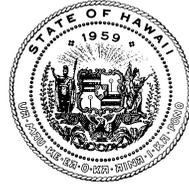


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

24-047M&A CAB

January 19, 2024

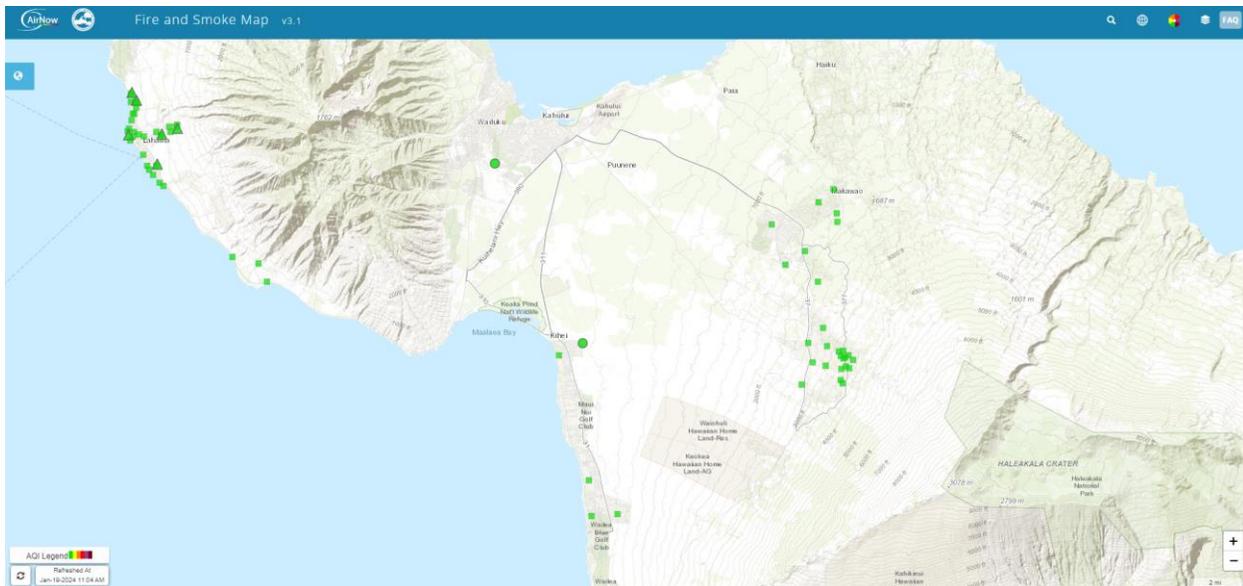
TO: Kula, Lāhainā, and Olowalu Community Members

SUBJECT: Ambient Air Monitoring for the Kula, Lāhainā, and Olowalu Communities

To provide air quality information in your community, the Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Air Branch (CAB) is installing additional Purple Air Sensors to measure the levels of fine particulate matter.

The air monitors detect fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) which is 0.0025 millimeters and smaller in size (about 30 times smaller than a human hair) that can be a component of ash, dust, smoke, and air pollution. Contaminants of concern, such as metals like lead and arsenic, stick to the pieces of ash and dust that register as PM_{2.5}. Because of this, air monitoring for PM_{2.5} can be used as an indicator for contaminant monitoring. If PM_{2.5} measurements are not above typical baseline levels (remain in the green zone according to <https://fire.airnow.gov/>), then ash and dust from the impacted areas, with their associated contaminants, are not in the air in any measurable amount that would be considered a health concern.

Real-time data from the air monitors can be viewed by the public on EPA's AirNow Fire and Smoke map: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.



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Air quality can also be monitored by downloading the [AirNow mobile app](#). Additional apps such as [Local Haze](#), IQAir, and [Paku](#) use the same data sources and allow for real-time alerts.

The monitors color (green shown above) provides the air quality of the area in relation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 6 color coded Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. Green = good, Yellow = moderate, Orange = Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Red = Unhealthy, Purple = Very Unhealthy, and Maroon = Hazardous. The AQI is EPA's index for how clean or polluted the air is, what associated health effects might be a concern, and actions to take. Specific colors are assigned to each AQI to make it easier for people to quickly understand whether air pollution is reaching unhealthy levels in the community and use this to help reduce exposure. Further information on the AQI can be found at: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>.

Following the August wildfires, 53 PurpleAir sensors have been installed in Kula, Lāhainā, and Olowalu. Staff from the Clean Air Branch continue to install additional PurpleAir sensors in Lāhainā and Olowalu.

Installations at various locations in the community are dependent on obtaining the landowner's permission as well as the availability of power and Wi-Fi needed for the equipment to operate. Once installed, the monitors should show up on the EPA's AirNow Fire and Smoke map website shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your assistance and support as we monitor the air quality in your community. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Young of my staff at 808-586-4200.

Sincerely,



MARIANNE ROSSIO, P.E.
Manager, Clean Air Branch

LY:rkb