



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH
ULUAKUPU BUILDING 4
2385 WAIMANO HOME ROAD, SUITE 110
PEARL CITY, HI 96782-1400**

In reply, please refer to:
File: SDWB

Minutes 2-25-2026

**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

DATE: February 25, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ian Ichimura (1st term expires 6/30/28)
Zhaohui Wang (1st term expires 6/30/28)
Will Whaley (1st term expires 6/30/28)

A. Call to Order

- The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

B. Old Business

- The Board unanimously approved the November 24, 2025 meeting minutes.

C. New Business

- DSO Certification Applications

The Board unanimously approved the following applications for certification:

	Name	Grade Requested	Grade Approved
1	Dumlao-Ranis, Jaeden	1	1
2	Florendo, Tayven	1	1
3	Johnston, Kenneth	1	1
4	Manoske, Robert	1	1
5	Nehl, Jacob	1	1
6	Sauta, Roy	1	1
7	Ihara-Takase, Colby	2	2

8	Mielke-Suizu, Taylor	2	2
9	Laanui, Lesli	4	4
10	Townsend, Thomas	2 Reciprocity	1 Reciprocity 2 Examination
11	Fulks, Geoff	4 Reciprocity	4 Reciprocity

For detailed information, please refer to Attachment 1.

- WTPO Certification Applications

The Board unanimously approved the following applications for certification:

	Name	Grade Requested	Grade Approved
1	Mancao-Kanekoa, Kayza	1	1
2	Manoske, Robert	1	1
3	O'Shaughnessy, Riley	1	1
4	Fulks, Geoff	3 Reciprocity	2 Reciprocity

For detailed information, please refer to Attachment 2.

- CEU Requests

The Board unanimously approved the following CEU requests:

	Course	Date	Sponsor	CEUs Approved
1	2025 HRWA Training & Technical Conference	11/18-20/25	HRWA	6 additional sessions @ 0.075 each
2	Water Quality in the Distribution System	12/11/25	EFCN	0.1
3	Addressing Natural Hazards in Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans	1/22/26	US EPA	0.1
4	2026 Virtual Operator Conference	2/3-5/26	Illinois State Water & RCAP	1.2

5	S Series Metering Pumps	2/9/26	Core & Main	0.1
6	Review of Basic Operator Math	2/10/26	CSUS	0.4
7	Asset Management for Drinking Water Operators	2/10/26	EFC New Mexico	0.4
8	Cybersecurity Pre-Con	2/10/26	US EPA	0.65
9	Insider Threat Mitigation Webinar for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems	3/5/26	US EPA	0.1
10	Jumpstarting Your Water Utility's Cybersecurity Maturity	5/7/26	AWWA Hi	0.65
11	Groundwater Week 2025	12/9-11/25	NGWA	0.3

For detailed information, please refer to Attachment 3.

- DSO Certification Exam Results

The Board was notified of the following results of the DSO certification exam. Thirteen (13) out of twenty-four (24) operators passed for an overall passing rate of 54%.

	Examinee	Grade	Certification
1	Baldogo-Saguibo, Kaniaia	1	D1-598
2	Bueno, Wayne	1	D1-603
3	Dela Cruz, Keely	1	None
4	Dizon, Kamuela	1	None
5	Dye, Matthew	1	D1-599
6	Fauatea, Ryan	1	D1-602
7	Fung, Kyton	1	None
8	Greenleaf, Ricky	1	D1-601
9	Haleamau, Thomas	1	D1-600
10	Mitobe, Christopher	1	D1-597
11	Peahi, Jayden	1	None
12	Tehiva, Lawaia	1	None
13	Uyehara, Gabrielle	1	D1-596
14	Burdett, Brydon	2	D2-352
15	Metcalf, Christopher	2	D2-350
16	Neizman, Davis	2	D2-351

