

DENNIS LOPEZ SDWB BRANCH CHIEF

The Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) welcomes Gaudencio “Dennis” Lopez as our new Branch Chief. Dennis officially started with the branch on December 16, 2021. However, with the Department of Health in the midst of the critical Navy water system investigation, Dennis jumped into action as a volunteer a week before his start date, an absolute indication of the exemplary leader he will be for the SDWB.



Dennis transferred over from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, but also worked prior to that at the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports Division. Dennis has previous experience in drinking water as he was the primary contact with the SDWB for the Dillingham Airfield public water system. He brings a wealth of diverse knowledge, and we look forward to his fresh perspective of the drinking water field.

Please help us welcome Dennis as he steps on board to lead the SDWB in our mission to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii’s drinking water sources from contamination and assure that owners and operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community.



The DOH and USEPA crew actively works at the incident command center for the Navy Water System Investigation



SDWB members attend the morning “Sync” meeting with the Navy and contractors prior to oversight assignments

NAVY WATER SYSTEM INVESTIGATION

[LINK TO OFFICIAL INFORMATION & FAQs](#)

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2022

In this issue:

Lead & Copper	2	Cross Connection Control	5
Quarterly Calendar	3	HRWA Conference	6
Operator Certification	4	SDWB News	7

LEAD & COPPER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

USEPA has extended the compliance date of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) to October 16, 2024. Although another iteration of the LCRR is in the works, USEPA has made it clear that inventory requirements will remain and states and public water systems (PWS)s should begin to develop their inventories.

All community and non-transient non-community PWSs must each comply with the LCRR requirement to develop an initial inventory “to identify the materials of service lines connected to the public water distribution system.” The inventory must include all service lines connected to the PWS’s distribution system, regardless of ownership status. If the service line ownership is shared, the inventory shall include both the portion of the service line owned by the water system as well as the customer-owned portion of the service line. The system must identify all service lines, regardless of usage of water (e.g., non-potable use such as fire suppression system), and active/emergency status of the service line. The service line could be repurposed in the future for potable, active use. The inventory is used in several parts of the rule, including to determine specific requirements on lead service line replacement, to conduct customer and property owner notification, and to select compliance tap sampling sites. The inventory is then periodically updated as service lines are replaced, new buildings are added to the distribution system, “unknown” service line material is identified, etc. Finding existing information and then organizing that information is essential to developing and maintaining a successful inventory. All community and non-transient non-community PWSs must each comply with the LCRR requirement to develop an initial inventory identifying the materials of service lines connected to the PWS by the compliance date of October 16, 2024.

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, an infrastructure bill that provides \$15 billion for planning, i.e., developing inventories and replacing lead services lines. The significant amount of funding will increase the pressure to show results, i.e., locate and replace large numbers of lead service lines, in a timely manner. This inventory framework will assist in reaching that goal. Inventories will have multiple uses for water systems and states. The focus of this framework is on compliance with the federal inventory requirements, which will be the first step in setting appropriate sample monitoring points and allocating money for lead service line replacement projects. The purpose of this framework is to provide useful and consistent information to primacy agencies, water systems, and consultants to start the development of lead service line inventories while USEPA develops inventory guidance. The intent of this framework is to serve as a prequel for USEPA’s Inventory Guidance and to ensure that everyone is working off the same information when starting inventories.

The SDWB is working with USEPA to provide information to water systems to help in the development of these inventories. The SDWB is encouraging all water systems to begin the process of generating their inventory and to bring any inquiries on LCRR to the attention of Whit Somerall at adam.somerall@doh.hawaii.gov.

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

- ◆ **4/5-8 DSO Exam Review**
- ◆ **4/8 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **4/8 MRDL Report Due**
Disinfection Systems who complete their own tests
- ◆ **4/8 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **4/8 Chemical Quarterly Monitoring Report Due**
Systems with quarterly monitoring requirements
- ◆ **4/11-14 WTPO Exam Review**
- ◆ **4/22 Kauai Exam**
- ◆ **4/25 Kona Exam**
- ◆ **4/26 Molokai Exam**
- ◆ **4/26 Hilo Exam**
- ◆ **4/26 DSO & WTPO Applications Due**
July Examinees
- ◆ **4/26 DSO & WTPO Exam Registrations Due**
July Examinees
- ◆ **5/10 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **5/10 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **5/24 Board of Certification Meeting**
10:00 am
- ◆ **5/25-26 HRWA Conference**
Kona
- ◆ **6/1 Lead & Copper Sample Collection Starts**
Systems on annual or triennial collection schedules
- ◆ **6/9 CT Report Due**
Surface Water Systems
- ◆ **6/9 RTCR Report Due**
Systems whose samples are analyzed outside of the State lab
- ◆ **7/1 CCR Distribution Due**
Community Systems

