOW

In October, forty-nine operators sat for the Distribution System Operator exam on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island. The overall pass rate for the exam remained low at 31%, dropping a little from 33% in April 2016. The table to the right provides a breakdown by grade. The results for the Grade 1 examinees was encouraging, however, the difficult Grade 4 exam continues to stump operators. Congratulations to those who passed the exam!

Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	7	15	47%
2	5	13	38%
3	2	6	33%
4	1	15	7%
Total	15	49	31%

For those who want to re-take the exam in April 2017, please submit the exam registration form and fee by February 25, 2017.

PAST DUE RENEWALS

If your Distribution System Operator (DSO) or Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) certification expired on November 30, 2016, you should no longer be performing the duties of a certified operator in Hawaii until your renewal is approved.

To renew your certification, please submit your renewal form, renewal fee via cashier's check or money order only, and proof of Continuing Education Unit (CEU) course attendance. The renewal fee has doubled since it is past due.

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

10:00 A.M.

MEETING

Board of Certification
of Public Water System Operators

LOCATION

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308,
Honolulu

BOARD MEMBERS

Galen Shigeta - Eric Okazaki
Glenn Ah Yat - Ann Zane

NEW EXAM PREPARATION BOOKS AVAILABLE



AWWA recently published new Water System Operations (WSO) materials that were reorganized to match the Association of Boards of Certification's (ABC) need-to-know criteria and standardized exams to be released in 2017. ABC recommends these books to help operators target their preparations for Distribution and Water Treatment exams. Grade levels have been separated for ease in preparation. All the books in this new series may be borrowed from the Operator Library at the SDWB. Please contact Jodi Yamami at 808-586-4263 to borrow a copy today.



2017 Pacific Water Conference



Preserving Our Water Resources

February 14 ♦ Pre-Conference February 15-16 ♦ Conference

**Hawaii Convention Center
Honolulu, HI**

Click [here](#) for more information

Sponsored by AWWA Hawaii Section & HWEA

HRWA

CEU Training Program for Water System Operators



Contact hrwaoffice@hawaiiirwa.org or 808-315-8925 for registration information.

Course	CEUs	Date	Location	Fee PWS Employee
Creating a Hydrant Flushing Program to Include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance	0.6	2/7/17	Big Island	\$270
Creating a Hydrant Flushing Program to Include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance	0.6	2/9/17	Kauai	\$270
Creating a Hydrant Flushing Program to Include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance	0.6	2/21/17	Oahu	\$270
Creating a Hydrant Flushing Program to Include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance	0.6	2/22/17	Maui	\$270

HRWA'S NEW SOURCE WATER SPECIALIST

The Hawai'i Rural Water (HRWA) team welcomes Judy Hayducsko as the new Source Water (SW) Specialist. Most recently an Operations Civil Engineer and Energy Management Analyst for the Department of Water Supply, County of Hawaii, she brings over 20 years of experience as a state regulator from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As a licensed PE in Civil & Environmental Engineering, her background is in wastewater, stormwater runoff, and water supply. Judy's combined experience and interest in protecting source water for future generations is perfect for the position. Judy replaces the former SW Specialist, Erin Vander Zee, who will continue to work on different projects with HRWA. Welcome, Judy!



Judy Hayducsko



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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawaii

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
Director of Health

KEITH E. KAWAOKA, D. Env.
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

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!

<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/>

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.

MICHAEL CUMMINGS JOINS THE SDWB

Michael Cummings recently joined the SDWB in October 2016. In his new position as a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Engineer, Michael aims to provide valuable input to the program and continuously work with his colleagues to assist the various water systems across the state with funding opportunities. He is very passionate about water resource issues and hopes to utilize his water and wastewater engineering consulting experience in this new endeavor. Prior to joining the SDWB, he worked as an environmental engineer for Engineering Concepts, Inc., a local firm on Oahu. Michael specialized in sewer collection system analysis and various water quality studies. During his time there, he was also fortunate to work overseas in Japan and Singapore.

Born and raised on the island of Kauai, Michael graduated from Kamehameha Schools and received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. His wife, Maricel, is originally from San Diego and together they have a daughter, Ava, who just had her first birthday.



Michael Cummings

Welcome to the SDWB, Michael!