17	Sanches, Ricky	2	None
18	Sanchez, Brian	2	None
19	Tabangcura, Wilfred	2	None
20	Arellano, Thomas	3	D3-176
21	Fukamizu, Alan	3	D3-177
22	Malicki, Braiden	3	None
23	Weber, Daniel	3	None
24	Inouye, Alvin	4	None

DSO Exam Results			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
DSO 1	8	13	62%
DSO 2	3	6	50%
DSO 3	2	4	50%
DSO 4	0	1	0%
Total	13	24	54%

- WTPO Certification Exam Results

The Board was notified of the following results of the WTPO certification exam. Six (6) out of thirteen (13) operators passed for an overall passing rate of 46%.

	Examinee	Grade	Certification
1	Castillo, Andrei	1	None
2	Echallas, Roland	1	None
3	Pakani, Matthew	1	None
4	Peahi, Javen	1	None
5	Swoveland, William	1	T1-298
6	Basilio, Brandon	2	None
7	Kaina, Anthony	2	None
8	Matsu, Lindo	2	T2-259
9	Oducado, Justin	2	T2-260
10	Wong, Lucan	2	None
11	Blackwelder, Donald	4	T4-148

12	Kranchick, Ronald	4	T4-149
13	Mukai, Miki	4	T4-147

WTPO Exam Results			
Grade	Passed	Examinees	Passing Rate
WTPO 1	1	5	20%
WTPO 2	2	5	40%
WTPO 3	-	-	
WTPO 4	3	3	100%
Total	6	13	46%

D. Announcements

- The next board meeting will be scheduled for May 27, 2026.

E. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodi Yamami
FOR Board of Certification of
Public Water System Operators

JY:sw

- c: Anna Yen, U.S. EPA Region IX [via yen.anna@epa.gov only]
James Landgraf, Board Member [via jlandgraf@hawaiiantel.net only]
Ian Ichimura, Board Member [via ian.ichimura@puralwater.com only]
Zhaohui Wang, Board Member [via zhaohui.wang@doh.hawaii.gov only]
William Whaley, Board Member [via pukaheadplumbing@yahoo.com only]

ATTACHMENT 1
DSO DECISIONS
2-25-2026

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Dumlao-Ranis, Jaeden K. Grade 1
237 Lanai City
Supervisor Aaron Bruce
Apprentice
1 yr | Read meters, repair water leaks, inventory parts, and clean sites | Approve Grade 1 |
| 2 | Florendo, Tayven K. Grade 1
239 Kalaupapa
Supervisor Matthew Padgett
Maintenance Worker
5 yrs | Daily and monthly water meter readings, daily residual, help with monthly bac-t test, help with repair of broken water main, backflows, CCR, ground water report, flushing hydrants at dead ends, and exercise valves | Approve Grade 1 |
| 3 | Johnston, Kenneth Grade 1
331 Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor
Supervisor Bert Kawamura
Water Treatment Worker
2 yrs | Learn to operate and maintain water systems which involves monitoring water quality, running equipment, and performing basic lab tests, test for chlorine residual at EPD locations across the water system, minor repair to the chlorinator systems, handling chemicals for the day and holding tanks, and recording information, reports include chlorine residual and basic pump and motor information based on gauges and located within the pumping stations in coordination with the remote control center, basic maintenance of chemical pumps and assisting with repairs and maintenance of water pumps and motors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTPO 1 certified | Approve Grade 1 |
| 4 | Manoske, Robert K. Grade 1
135 Hawaii Water Service
Supervisor John Kainoa
Utility Worker
1 yr | Take daily readings of PRV pressure and flow rate, tank levels and chlorine residuals, adjust flow rate into storage tanks to maintain desired level, monitor sodium hypochlorite injection system to maintain tank residual, repair cla-valve PRVs, test customer water meters and replace when broken, flush fire hydrants annually and record chlorine residual before and after flush, repair broken fire hydrants and air relief valves, inspect storage tanks monthly, respond to customer calls and provide pressure testing when needed | Approve Grade 1 |
| 5 | Nehl, Jacob D. Grade 1
360 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Supervisor Alfred Paulino
Industrial Equipment Mechanic
1 yr/4 mos | Monitor and control chloride and fluoride injection levels for Navy freshwater systems, ensure all pump stations are well maintained and operate at full capacity, check on equipment and piping systems for issues or defects that could hinder their daily performance | Approve Grade 1 |
| 6 | Sauta, Roy Grade 1
345 Schofield Barracks
Supervisor Kaipo Fukumoto
Water Treatment Plant Mechanic
1 yr/1 mo | Inspect, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair mechanical equipment, service pumps motors, valves, blowers, compressors, generators, and related mechanical systems, replace bearings, seals, belts, couplings, and worn mechanical components, perform lubrication, alignment and vibration checks, assist with startup, shutdown, and operational adjustments | Approve Grade 1 |

