

# THE WATER SPOT

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE BY JOANNA SETO

Have you been aware of how closely we interact with one another and our connections to each other?

In 2002, LinkedIn, and then in 2004, Facebook started us off with friends and family members at 1-degree of separation. 23andMe, Ancestry, and others showed us our DNA relatives - who is that "TL" showing up as our 1st cousin, once removed with 5.57% DNA shared, 17 segments?

Now with COVID-19, we see our social connections and how hard it is to remember who you were in close contact with 10 days ago if you didn't maintain your bubble. Do you remember?

Thank goodness for technology, the internet, and the late Norman Abramson, co-founder of ALOHAnet's pioneering work which debuted in 1971. Starting in late March, the SDWB worked safely from home with email, virtual private networks, remote desktop connections, Microsoft Teams, ZOOM, GoToWebinar, WebEx, BlueJeans, GoogleTeams and other meeting applications; not to mention the use of the internet to share information about the challenges of 2020. How many meetings or virtual conferences have you attended and forgotten to unmute?

With all these challenges, our Hawaii public water systems continued to provide safe drinking water to their communities while absorbing the impacts of the shutdown of businesses and industries to protect our health. Water purveyors supported one another by sharing information to keep their workforces safe and the drinking water flowing. Mahalo for all that you do!

I'd like to extend my appreciation to the SDWB for their efforts above and beyond in 2020:

- ◆ **Doug**, for getting and keeping our networks and computer equipment successfully working so that we can all telework in our cohorts
- ◆ **Ann, Wang, and Jodi**, for ensuring that our water systems and operators have the support needed when responding to compliance conditions; being ready to fly to the neighbor island to conduct a Level 2 RTRC assessment, and preparing for and responding to operator remote testing issues
- ◆ **Mike, Jen, Joan, and Alan**, for proactively developing and distributing essential services letters and COVID-19 updates for our water communities, addressing emergency response situations and the challenge of sanitary surveys, and managing the DWSRF program and engineering services contracts, as well as for **Stefanie**,

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## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

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learning our program as fast as she can

- ◆ **Dan, David, Theresa, and Jammie**, for assisting our water systems with their monitoring predicaments, fielding inventory concerns with the laboratories, accepting and preparing for the possibility of receiving samples from our Pacific Island friends, improving the UIC System's data, and in the case of **Melvin**, supporting the COVID-19 response efforts in Maui with the Hawaii National Guard
- ◆ **Norris, Jaime, Mark, and Bob**, for communicating adjustments to underground injection control permittees deliverables due to COVID-19, pursuing a better connected UIC System, and continuing efforts to ensure source water protection
- ◆ **Mary, Seila, Megan, Geda, Amy, and Chantyll**, for processing the many telework agreements and keeping our Branch operations running smoothly with new electronic routing processes and ever-changing procedures due to budget and COVID-19 difficulties
- ◆ **SDWB's `Ohanas**, for supporting the work your family member continued to provide to the public during this year of firsts.

We wish the best to Jen, Dan, Ann, and Amy as they reach for the pot of gold at the end of their new rainbows.

In 2021, our SDWB team will work with others in the DOH, EPA, & other agencies to:

- ◆ Endeavor to meet workplans of the Public Water System Supervision Program, Groundwater Protection Program; Source Water Protection Program, Underground Injection Control Program, and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program with reduced general funds
- ◆ Begin the testing of drinking water at certain schools and child care facilities via a contractor through funding from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, Section 2107 and DWSRF 15% Set-Aside
- ◆ Activate the Wellhead Protection Financial Assistance Program using DWSRF 15% Set-Aside funds
- ◆ Maintain our connections with you through COVID-19 Update Memos and calls; please leave us a message or email us
- ◆ Support our systems with circuit rider assistance and upcoming conferences
- ◆ Use the Wiki Wiki Hire process to fill approved vacant engineer positions
- ◆ Monitor issues around the country regarding chemicals of emerging concern and other unfunded mandates
- ◆ Ensure safe drinking water for our public water system communities

Our personal connections encourage us to do the best that we can for each other at work, at home, and at play. Keep our `ohanas and teams safe! Please continue to use your masks correctly, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands while the COVID-19 vaccines are rolled out.

My sincere wishes for you and your `ohanas to have a safe and healthy 2021! See you on MS Teams!

## FAREWELL ANN & DAN

The SDWB bids a fond farewell to two of our esteemed supervisors. Dan Chang, Monitoring Section supervisor and Ann Zane, Compliance Section supervisor, have both retired.

