



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2019

19-048

Hawai'i Department of Health to host community meeting on recent bacteria study of Kaua'i watersheds

HONOLULU – Last month, the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) [announced](#) a new water quality study showing that high bacteria counts historically observed in the Māhā'ulepū and Waikomo watersheds on Kaua'i are not associated with human waste.

To discuss the study in further detail and answer questions, DOH and its partners are inviting the public to attend a community meeting on Wednesday, July 24, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Kaua'i District Health Office (3040 Umi Street, Lihue, HI 96766).

Representatives from DOH's Clean Water Branch will be available in person to explain how they conclusively determined that human waste is not the cause of bacterial contamination in the water tested.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of one of the study's principal investigators, Dr. Eric Dubinsky, from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), who will be joining DOH by video teleconference. The Berkeley Lab was contracted by DOH to lead the survey effort in the Māhā'ulepū and Waikomo watersheds and implement the use of PhyloChip, an innovative microbial source tracking tool.

To view the full report released in June 2019, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/clean-water-branch-home-page/water-quality-references/>.

For more information about the meeting, or if you require an auxiliary aid or accommodation due to a disability, contact the Clean Water Branch at least seven days before the meeting by calling (808) 586-4309.

About the Department of Health Clean Water Branch

The Clean Water Branch protects the health of residents and visitors who enjoy Hawaii's coastal and inland water resources. The Branch also protects and restores inland and coastal waters for marine life and wildlife. This is accomplished through statewide coastal water surveillance and watershed based environmental management using a combination of permit issuance, water quality monitoring and investigation, water quality violation enforcement, polluted runoff control,

and public education. For more information, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/>.

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