

THE WATER SPOT

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH

GETTING THE WORD OUT ABOUT HAWAII'S WATER QUALITY

This August, the Department of Health Environmental Health Administration (EHA) offices hosted the 5th Joint Government Water Conference with the focus on “Getting the Word Out About Hawaii’s Water



Joanna Seto, SDWB Branch Chief, kicks off the conference on Oahu

Quality.” Conferences were held on Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii island in Hilo and Kona, and Maui. The Conference provided a forum to update water industry personnel, government agencies, and other water-related organizations about the outreach and education activities on issues and concerns regarding our water quality in the State. Over 350 attendees participated throughout the State. There were an assortment of agenda items



Wang, SDWB Engineer, takes the “Long Haul Challenge”

for the participants including updates on new laws affecting water quality, group discussions on outreach planning, and a group activity prepared by Project WET called the “Long Haul Challenge.” Participants were also able to meet the Department of Health EHA staff and provide feedback on water quality and wastewater industry issues. These Conferences are held every other year with the next scheduled in 2021. Until then, everyone is always welcome to contact the Department of Health EHA offices with any concerns about the State’s water quality.

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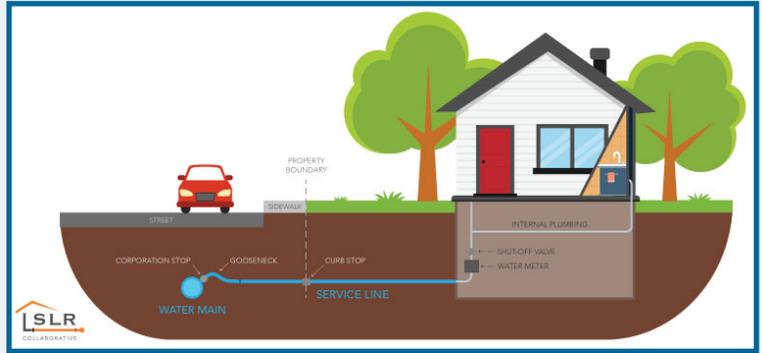
OCTOBER 2019

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HAWAII SERVICE LINE SURVEY UPDATE

Aloha and mahalo to everyone who participated in the survey! As of this writing - with a few larger water system entities still working on getting their surveys back to us - we have already achieved an impressive 64% response rate amongst the 137 water system entities solicited. More importantly, the responding entities currently represent 86% of the service population statewide!



Your responses speak volumes about the commitment that our regulated water systems share in ensuring a safe supply of drinking water statewide to our friends, family, keiki and kupuna alike. As the jurisdictional agency in the State of Hawaii for the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Branch remains equally committed to assisting all of you with the onerous and oft times confusing Federal drinking water regulations that we must all follow.

Please keep those surveys coming in, and if you are unsure of how to answer some of the questions or need any kind of assistance at all, please contact Mike Miyahira at 808-586-4258 or email your questions to michael.miyahira@doh.hawaii.gov.

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Hawaii Water Works Association
2019 Annual Conference
October 9 - 11, 2019
Ala Moana Hotel
Hosted by Honolulu Board of Water Supply



HRWA DSO Exam Review

Waimea Center, Kamuela, Big Island

September 30-October 1 🚰 Grades 1-2

October 2 🚰 MATH Grades 1-4

October 3-4 🚰 Grades 3-4

Pacific Pipe, Pearl City, Oahu

October 7-8 🚰 Grades 1-2

October 15 🚰 MATH Grades 1-2

October 16-17 🚰 Grades 3-4

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

ABPA Hawaii Chapter



Proctor Training

December 5, 2019

Backflow Testers Certification Exam

December 6, 2019

SDWB Office, Pearl City, Hawaii

Register at <https://abpa.site-ym.com/>
by November 5, 2019

Questions?

Jay Nakashima 808-298-3171

Henry Chang 213-740-2032

Mike Ahlee 619-977-1568

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **9/30-10/4 Big Island DSO Exam Review**
- ◆ **10/7-8 Oahu DSO Exam Review**
- ◆ **10/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **10/10 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **10/10 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **10/10 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- ◆ **10/15-17 Oahu DSO Exam Review**
- ◆ **10/21-24, 29 DSO Exam**
Kona, Maui, Oahu, Hilo, Kauai, Molokai & Lanai
- ◆ **10/28 DSO & WTPO Applications Due**
January Examinees
- ◆ **10/28 DSO & WTPO Exam Registrations Due**
January Examinees
- ◆ **11/8 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **11/8 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **11/15 DSO & WTPO Renewals Due**
Select Operators
- ◆ **11/26 Board of Certification Meeting**
SDWB Pearl City, 10:00 am
- ◆ **12/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **12/10 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab

OCTOBER 2019

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

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 CT Report Due RTCR Report Due	9
10	11 HOLIDAY	12	13	14	15 DSO & WTPO Renewals Due	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Board of Certification Meeting	27	28 HOLIDAY	29	30

