

State of Hawaii  
Public Water System Operator Certification  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Exam Requirements Questions

**Q1. Where can I get an examination registration form?**

- A. The exam registration form is available to download on the Safe Drinking Water Branch website.  
<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>

**Q2. When are exam registration forms due?**

- A. Exam registration forms are due three months prior to the exam date. A listing of exam dates can be found on the Safe Drinking Water Branch website.  
<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>

**Q3. When and where are examinations offered?**

- A. Exams are usually given on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island, Kona & Hilo on or around the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Both DSO and WTPO exams are offered, however, only one exam can be taken per session. A listing of exam dates can be found on the Safe Drinking Water Branch website.  
<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>

**Q4. How do I prepare for the examinations?**

- A. Exam information can be found on the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) website.  
<https://www.gowpi.org/services/abc-testing/examination-resources/>  
Reference material listings and the ABC Formula/Conversion Table can be found there. Most reference material listed on the ABC website can also be borrowed from the Operator Library. Please contact 808-586-4258 for borrowing instructions. The ABC Formula/Conversion Table will be supplied during the examination. Therefore, it is recommended that the examinee become familiar with the table.

**Q5. How long are the examinations?**

- A. 3 hours for 110 multiple choice questions.

**Q6. How many times can I take an examination?**

- A. There is no limit to the number of times an examination is taken as long as the exam registration form and fee are submitted.

**Q7. How much does it cost to take an examination?**

- A. The examination fee is \$70 if you have been approved by the Board. Payment should be in the form of money order, cashier's check, or company check made payable to the State of Hawaii.

**Q8. When will I know if I have passed the examination or not?**

- A. The Board reviews the examination scores at the meeting subsequent to the examination. All examinees will be notified by letter after the Board meeting as to whether they passed or failed the examination. A listing of exam dates and Board meeting dates can be found on the Safe Drinking Water Branch website.  
<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>