

## AWWA HAWAII SECTION & HWEA 2018 PACIFIC WATER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6-8, 2018 HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER

For the fifth consecutive year, the American Water Works Association Hawaii Section (AWWA HI) and the Hawaii Water Environment Association (HWEA) joined forces to present the Pacific Water Conference at the Hawaii Convention Center on February 6-8. The theme for 2018 was “I ola pono na wai Hawaii” or Enhancing Hawaii’s Water Environment.

The SDWB supported small water systems again this year by sponsoring the registration of 54 eligible water system personnel and operators. Thank you for your participation in this year’s conference.

Attendees of the pre-conference held on February 6 could choose workshops from four (4) technical tracks and one (1) young professional track at which the SDWB’s Joan Corrigan presented on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program.

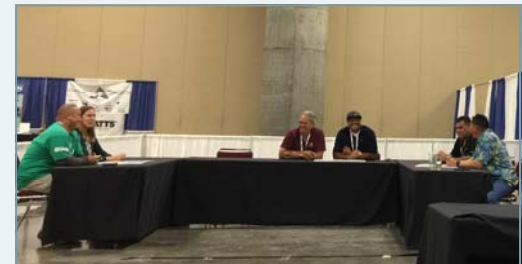
The conference program consisted of 75 technical sessions over multiple concurrent tracks covering drinking water, wastewater, water reuse, and stormwater topics. Several members from SDWB presented including:

- ◆ Joan Corrigan and Alan Dillon  
DWSRF: What Can We Do for You?
- ◆ Daniel Chang and Joanna Seto  
Groundwater Protection Strategy
- ◆ Robert Whittier  
Using Geochemistry to Evaluate Groundwater Flow Paths



The HBWS Pipe Tapping Team executes in their winning run.

Operator’s challenges were held, testing the skills of our operators in Pipe Tapping and Top Ops. This year, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) won the pipe tapping contest with a time of 1:45:25 minutes and will represent Hawaii at the next national AWWA conference. At the Top Ops Challenge, three teams competed with Team HBWS taking the championship for the second year in a row.



Teams from HBWS, Molokai, and Maui participate in the Top Ops Competition.

Thank you, AWWA HI for an informative conference. We’re looking forward to 2019!

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# DWSRF

# REMINDERS

## THE DWSRF IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a Federally funded program that provides low-interest loans to regulated water systems for drinking water infrastructure improvements. Since the program began in 1997, it has only loaned to the four (4) county municipalities. In these past 20 years, DWSRF has committed over \$330M in 92 loans for county projects.

The DWSRF team initially announced its intention to expand the program to loan to private systems at the 2017 Pacific Water Conference (PWC) with its sights set on the first loans going out in State Fiscal Year 2019. A special workshop was provided for the water systems to learn about and garner interest in the program. At the 2018 PWC, the DWSRF announced that it is on track to reach that goal! This ex-

pansion is a great step in supporting the Safe Drinking Water Act and in helping ensure water systems maintain their infrastructure to provide safe drinking water to their customers.

Even more good news from the program: \$1M will be available as principal forgiveness (zero percent loans) for the private water systems. A new Engineering Services Contract (ESC) funded by DWSRF set-asides will be available to provide professional engineering services to private systems that will help them tap into the DWSRF loan funds.

If you are interested in learning more about the DWSRF or in applying for a loan or the ESC, contact Ms. Joan Corrigan of the Safe Drinking Water Branch at [joan.corrigan@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:joan.corrigan@doh.hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-4258.

## RAW WATER BACTI SAMPLING

Remember all Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform and/or E. coli raw water samples must have a Non-Detect chlorine residual recorded on the Chain-of-Custody. If you fail to record the chlorine residual or the chlorine residual is detectable ( $> 0.1$  ppm), SDWB will invalidate the results and you will need to resample.

Raw water samples are taken before any treatment and disinfection.