ATTACHMENT 1
DSO DECISIONS
2-25-2026

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 7 | Ihara-Takase, Colby M.K. Grade 2
423 Kealia
Supervisor Ann Sokei
Water Operator
3 yrs | Approve Grade 2
Routine checks of well pumps/tank, record chlorine residuals, trending pump times and run totals to determine proper operation, hydrant and valve maintenance, flushing, troubleshooting and responding in a timely manner, inspect and maintain equipment to ensure reliability & longevity, routing water quality monitoring, sampling, documentation and maintaining proper chlorine residual <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DSO 1 and WTPO 2 certified |
| 8 | Mielke-Suizu, Taylor V. Grade 2
428 Princeville
Supervisor Brad Suizu
Regulatory Compliance Officer
5 yrs | Approve Grade 2
Responsible for lead and copper water inventory, backflow prevention inventory, damaged meter inventory, chlorine testing DPD, ArcGIS map, meter prep, meter change outs, meter reads, sanitary surveys, ERP, water quality reports, SCADA, report to leaks, flush hydrants, pack & ship samples <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DSO 1 certified |
| 9 | Laanui, Lesli J. Grade 4
331 Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor
Supervisor Kirk Iwamoto
Chemist
11 yrs | Approve Grade 4
Collect samples from groundwater sources including wells, shafts, and tunnels, collect samples from customer homes for lead and copper rule, investigate customer concerns, completed chain of custody for compliance samples, analyzed samples for water quality characteristics such as chloride concentration, alkalinity, and hardness, operate ion chromatography system to measure nitrate, performed field measurements of pH and turbidity related to NPDES permits at GAC sites, update standard operating procedures for pH, turbidity, ion chromatography and metals analysis |

ATTACHMENT 1
DSO DECISIONS
2-25-2026

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 10 | Townsend, Thomas C. Grade 2 Reciprocity
Town of Locke
Supervisor Karynn Kilts
Responsible Operator in Charge
2 yrs/11 mos | Approve Grade 1 Reciprocity, Grade 2 Examination
Ensure compliance with state and federal water quality standards, oversee water distribution system maintenance including hydrant flushing, meter installation and reading, leak detection exercising of water main valves, emergency and non-emergency water system repairs, maintain record of equipment logs, maintain schedules, water testing data

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York Water System Operator D #NY0042484 expires 1/31/2027 • New York Water System Operator D is the only distribution certification • New York Water System Operator D requires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High school diploma ○ 1 year of operational experience ○ Specific course training ○ Passing of a Grade D exam • New York writes their own exams • Recommend Hawaii DSO 1 reciprocity to match New York's 1-year experience requirement and Hawaii DSO 2 via examination based on applicant's 2+ years of distribution system operational experience |
| 11 | Fulks, Geoff M. Grade 4 Reciprocity
California Water Service
Supervisor Agustin Baez
Utility Worker
3 yrs | Approve Grade 4 Reciprocity
Repair water mains, services, monitor reservoir levels and distribution system residuals, respond to customer service orders, repair fire hydrants, operate potable wells and associated well-head treatment systems, take samples |
| | California Water Service
Supervisor Evan Markey
Utility Worker
2 yrs/11 mos | Repair water mains, monitor reservoir levels and distribution system respond to service orders, repair fire hydrants, take samples, make changes as required on SCADA, check dosing units, repair service lines and replace meters

