

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER AT SELECTED HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES LINKED TO FAUCET FIXTURES NO LONGER BEING USED WHILE MONITORING CONTINUES

DOE, DOH, DHS PRESS RELEASE 7/22/2021

About 4% of the water samples collected from faucets and drinking fountains at selected Hawai'i public schools and child care facilities show elevated concentrations of lead. Water from those sources are no longer being used while ongoing monitoring and testing is conducted.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Human Services (DHS) launched the first phase of a joint project in February 2021 to test drinking water sources at selected schools and child care facilities for the presence of lead. The project is part of a nationwide program established under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 to test drinking water sources for lead from the faucets of classroom sinks and kitchen sinks as well as drinking fountains in schools and child care centers.

Testing of 58 schools and 70 child care facilities in Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i counties has been completed to date. To date, 93 of the 2,232 sampled taps at schools show elevated concentrations of lead above the project action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Four of the 100 sampled taps at child care facilities had results above the action level. Altogether, about 4% of sampled taps have had results above the action level. Comparable projects on the mainland have had rates of about 5% to 6%. The results are available on the WIIN project website at <https://health.hawaii.gov/wiin/>.

“The schools and child care facilities were notified immediately upon the receipt of the results and those water sources are no longer in use. We would like to assure the community that taps that had elevated levels of lead will not be used for drinking or food preparation until the problem is fixed,” said Michael Miyahira, Acting Branch Chief of DOH's Safe Drinking Water Branch.

Testing on O`ahu began in mid-July and results will be available on a rolling basis.

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LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

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Facilities with lead concentrations that are below the project action level of 15 ppb have also been notified and have been provided strategies to minimize exposure such as daily flushing of the water, using certified lead-free filters, or turning the tap into a hand-wash only station.

Initial results indicate that the fixtures (faucets) are the problem in most cases, but follow-up testing is occurring to define if the problem is the individual fixture or the premise plumbing behind the wall.

“It is important to note that any positive results do not mean there is lead in the water being provided to the school or child care facility from the public water supply departments,” said Michael Miyahira, Acting Branch Chief of DOH’s Safe Drinking Water Branch. “Historically, our regulated water systems in Hawai`i have not had lead contamination and our initial findings continue to support this.”

The DOE is creating a plan for replacement of affected fixtures or evaluation of the plumbing of schools where results showed elevated levels of lead.

“Our keiki are at the highest risk for health effects from lead exposure so this joint effort is important to ensure young students, teachers and parents can have peace of mind knowing their drinking water is safe,” said State Toxicologist Dr. Diana Felton. “Identifying the sites where lead is above the action level is the first step to minimizing children’s exposure to lead. We appreciate the teamwork of DOE, DHS, DOH and our sampling contractor, TruePani Inc., for taking on this massive project to improve the health of Hawai`i’s keiki.”

This current project will test 106 DOE elementary schools and 123 DHS licensed child care facilities, which were selected based on criteria established by the Environmental Protection Agency. An application was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for additional funding to test the remaining 73 DOE elementary schools and 30 public charter schools in phase 2 of the project which is expected to begin in Summer 2022.

The majority of childhood lead exposures in Hawai`i happen in the home, usually from deteriorated lead-based paint, the smelting of lead fishing sinkers, or lead contaminated soil. However, it is possible that repeated drinking of water containing lead can contribute to a child’s lead exposure. More information on childhood lead exposure can be found on the website of the Hawai`i Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HI-CLPPP) <https://lead.hawaii.gov>. Parents who are concerned about lead exposure in their child from any source should talk to their child’s doctor about lead testing.

More information about the WIIN project to test drinking water for lead at schools and child care facilities can be found at <https://health.hawaii.gov/WIIN>.

LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS UNDER THE NEW LEAD & COPPER RULE REVISIONS

The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) better protects children and communities from the risks of lead exposure by better protecting children at schools and childcare facilities, getting the lead out of our nation's drinking water, and empowering communities through information. One of the key improvements to the rule is that, for the first time, testing in schools and childcare facilities will be required.

Although large buildings, such as schools or childcare facilities, are unlikely to be served by lead service lines (LSLs), the complex premise plumbing and irregular water use patterns of these facilities may result in a higher potential for elevated lead levels. Due to the vulnerability of young children (especially under the age of six) to the effects of lead and the long periods of time that children spend in such facilities, the LCRR adds a requirement for Community Water System (CWS) operators to collect water sample from schools and childcare facilities. Within three years of promulgation, CWS operators are required to identify all schools and childcare facilities in the water system's service area and contact them to offer to conduct sampling, within five years of the rule's implementation.