Raw water bacteriological sampling is taken for many purposes:

- 1) To obtain initial water quality data for a new well or drinking water source;
- 2) To determine if the well is fecally-contaminated under Ground Water Rule's Triggered Source Water Monitoring or Assessment Source Water Monitoring;
- 3) To determine if Cryptosporidium monitoring should be conducted under the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule; and
- 4) After chlorinating the source, to determine if the disinfection was effective.

CCR DISTRIBUTION DEADLINE

JUNE 29, 2018

# QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **4/9-13 DSO Exam Review Class**  
*Kauai*
- ◆ **4/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **4/10 MRDL Report Due**  
*Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests*
- ◆ **4/10 TCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*
- ◆ **4/10 Enhanced Coagulation Report Due**  
*Conventional Treatment Systems*
- ◆ **4/10 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**  
*Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements*
- ◆ **4/20-26 DSO Exam**  
*Molokai, Kona, Maui, Oahu, Hilo, Kauai, & Lanai*
- ◆ **4/24 WTPO Applications Due**  
*July Examinees*
- ◆ **5/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **5/10 TCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*
- ◆ **5/22 Board of Certification Meeting**  
*SDWB Pearl City, 9:30 am*
- ◆ **5/24 WTPO Exam Registrations Due**  
*July Examinees*
- ◆ **6/1 Lead & Copper Sample Collection Starts**  
*Systems on annual collection schedules*
- ◆ **6/8 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **6/8 TCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*
- ◆ **6/29 CCR Distribution Deadline**  
*Community Systems*

## APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Kauai DSO Exam Review Class	10 Kauai DSO Exam Review Class	11 Kauai DSO Exam Review Class	12 Kauai DSO Exam Review Class	13 Kauai DSO Exam Review Class	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Molokai DSO Exam	21
22	23 Kona & Maui DSO Exam	24 Oahu & Hilo DSO Exam WTPO Applications Due	25 Kauai DSO Exam	26 Lanai DSO Exam	27	28
29	30					

## MAY 2018

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 Board of Certification Meeting	23	24 WTPO Exam Registrations Due	25	26
27	28 HOLIDAY	29	30	31		

## JUNE 2018

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

## HRWA & SDWB TALK STORY

Hawaii Rural Water Association (HRWA) and the SDWB collaborated on a “Talk Story” session for water system personnel to provide feedback on questions that HRWA often hears on their visits to water systems. The sessions were offered in March on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, West Hawaii, and East Hawaii to accommodate as many water systems throughout the State. The Molokai session will be rescheduled at a later date.

The sessions focused on Regulatory Compliance, Emergency Response, Sanitary Surveys, Significant Modifications, and Operator Certification.



Talk Story at the Oahu session

Mike Miyahira of SDWB first presented a short overview of the topics followed by a question and answer period. Jodi Yamami answered questions on operator certification.

The sessions provided an excellent opportunity for the SDWB to communicate key points as well as allow the water systems to broach a subject in a casual setting.

## HAR CHAPTER 11-25 PROPOSED REVISIONS

The SDWB received approval from the Governor to hold a public hearing on proposed changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-25, Rules Relating to Certification of Public Water System Operators. The proposed significant changes are summarized as follows:

- ◆ The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) definition will be revised to bring Hawaii’s standards in line with the national standard, however the number of contact hours that an operator will need to earn to maintain his or her certification will not change.
- ◆ The initial certification period after examination will be altered after an operator passes an exam in order to place the operator in his or her correct certification expiration year as soon as possible.
- ◆ Certification fees will be increased for the first time since program initiation in 1993 to make the program better supported financially to reduce how much the State has to pay for increased costs of running the program.

Once the public hearing has been scheduled, the Notice of Public Hearing will be published. Please contact Jodi Yamami at [jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov) for information.