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Water Distribution Operator Grade D5 #36455 expires 9/1/2027 • California Water Distribution Operator Grade D5 is the highest distribution category out of 5 levels • California Water Distribution Operator Grade D5 requires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High school diploma ○ Passing of D5 exam ○ 5 years of qualified experience ○ Specific specialized training completion • California writes their own exams |

ATTACHMENT 2
WTPO DECISIONS
2-25-2026

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|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Mancao-Kanekoa, Kayza A.F. Grade 1
135 Hawaii Water Service
Chlorination
Supervisor Gary Shiroyama
Operator
3 yrs/2 mos | Approve Grade 1
Take chlorine residual sample where we want our residual to be around 0.5 mg/L on our outs of tanks, make adjustments with chlorine if we need to up or down, maintenance on chlorine diaphragm pumps like changing out hoses and check valves, flush systems to prevent chlorine from clogging at out regulator diaphragm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DSO 1 certified |
| 2 | Manoske, Robert K. Grade 1
135 Hawaii Water Service
Chlorination
Supervisor John Kainoa
Utility Worker
1 yr | Approve Grade 1
Maintain chemical feed system for storage tanks, ensure metering pump is running at the correct speed and stroke percent and that sodium hypochlorite barrels are switched out and combined, operate chemical feed to maintain a desired residual of our storage tanks between 0.4 and 0.6, repair sodium hypochlorite valves metering pump system and injector as needed |
| 3 | O'Shaughnessy, Riley T. Grade 1
345 Schofield Barracks
Chlorination, Fluoridation
Supervisor Kaipo Fukumoto
Operator
6 mos | Approve Grade 1
Inspect, monitor, maintain and repair water treatment systems: chlorination, fluoridation, air stripping, visual inspections, quality control checklists for water quality, annotate documentation and report, test and corrective actions for compliance mandates |
| | Quartermaster Corps
RO
Supervisor Jordan Broiles
Water Treatment Specialist
3 yrs | Operate Tactical Water Purification System, Lightweight Water Purifies, and Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit, raw and product water quality analysis, maintain and transport equipment |

ATTACHMENT 2
WTPO DECISIONS
2-25-2026

4 **Fulks, Geoff M. Grade 3 Reciprocity**

Approve Grade 2 Reciprocity

California Water Service
Chlorination, RO
Supervisor Agustin Baezc
Utility Worker
3 yrs

Operate and maintain chlorine, ammonia, and other chemical dosing pumps, operate reverse osmosis plant, clean membranes, perform maintenance on cartridge filters, maintain degasser system, adjust pH control system, conductivity/TDS, collect samples on permeate and concentrate, operate plant on SCADA and respond to alarms

California Water Service
GAC
Supervisor Rafael Molina
Utility Worker
3 yrs/8 mos

Install over 100 GAC vessels for VOC and PFAS removal, trained teams on maintenance and operating procedures such as backwashing and GAC removal, managed surface water treatment plants utilizing membranes, operate membrane skids and monitored trans membrane pressure, flux and recovery rates

- California Water Treatment Operator Grade T3 # 31181 expires 6/1/2029
- California Water Treatment Operator Grade T3 is the middle out of 5 water treatment certifications
- California Water Treatment Operator Grade T3 requires
 - High school diploma
 - Passing of T3 exam
 - 2 years of qualified experience
 - Specific specialized training completion
- California writes their own exams
- Recommend Hawaii WTPO 2 reciprocity based on RO experience and California 2-year experience requirement