The LCRR requires water systems to sample at least 20% of elementary schools and at least 20% of childcare facilities each year until all facilities are contacted. An elementary school or child care facility may decline to have its taps sampled. The LCRR does not require schools or childcare facilities to sample for lead or require them to allow water systems to conduct sampling. However, a CWS is required to conduct sampling at the request of any school or childcare facility within its service area. Water systems are required to sample at secondary schools upon the request of the school. States may offer waivers to the school and childcare facilities sampling requirements under certain circumstances.

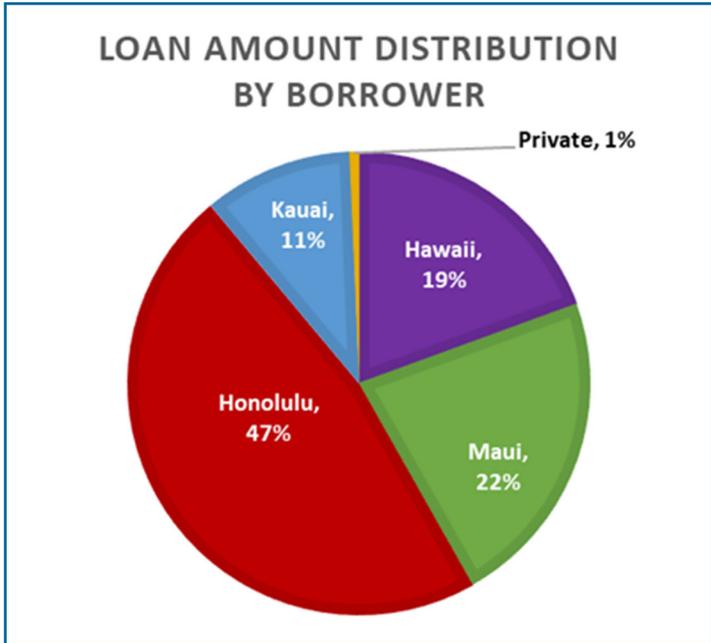
The LCRR requires CWSs to provide public education materials on the health effects of lead to schools and childcare facilities. For each facility sampled, water system operators are required to provide the sampling results to the school or childcare program within 30 days. The LCRR requires the water system to provide school and childcare monitoring results to the state drinking water agency, and local or state health department, as a part of annual reporting.

The State of Hawai'i is conducting its own project to test the drinking water for lead at Hawai'i schools and childcare facilities. As part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016, the EPA granted states money to test drinking water for lead at schools and childcare centers. The project is a collaboration between the Hawai'i State Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services. More information on the project may be found on the webpage:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/WIIN>

DWSRF STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021 REPORT

The Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) is pleased to provide this annual report on the activities of our Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). For SFY 2021, the DWSRF executed loans in the amount of \$29,633,464.32 and disbursed a total of \$33,323,192.09 of which \$30,464,363.37 was for loans and \$2,858,828.72 was for the set-asides and fees.



The DWSRF is a federally-capitalized loan program that provides low interest loans to the four County water departments and other owners of public water systems for their drinking water infrastructure projects. Since 1997, the Hawai'i DWSRF has financed almost \$407 million in drinking water supply projects, such as treat-

ment plants, new drinking water sources, the replacement of aging waterlines, and storage tanks. The resulting public health benefits, water, and energy savings for over 1 million rate paying residents Statewide, coupled with the favorable debt service opportunity for the borrower, 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 and other owners of public water systems that complete construction projects on schedule.

The DWSRF supported the following activities in SFY 2021:

- ◆ The program executed its second DWSRF loan with a privately owned water system, the Kunia Village Title Holding Corp.
- ◆ The last (of eight total) Engineering Services Contract (ESC) consultants have been assigned to a small drinking water system. The first DWSRF loan agreement from the ESC work will be executed by the end of calendar year 2021.

We are pleased that the DWSRF program is continuing to thrive in this “new normal.” Going forward, the DWSRF is looking forward to its continuing support of Hawai'i’s public water systems in improving their infrastructure and providing safe drinking water to our ohana here in the Islands!

DSO AND WTPO EXAMS ADMINISTERED

For the past quarter, computer-based exams were given on O`ahu and Maui where reservation of conference rooms remains unavailable. These exams administered at PSI Test Centers are running more smoothly than they have in the past. Paper-based exams were given on Moloka`i, Kaua`i, Lana`i, and the Big Island.