## HAR CHAPTER 11-20 REVISED

The Governor signed the proposed revisions to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-20, Rules Relating to Public Water Systems, and the revised rules became effective on December 28, 2017. The revisions primarily incorporate the Revised Total Coliform Rule. HAR 11-20 is available at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2018/02/11-20.pdf>

## JANUARY WTPO PASS RATE RISES TO 50%

In January, the Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) exam was held on Oahu, Maui, and Kona and Hilo on the Big Island. The overall pass rate for the this exam rose to 50% from last July's lowest WTPO pass rate ever of 20%. The table to the right provides a breakdown by grade. Grades 1 and 2 examinees did especially well with 63% and 75% pass rates correspondingly. Congratulations to those who passed! Thank you for taking the time to study so diligently for the exam.

Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	5	8	63%
2	3	4	75%
3	--	--	--
4	1	6	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>50%</b>

For those who would like to re-take the exam in July, please submit your exam registration form and applicable fee by April 24, 2018 to our new Pearl City office at 2385 Waimano Home Rd., Uluakupu Bldg. 4, Pearl City, HI 96782.

## NEW ABC STANDARDIZED EXAMS

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) recently rolled out a new set of standardized exams. Through a psychometric process beginning with job analyses conducted in 2014-2015, new test questions were written and integrated into the 2017 Standardized Exams. Over 5,000 operators and industry stakeholders were surveyed, and the data collected was analyzed to prepare new exam content based on the most significant job tasks. A pilot program in 2017 determined the passing score would remain at 70%.

New Need-to-Know Criteria was also developed to help examinees prepare for the exams. The criteria outlines the exam content giving a breakdown of the number of questions per content area depending on complexity levels of each essential job task of a specific operator and grade level. The specific number of calculation or math questions is also noted in the criteria.

The exam questions are still multiple choice, but the number has increased from

100 to 110. The 10 extra questions are all non-scored pre-test questions which allow ABC to evaluate future test questions. These questions are randomly scattered throughout the exam.

An updated Formula/Conversion Table is also included with these new exams which will be provided to examinees during the examination.

Hawaii will be integrating the new standardized exams this year starting with the April Distribution System Operator (DSO) examination followed by the July Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) examination.

For more information on the new 2017 Standardized Exams, please refer to the ABC website:

[http://www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/2017StandardizedExams.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/2017StandardizedExams.asp)

The Need-to-Know Criteria is available at this location along with the new Formula/Conversion Table.



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**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.*

**SDWB DIRECTORY**

SDWB is heading into State Fiscal Year 2019 with vacancies in almost all sections (e.g., three (3) engineers, one (1) environmental health specialist, and one (1) office assistant). We continue to focus on the implementation and enforcement of State and Federal drinking water standards in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Please bear with us as we adapt to this change in our workforce. Here is the current branch directory of our technical staff.

<b>Joanna Seto</b>	SDWB Chief
<b>Michael Miyahira</b>	Engineering Section Supervisor, Ground Water Rule
<b>Michael Miyahira</b>	Lead and Copper Rule, Capacity Development, Circuit Rider, Backflow & Cross Section Control
<b>Jennifer Nikaido</b>	Surface Water Treatment Rule, Disinfection Byproducts Rule, Plan for Emergency Provisions
<b>Joan Corrigan</b>	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
<b>Ann Zane</b>	Compliance Section Supervisor, Revised Total Coliform Rule
<b>Ann Zane</b>	Radionuclides Rule
<b>Jodi Yamami</b>	Public Water Systems Operator Certification
<b>Zhaohui Wang</b>	Chemical Monitoring (External Labs), Consumer Confidence Reports
<b>Daniel Chang</b>	Monitoring Section Supervisor
<b>Melvin Tokuda</b>	Lanai, Molokai Site Monitoring
<b>David Kawahara</b>	Kauai, Big Island Site Monitoring
<b>Steven Matsuda</b>	Oahu, Maui Site Monitoring
<b>Theresa McGeehan-Takiue</b>	Big Island Site Monitoring
<b>Norris Uehara</b>	Groundwater Pollution Control Section Supervisor
<b>Jaime Rimando</b>	UIC Program Geologist
<b>Mark Frazier</b>	UIC Program Geologist
<b>Robert Whittier</b>	Source Water Assessment Program Geologist
<b>Alan Dillon</b>	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Local Assistance and Other State Programs