ATTACHMENT 3
CEU DECISIONS
2-25-2026

Hawaii Courses

- 1 2025 HRWA Training & Technical Conference**
11/18-20/2025 0.75 contact hour sessions:
HRWA
6 additional sessions at 0.75 Contact Hours for 0.075 CEUs each

 - EPA Drinking Water Regulatory Update
 - Defeat the 7 Enemies that Interrupt Your Water Operations
 - Field Test Kit Care & Construction
 - Hawaii Energy – Money for Energy Efficiency
 - Proper Repair of a Backflow Prevention Assembly
 - Hawaii Energy – Support for Water Sector with a Focus on Department of Water Supply's Leak Detection System
- 2 Water Quality in the Distribution System**
12/11/2025 This webinar explores the key practices and concepts needed to maintain water quality in drinking water distribution systems.
EFCN
1.0 Contact Hour
0.1 CEUs
- 3 Addressing Natural Hazards in Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plans**
1/22/2026 This webinar will focus on natural hazards, highlighting useful data sources and free technical assistance from EPA's Strengthening Water Infrastructure for Tomorrow initiative to help drinking water utilities address natural hazards in their RRAs and ERPs.
US EPA
1.0 Contact Hour
0.1 CEUs
- 4 2026 Virtual Operator Conference**
2/3-5/2026 Topics:
Illinois State Water Survey and RCAP
12.0 Contact Hours
1.2 CEUs

 - History of Water Regulations
 - Small System Water Treatment
 - Fundamentals of Drinking Water Distribution
 - Disinfection Byproducts
 - Asset Management Plans
 - Asset Management Framework
 - Asset Management that Water Operators Use
 - Hydrant Assessments for Asset Management
 - GIS and Water System Maintenance
 - Digital Transformation for Operations & Maintenance Task Using GIS
 - Corrosion Control and Cathodic Protection
 - Drones
- 5 S Series Metering Pumps**
2/9/2026 Topics:
Core & Main
1.0 Contact Hours
0.1 CEUs

 - Review of S Series Pump
 - Outputs
 - Modes of operation
 - Relays
 - Simple Programming of the S Series

ATTACHMENT 3
CEU DECISIONS
2-25-2026

6 Review of Basic Operator Math

2/10/2026

CSUS

4.0 Contact Hours

0.4 CEUs

Topics:

- Review of Basic Math Skills
- Units and Unit Conversions
- Common Water Operator Calculations

7 Asset Management for Drinking Water Operators

2/10/2026

EFC New Mexico

4.0 Contact Hours

0.4 CEUs

Topics:

- Introduction to Asset Management
- Current State of the Assets
- Criticality
- Life Cycle costing
- Getting Started

8 Cybersecurity Pre-Con

2/10/2026

US EPA

6.5 Contact Hours

0.65 CEUs

Topics:

- Cybersecurity Threats
- Cybersecurity Resources
- Cybersecurity Tools
- Tabletop Exercise
- Incident Response Plan

9 Insider Threat Mitigation Webinar for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

3/5/26

US EPA

1.0 Contact Hours

0.1 CEUs

Topics:

- Definition and Explanation of Insider Threat
- Consequences and Examples of Insider Threat
- Insider Threat Progression and Warning Signs
- Basics of Insider Threat Mitigation Program Development

10 Jumpstarting Your Water Utility's Cybersecurity Maturity

5/7/2026

AWWA Hi

6.5 Contact Hours

0.65 CEUs

Topics:

- Background and Threat Landscape
- Getting Started on "The First Mile" – Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- Assessing Vulnerabilities and Developing a Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan
- MDWS Cybersecurity Program

Mainland Courses

11 Groundwater Week 2025

12/9-11/2025

NGWA

Louisiana

3.0 Contact Hours

0.3 CEUs

Topics:

- Pump Column – Available Steel Types & Connections
- Innovations & Support in Water Systems: Navigating the VFD Market
- Guidelines for Successful Water Well Maintenance