The passing rate for WTPO exams continues to be higher than normal with the continuation of Hawai`i Rural Water Association (HRWA) WTPO Grades 1 & 2 Exam Review classes for the past year. However, the DSO exam passing rate dropped to low of 29%. Passing rates for each grade level may be found in the tables below. Congratulations to all who passed!

DSO Exam				WTPO Exam			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate	Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
1	3	3	100%	1	-	-	-
2	1	10	10%	2	2	2	100%
3	1	6	17%	3	-	-	-
4	2	5	40%	4	1	2	50%
Total	7	24	29%	Total	3	4	75%

If you wish to re-take the exam, please focus your studying efforts on the lower scoring areas on the individual mastery reports given to you after you took the exam. HRWA will also be providing virtual training for the DSO Grades 1 & 2 and WTPO Grades 1 & 2 in October, prior to the next exam administration. For registration information on those trainings, please visit <https://www.hrwa.net/training.html>. Please also submit your \$70 exam registration fee and form which may be found at the Operator Certification webpage <https://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>.

CERTIFICATION RENEWALS DUE

DSO and/or WTPO certifications expire November 30, 2021 for operators whose last names begin with the letters A-K. Final renewal notices were mailed out in early September. Thank you to those who have already renewed!

Please submit any CEU Requests by October 23, 2021 in time for Board review.

Don't delay in renewing. After December 31, 2021, the renewal fee increases. After November 30, 2022, you will lose your certification and will need to re-take and pass the exam to become certified again.

**DSO & WTPO
RENEWALS
DUE
11/16/2021**

CHLORINE PROFICIENCY TESTING UPDATE

As water system personnel, the measurement of chlorine residual in your system is a key element of your job in providing clean and safe drinking water to your customers. The SDWB recommends that all water system personnel conducting chlorine residual measurements as part of their job participate in training and proficiency testing.

The Department of Health (DOH) will not be conducting any chlorine residual measurement training and proficiency testing until the first quarter of 2022. If you passed the chlorine proficiency test in 2019, your certification will be valid until the next training/test.

In the interim, uncertified water personnel may be trained and tested by a certified co-worker using only an instrument that has passed the chlorine proficiency test. The certified co-worker conducting the interim training/test must feel confident that the uncertified sampler can properly conduct the analysis. The certified co-worker must email the following information to sdwb@doh.hawaii.gov to the attention of the SDWB Monitoring and Analysis Section Supervisor:

1. The certified co-worker's name;
2. Name of personnel being trained or tested;
3. Date the interim training/test was conducted;
4. Test kit/model used; and
5. Procedure used in conducting the interim training/test.

Upon approval, the uncertified sampler will be considered conditionally "On-the-Job-trained" until the next training/test.

If you have questions or concerns regarding chlorine training and testing, please contact Mr. David Kawahara, SDWB Monitoring and Analysis Section Acting Supervisor, at david.kawahara@doh.hawaii.gov or (808) 586-4258.

RCAC

Virtual Training

Coliform Sample Collection

0.2 CEUs October 12

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

0.2 CEUs October 19

Implementing a Cross-Connection Control Program

0.2 CEUs October 21

For more information contact
Helene Takemoto at
HTakemoto@rcac.org

HRWA

Virtual Training

General Overview of Groundwater Principles

0.6 CEUs October 26 & 28

0.6 CEUs November 2 & 4

For more information visit
<https://www.hrwa.net/training.html>

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **10/5-8 DSO 1-2 Exam Review**
- ◆ **10/8 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **10/8 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **10/8 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **10/8 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- ◆ **10/12-15 WTPO 1-2 Exam Review**
- ◆ **10/21 Molokai Exam**
- ◆ **10/22 Kauai Exam**
- ◆ **10/25 DSO & WTPO Applications Due**
January Examinees
- ◆ **10/25 DSO & WTPO Exam Registrations Due**
January Examinees
- ◆ **10/25 Kona Exam**
- ◆ **10/26 Hilo Exam**
- ◆ **11/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **11/10 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **11/16 DSO & WTPO Renewals Due**
Operators whose last names begin with A-K
- ◆ **11/23 Board of Certification Meeting**
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 2021

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

NOVEMBER 2021

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

DECEMBER 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 HOLIDAY	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 HOLIDAY	



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

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawaii

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

KATHLEEN S. HO
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.

**OPERATOR JOB POSTING
HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK - MAUI**

**Utility Systems Repairer Operator
2 certifications required**

**WTPO 1 & DSO 1 - higher grade levels acceptable
Contact James Bouknight at james_bouknight@nps.gov**