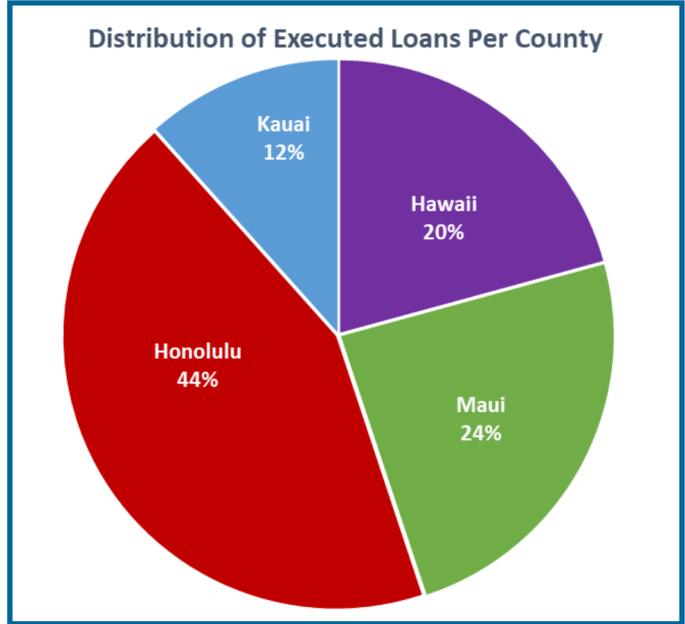
DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CT Report Due RTCR Report Due	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 HOLIDAY	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DWSRF 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Safe Drinking Water Branch is pleased to provide this annual report on the activities of our Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019). For SFY 2019, the DWSRF executed \$30,460,611.00 in loans and disbursed a total of \$29,277,492.55 of which \$26,772,261.83 was for loans and \$2,505,230.72 was for the set-asides and fees.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federally-capitalized loan program that provides low interest loans to the four County water departments for their drinking water infrastructure projects. Since 1997, the Hawaii DWSRF has financed about \$350-million in County water supply projects, such as treatment plants, new drinking water sources, the replacement of aging waterlines, and storage tanks. The re-



sulting public health benefits and water and energy savings for over 1 million rate paying residents Statewide, coupled with the favorable debt service opportunity for the County entity, is a win-win for all parties. In addition, the DWSRF continues to provide additional subsidization (zero percent interest + principal forgiveness), to a portion of these already low interest loans to counties that complete construction projects on schedule.

The DWSRF supported the following activities in SFY 2019:

- ◆ The Hawaii Department of Water Supply received a loan for \$7-million and disbursed almost \$2.5-million.
- ◆ The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) received \$18.96- million in loans and disbursed almost \$19.5-million.
- ◆ The Maui Department of Water Supply received a \$4.5-million loan and disbursed over \$6.5-million.

A major initiative for the DWSRF in SFY 2019 was to expand its customer base by offering loans to privately-owned public water systems. So far, there have been ten (10) private systems that expressed interest. The program executed its first privately-owned water system loan in the beginning of SFY 2020 with Hana Water Systems for \$1-million.

Going forward, the DWSRF is looking forward to its continuing support of Hawaii’s public water systems in improving their infrastructure and providing safe drinking water to our ohana here in the Islands!

ADDITIONAL DSO & WTPO EXAMS SCHEDULED

Starting with the October 2019 examination session, both the Distribution System Operator (DSO) and Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) exams will be offered at each scheduled session. Both exams will now be given four times per year in January, April, July, and October. Examinees will be allowed to take only one exam per session and will have to choose either DSO or WTPO. This change will provide operators with two additional scheduled periods per year to take an exam for each category.

All application and exam registration forms have been updated with the new schedule and are available on the operator certification website: <http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>. The exam registration fee remains at \$70 per exam.

WTPO PASS RATE DROPS TO 22%

The overall pass rate dropped from 36% in January to 22% in July 2019 for the Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) certification exam. Although the pass rate dropped, a special shout-out goes to the examinees from the island of Kauai who finished with a perfect 100% pass rate!

Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	2	8	25%
2	2	6	33%
4	0	4	0%
Total	4	18	22%

If you are re-taking the exam, please review the new Need-to-Know Criteria on the Association of Boards of Certification website: http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/need_to_know_criteria.asp. The American Water Works Association Water System Operations training material is also available from the SDWB to assist in your studies.

Since additional exam periods have been scheduled, the next chance to sit for a WTPO exam will be in January 2020 with many already registered.

CERTIFICATION RENEWALS COMING UP

Take a look at your DSO and/or WTPO ID cards now to see if your certification(s) will be expiring on November 30, 2019. Final renewal notices were mailed out in September.

If you require CEUs to be reviewed, please submit your requests by October 26, 2019.

Don't delay in renewing. After December 31, 2019, the renewal fee increases. After November 30, 2020, you will lose your certification and will need to re-take and pass the exam to become certified again.

**2019
DSO & WTPO
RENEWALS
DUE
11/16/19**



**HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER
BRANCH**

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawaii

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.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 HELPING HANDS

There were plenty of helping hands around at the 2019 Joint Government Water Conference held in Hilo on August 20. Pictured from left to right are Jim Lee - a volunteer for five years at the SDWB Environmental Health Services Facility in



Hilo, Mary Cathcart - Secretary, Dan Chang - Monitoring Supervisor, Theresa McGeehan-Takiue - Environmental Health Specialist from Hilo, and Jammie Aroni - our new Environmental Health Specialist 89-day hire in Pearl City. Mahalo, everyone for helping make the conference a success!