APRIL 2022

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

MAY 2022

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 Board of Certification Meeting	25 HRWA Conference	26 HRWA Conference	27	28
29	30 HOLIDAY	31				

JUNE 2022

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

DSO AND WTPO EXAMS

For the past two quarters, paper-based exams were given on Moloka'i, Kaua'i, Lana'i, and the Big Island in both Kona and Hilo. Computer-based exam administration continued on O'ahu and Maui where reservations of conference rooms were unavailable. Scheduling exams at PSI Test Centers has become more efficient, however the Maui test center continues to operate only on Saturdays.

The passing rate for WTPO exams remains high with an overall passing rate of 56%. However, the DSO exam passing rate still hovers at a low of 30%. 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	6	13	46%	1	7	9	78%
2	6	15	40%	2	1	3	33%
3	0	4	0%	3	1	1	100%
4	4	14	29%	4	0	3	0%
Total	14	46	30%	Total	9	16	56%

If you wish to re-take the exam, please submit your \$70 exam registration fee and form which may be found at the Operator Certification webpage:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>.

Computer-based exams or Paper-based exams

Email your preference to jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov

RENEWALS

Thank you to all the certified operators who renewed their DSO and/or WTPO certifications on time. Although your certification cycle was affected by the changes in continuing education administration, your flexibility in switching to online learning was greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts in continuing to provide safe drinking water to the community. The SDWB appreciates you! Mahalo nui loa!

MAY 24, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Board of Certification of
Public Water System Operators
Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS

Glenn Ah Yat - James Landgraf
Guy Moriguchi
Mark Prescott - Jodi Yamami

Contact
jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov
for location information



“The hose bibb vacuum breaker may be the most common type of backflow preventer. Hose bibb vacuum breakers can be found at residences, industrial and commercial sites. The device is inexpensive and simple to install and requires no or minimal inspection. Even though it is the smallest of devices, when used properly it can protect the potable water system from possible hazards that may jeopardize the drinking water. Most may overlook a hose bibb vacuum breaker as a backflow preventer. Many may identify a double check valve backflow prevention assembly (DC) or a pressure vacuum breaker assembly (PVB) as examples of backflow preventers. But when someone connects a garden hose to a hose bibb they are extending the end of the water line and the hose bibb vacuum breaker becomes the only protection for the potable water system. Hose

bibb vacuum breakers, which are a type of atmospheric vacuum breaker, are designed to be attached on the discharge side of a hose bibb, which has hose threads. The hose bibb vacuum breaker makes sure that no harmful material is drawn back into the potable water system via backsiphonage, by allowing air into the water line to break the siphoning action which would draw downstream water into the potable water system. A hose bibb vacuum breaker consists of a check valve loaded to the closed position and an air inlet valve loaded to the open position. Water flow into the hose bibb vacuum breaker causes the air inlet valve to close and the check valve to open. When the hose bibb is closed, and the device is not under pressure, the air inlet valve opens allowing air to enter. If the supply pressure drops to sub-atmospheric (i.e., vacuum), air is siphoned through the air inlet ports of the hose bibb vacuum breaker instead of the downstream water in the hose. Although using a hose bibb vacuum breaker may seem simple, it is important to understand how to properly use it. It is designed to protect against backsiphonage and low head backpressure created from a hose raised no more than ten feet above the hose bibb. The hose bibb vacuum breaker cannot be used for more than twelve hours out of a twenty-four hour period. For example, if a control valve (i.e., spray nozzle, etc.) downstream of the hose bibb vacuum breaker was closed, that would keep the hose bibb vacuum breaker under continuous pressure, something which it is not designed for. However, if the hose bibb is shut off with the spray nozzle on the end of the hose, the hose bibb vacuum breaker is designed to open and discharge the pressure in the hose. The only vacuum breakers designed to be under continuous pressure are the pressure vacuum breakers (PVB) and the spill-resistant pressure vacuum breakers (SVB). The USC List of Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies does not include any hose bibb vacuum breakers since the USC Foundation does not maintain