Dan Chang officially retired from the State of Hawaii on October 30 after 34 years of service. The SDWB was lucky to have him for 25 of those years. Dan's productivity made an impact on the successful operation of various programs and projects within the branch. We will all miss Dan's leadership and guidance on those projects. We will also miss his generosity and the smell of his fresh pots of steaming soup permeating through our hallways signaling lunchtime!



Dan Chang

Ann Zane will retire on December 31 after 35 total years of service. Always committed to the mission of providing Hawaii's safe drinking water, Ann started at the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and then transferred over to the SDWB in 1988. She has competently lead the Compliance Section through numerous rules and rule changes, and enforced the regulations with a firm hand and a sweet smile. We will always remember her final delivery, "No further action is needed. The water is safe to drink."



Ann Zane

Thank you, Ann and Dan for your steadfast contributions to the SDWB throughout all these years. We will miss your numerous efforts and will try our best to extend the legacies you have left us with. The SDWB wishes you both the best in the next chapter of your lives! Here's to health and happiness for you and your families. MAHALO NUI LOA! A hui ho.

## WELCOME STEFANIE



On October 16, Stefanie Weaver joined the SDWB Engineering Section as a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund engineer. She hopped over from the Clean Water Branch and before that worked in Oregon. Ultimately, she will work toward her Professional Engineer license, but until then she is focusing on learning as much as she can to support the SDWB. Outside the office, Stefanie likes to hike, rock climb, and play handball. Watch out - she's a three time gold medal winner of the World Handball Championships! Welcome, Stefanie!

# QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **1/8 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **1/8 MRDL Report Due**  
*Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests*
- ◆ **1/8 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab*
- ◆ **1/8 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**  
*Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements*
- ◆ **1/25 Kona DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **1/26 Hilo DSO/WTPO Exam**
- ◆ **1/27 DSO/WTPO Applications Due**  
*April Examinees*
- ◆ **1/27 DSO/WTPO Exam Registrations Due**  
*April Examinees*
- ◆ **2/2-4 Pacific Water Conference**
- ◆ **2/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **2/10 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab*
- ◆ **2/23 Board of Certification Meeting**  
*10:00 am*
- ◆ **3/10 CT Report Due**  
*Surface Water Systems*
- ◆ **3/10 RTCR Report Due**  
*Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab*
- ◆ **3/31 DSO/WTPO Computer-Based Exam Window Closes**

## JANUARY 2021

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

## FEBRUARY 2021

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

## MARCH 2021

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	27 HOLIDAY
28	29	30	31 DSO/WTPO Computer-Based Exam Window Closes			

## DSO/WTPO RENEWALS

For operators whose DSO and/or WTPO certifications expired on 11/30/2020, 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 11/30/2021, you will lose your certification and will need to re-take and pass the exam to become certified again.

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021**  
**10:00 A.M.**

### MEETING

Board of Certification of  
 Public Water System Operators

For virtual meeting link  
 contact  
[jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov)

## DSO/WTPO EXAM ADMINISTRATION

Computer-based exams continue to be administered on Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island during the testing window of October-December. The three-month window was required to accommodate all examinees due to limited seating availability at PSI Test Centers. Through November 14, twenty-four examinees were able to schedule and sit for the exam. From the prior session of computer-based exams, the overall pass rate declined from 42% to 21% for the DSO exam but increased from 31% to 50% for the WTPO exam. Pass rates for specific grade levels are found below.

DSO Exam				WTPO Exam			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate	Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	2	6	33%	1	4	5	80%
2	1	2	50%	2	1	3	33%
3	0	1	0%	3	--	--	--
4	0	5	0%	4	0	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50%</b>

Technical issues are still occurring for many of the exam sessions on the Big Island. Therefore, paper-based exams will be administered for Big Island examinees only for the next session with an SDWB proctor. Thank you to all of those examinees for your patience.

Paper-based exams scheduled for Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai are still on hold due to COVID-19. However, discussions are on-going with the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) to allow for a different method of exam administration on those islands. Once determined, details will be made available to those examinees.

Thank you for your patience as we try to make exam administration available for all Hawaii operators. Please contact Jodi Yamami at [jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov) with any questions.



**HAWAII STATE  
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SAFE DRINKING WATER  
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*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.*



**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor of Hawaii

**ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.**  
Director of Health

**KEITH E. KAWAOKA, D. Env.**  
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SDWB**

