

Hawaii Beach Program Update

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN 2020

3/17 – MAUI; 3/19 – HILO, HAWAII; 3/24 – KONA, HAWAII;
3/25 – KAUAI; 3/31 – OAHU

PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CLEAN WATER BRANCH
Myron Honda, Janet Hashimoto, Alec Wong

Agenda

- Overview of current notification and advisory process
- Overview of proposed, revised notification and advisory process
- Comment period open through May 1, 2020
- Questions and answers session

Current Beach Advisory Process

- DOH has posted beach advisories since 2017
- Advisories posted when Beach Action Value (BAV) of 130 enterococci per 100 mL is exceeded
- Advisory actions if $BAV > 130$
 - Post on CWB website: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb/#!/landing>, with map
 - Email advisory to all subscribers with link to website
 - Post 3-5 signs at beach informing public of elevated bacteria and potential risk of exposure to pathogens
 - Collect follow up sample on next working day and subsequent work days until BAV is no longer exceeded

Current Beach Advisory Process

- Actions when BAV is no longer exceeded
 - Website advisory is closed (but record of advisory remains on website)
 - Email notice to all subscribers about removal of advisory
 - Signs at beach are removed

Temporary Signs Posted for High Bacteria



Permanent Signs Posted at Some Sites



HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS FOUND

**in ocean and stream
especially after heavy rainfall**

**Contact with water
may cause illness**

**For information
health.hawaii.gov/cwb
(808) 586-4309**

Hawaii State Department of Health



Proposed, Revised Beach Advisory Process

- Considering revision to current advisory process, after public comment period
- Proposing to post beach signs after two consecutive exceedances of BAV, instead of current single day BAV exceedance

Comparison of Current and Proposed Process

CURRENT

PROPOSED

<p>DAY 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAV > 130 for sample collected yesterday • Post <u>advisory</u> on website and email; high BAV and risk info • Post signs at beach • Collect follow up sample 	<p>DAY 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAV > 130 for sample collected yesterday • Post <u>notification</u> on website and email; high BAV and retesting • Collect follow up sample 	
<p>DAY 2 AND BEYOND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect follow up samples each day until BAV is < 130 • When BAV < 130 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close advisory on website and email subscribers about advisory removal - Remove signs at beach 	<p>DAY 2</p>	
	<p>If BAV > 130 for Day 1 sample</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post <u>advisory</u> on website & email • Post signs at beach • Collect follow up sample 	<p>If BAV < 130 for Day 1 sample</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update notification on website & email subscribers of BAV non-exceedance
	<p>DAY 3 AND BEYOND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as “DAY 2 AND BEYOND” in left column 	

Proposed, Revised Beach Advisory Process

- Rationale for adding confirmatory test of BAV exceedance
 - DOH collected more than 8,200 samples between 2017 and June 2019
 - Of total samples, 106 out of 8,200 indicated BAV exceedance, so beach signs were posted
 - Next day follow up samples for 98 out of the 106 posted beaches showed no BAV exceedance, so DOH removed the signs and advisories
 - This means about 92% of posted beach advisories were not warranted
 - Analysis takes 24 hours, so results are for the previous day's beach condition
 - On days that advisories were posted, there were no exceedances in the BAV
 - Based on years of data, DOH questions the accuracy and representativeness of single day samples for many beaches that have no potential sources of fecal contamination and no history of chronic BAV exceedances
 - Other states (FL, NC, SC) also retest waters before issuing advisories.

Mahalo for your Interest and Attendance

For additional information on the Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program and comment period, please see the DOH website at <https://health.Hawaii.gov/cwb/>

You may contact Myron Honda or Janet Hashimoto at (808) 586-4309

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