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

standards for this type of product. However, the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) maintains performance standards (ASSE 1011, 1019, 1052) for various types of hose connection vacuum breakers. The Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and International Plumbing Code (IPC) require the use of a non-removeable hose connection vacuum breaker on all outlets with hose attachments (other than water heater drains, boiler drains, and clothes washer connections). Since the hose bibb vacuum breaker may be the most common backflow prevention device it is important to understand how it functions and use it properly. It is very simple to inadvertently submerge a garden hose into a bucket filled of dirty water. Without proper protection at the hose bibb, that water can be siphoned back into the potable water system. Hose bib vacuum breakers are recognized for their effectiveness in preventing backsiphonage at the hose bibb and protecting the potable water system.”



HAWAI'I RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

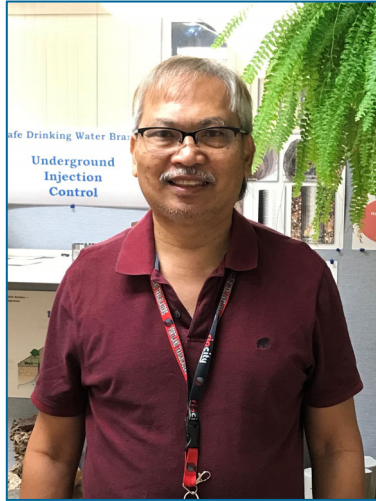
**TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE**

May 25-26, 2022

Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel

Click <https://www.hrwa.net/hrwa-conference.html> to register

FAREWELL JAIME



The SDWB bid a fond farewell to Jaime Rimando, Geologist in the SDWB UIC Section when he retired at the end of 2021. Jaime started with the State in the SDWB in 1992 as one of the original members of the SDWB UIC Program. Prior to that he worked for 12 years in the private industry.

We will miss Jaime’s pleasant disposition even during the most stressful times on the job. His exemplary work ethic helped the UIC Section crunch through numerous permits and approvals. Norris Uehara, Jaime’s colleague, supervisor, and friend, stated, “Jaime is intelligently ‘kolohe’ while being respectful and thoughtful. He has been instrumental in developing the level of respect the UIC Program enjoys with the regulated community.”

Jaime looks forward to relaxing in retirement, something well deserved! Thank you, Jaime for all your contributions to the SDWB. We wish you the best in retirement! Mahalo and a hui ho!

MELVIN TOKUDA MONITORING SECTION SUPERVISOR

On November 2, 2021 Melvin Tokuda was promoted to Supervisor of the SDWB Monitoring Section. He hit the ground running and is ready to tackle all the demands of the position. Melvin may be reached at melvin.tokuda@doh.hawaii.gov for your monitoring inquiries. Congratulations, Melvin!

ALOHA DOUG

On February 18, 2022 the SDWB bid farewell to Doug Nguyen, our IT Specialist of 10 years. Unknown to many of our drinking water system personnel, Doug was critical in orchestrating the uploads and migration of drinking water data for compliance purposes, not to mention the endless tasks involving our computer issues.

He joins the Office of Medical Cannabis Control & Regulation within the Department of Health with his new office being much closer to home.

Doug said since “farewell” is such a sad word, he will leave his IT aura to hover over us in the SDWB building, Uluakupu. Mahalo and good luck to you, Doug!



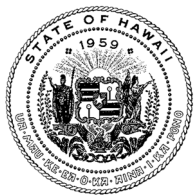


**HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER
BRANCH**

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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.

HELLO FROM THE SDWB STAFF

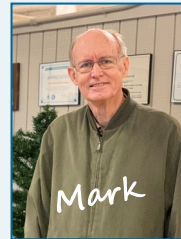
Jammie



Dennis



Joan



Mark

David



Geda Megan Chantyll



Mike Joanna



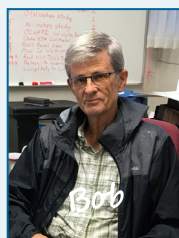
Wang Jodi



Melvin



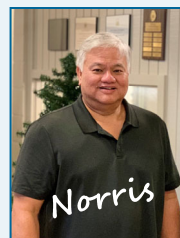
Seila Mary



Bob



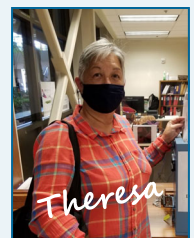
Stefanie



Norris



Whit



Theresa