

# THE WATER SPOT

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE BY JOANNA SETO

As we reflect on 2019, the Safe Drinking Water Branch extends our appreciation to our public water systems for continuing to provide safe drinking water to their communities. In contributing to our mission, we:

- ◆ Obtained Legislative approval for new environmental health specialists on Kauai, Maui, and in Kona
- ◆ Completed the Hawaii Water Quality Plan and Groundwater Monitoring Status Report
- ◆ Completed a statewide lead service line survey of all regulated public water systems and 100% of the sanitary surveys
- ◆ Supported small system personnel registration for the February 2019 Pacific Water Conference
- ◆ Hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Government Water Conferences in August
- ◆ Received the EPA letter which lifted the notice of non-compliance for the DWSRF in September
- ◆ Supported the HIWARN and HI-SWARN
- ◆ Completed the Upcountry Maui Cesspool Upgrade Alternatives Analysis
- ◆ Provided technical support on the Red Hill AOC and the cesspool conversion working group
- ◆ Continue to work with UH-Manoa to update the SWAP revision methodology

The SDWB begins a new decade with new challenges to:

- ◆ Fill environmental health specialist positions in our monitoring section; engineer positions in our engineering and compli-

ance sections; and geologist positions in the UIC section

- ◆ Issue loans to our municipal public water systems and small privately-owned public water systems using the DWSRF
- ◆ Continue to support small water systems with asset management development and implementation, circuit rider assistance, and registration at upcoming conferences
- ◆ Implement and fund the WIIN Act Section 2107 testing for lead in drinking water in schools and child care facilities
- ◆ Review applications for and issue well-head protection financial assistance program support
- ◆ Fully implement the electronic sanitary survey system and compliance monitoring data portal
- ◆ Upgrade the SDWIS Viewer, SATS, SCRS, and UIC System
- ◆ Complete the remaining EPA primacy packages
- ◆ Continue the priority groundwater monitoring projects
- ◆ Continue education and outreach activities for cesspools and other priority groundwater protection strategy pollutants
- ◆ Coordinate the re-evaluation of the UIC lines
- ◆ Begin developing the Hawaii groundwater quality standards

Please send us your thoughts and ideas to continue to provide safe drinking water for the next decade. Wishing you all the best for 2020!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2020

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## 58TH HWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Ann, SDWB & Jeff, County of Maui

The Hawaii Water Works Association (HWWA) held their 58th Annual Conference at the Ala Moana Hotel on October 9-11. This year, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) hosted the event



Lance & David, County of Kauai

with the theme, “Kumuwai” or “source of a stream or spring.”

Attendees had opportunities to choose from six breakout sessions. Among the presentations was the SDWB’s Joanna Seto and Dan Chang’s presentation on the Water Quality Plan Update which identified priority actions that will help the program reach its water quality goals. Excur-



Barry, RCAC & Joan, SDWB

sions to the Waihee Tunnel or Waikele Golf Tournament culminated the event.

The SDWB was able to support this year’s conference by means of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Thank you, HBWS for an enlightening conference! On to Maui!

## 2020 Pacific Water Conference

AWWA/HWEA 7th Annual Joint Conference

February 4-6

Hawaii Convention Center - Honolulu, HI

<http://pacificwaterconference.com/>

## DSO & WTPO EXAMS HELD IN OCTOBER

In October, examinees were able to sit for either the Distribution System Operator (DSO) exam or the Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) exam. Examinations were held on all islands including Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and the Big Island (Kona and Hilo). Overall pass rates for both exams inched up a little from prior exams. As more examinees get accustomed to the new exam schedule, the hope is for a more consistent increase in pass rates. The following tables show a breakdown of all exam grade level pass rates. Congratulations to those who passed! Your extra efforts in studying paid off!

DSO Exam				WTPO Exam			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate	Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	8	20	40%	1	1	3	33%
2	3	13	23%	2	0	1	0%
3	6	13	46%	3	--	--	--
4	3	19	16%	4	1	4	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25%</b>

Hawaii Rural Water Association (HRWA) held free DSO Exam Review Classes on the Big Island and Oahu prior to the exam. The review class is based on the American Water Works Association Water System Operations series which covers core test content on certification exams. The overall pass rate for those 21 examinees who took the HRWA classes was an extremely high 71%.

Another special shout-out goes to Hawaii Water Service operators also with a 71% pass rate for their DSO examinees. Congratulations!

For those who would like to re-take either the DSO or WTPO exam in April, please submit your exam registration form and \$70 fee by January 28, 2020. Exam books will be ordered if payment is received by the due date.

### DSO/WTPO RENEWALS

For operators whose DSO and/or WTPO certifications expired on 11/30/2019, your renewals are required to be processed in order for you to continue to perform the duties of a certified operator in Hawaii. Late renewal fees increase by \$20. If you do not renew by 11/30/2020, you will lose your certification and will need to re-take and pass the exam to become certified again.

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**MEETING**  
**Board of Certification**  
**of Public Water System Operators**

**LOCATION**  
**2385 Waimano Home Rd.,**  
**Uluakupu Bldg. 4, Pearl City**

# QUARTERLY CALENDAR

◆ **1/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*

◆ **1/10 MRDL Report Due**  
*Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests*

◆ **1/10 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*

◆ **1/10 Enhanced Coagulation Report Due**  
*Conventional Treatment Systems*

◆ **1/10 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**  
*Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements*

◆ **1/27-28, 30-31 DSO/WTPO Exam**  
*Kona, Maui, Oahu, Hilo, Kauai, & Molokai*

◆ **1/28 DSO/WTPO Applications & Exam Registrations Due**  
*April Examinees*

◆ **2/4-6 Pacific Water Conference**  
*Hawaii Convention Center*

◆ **2/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*

◆ **2/10 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*

◆ **2/25 Board of Certification Meeting**  
*SDWB Pearl City, 9:30 am*

◆ **3/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*

◆ **3/10 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems who complete their own tests*

## JANUARY 2020

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

## FEBRUARY 2020

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

## MARCH 2020

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	26 HOLIDAY	27	28
29	30	31				



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SAFE DRINKING WATER  
BRANCH**

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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.*



Mike, Pirate #1



Mary, Pirate #2



Joan, Pirate #3

**SDWB'S PIRATE HALLOWEEN PARRRTY**