

WATER MATTERS

Safe, dependable, and affordable water now and into the future



Board of Water Supply
City and County of Honolulu

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Storing Water for Emergencies

On May 26, 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Central Pacific Hurricane Center announced that climate conditions indicate an active hurricane season for Hawaii and the Central Pacific Basin this year. Their forecast indicates a 70% chance of an above-normal season and urges residents to be prepared for the hurricane season, which begins June 1, 2015.



Natural disasters, power outages, blackouts, or other unexpected events can disrupt the ability of the Board of Water Supply (BWS) to provide water service to the community. If everyone uses water wisely during the pre-emergency phase, the BWS's storage tanks and reservoirs will be better able to meet the essential demands of the

community. The BWS also encourages our island residents to be prepared and plan in advance for a water emergency.

Emergency preparedness kits should include at least one gallon of water stored, per person, per day for at least five to seven days, for drinking and sanitation purposes.

Oahu has among the best drinking water in the world. You can safely store tap water from your home for emergencies. More emergency preparedness information, including a step-by-step video demonstrating how to store drinking water, is available at www.boardofwatersupply.com, click on the Community tab, then select Emergency Preparedness or call us at (808) 748-5041.

Red Hill Fuel Leaks Threaten Honolulu Groundwater Aquifer

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is committed to protecting our groundwater aquifers and takes seriously anything that could impact its ability to provide quality drinking water in sufficient quantities to meet Oahu's needs.

In January 2014, the U.S. Navy reported a 27,000-gallon leak of jet fuel from Tank 5 at its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The Navy owns 20 fuel tanks in the Red Hill area, each able to contain up to 12.5 million gallons of fuel. These tanks are located 100 feet above the groundwater aquifer—100 feet is the height of the State Capitol. This aquifer is also the same one that BWS uses to provide water to residents from Moanalua to Hawaii Kai.

The BWS is testing its wells in the area and wants to assure our customers that our water is safe to drink. However, Navy studies show the groundwater underneath the tanks is already contaminated with fuel. These studies also document leaks from the tanks dating back to 1947, the fuel tanks are wearing from corrosion, and the risk of a large catastrophic fuel release. If such a release occurred, it could pollute the aquifer and our water supply for many years. These findings describe a situation that poses a serious threat to BWS wells and the aquifer's long-term ability to provide safe drinking water.

The BWS has also been working to obtain more information

about the facility, staying in contact with the State Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency, conducting our own groundwater studies, and doing everything we can to urge the Navy to 1) double line the tanks; 2) install advanced leak detection and tank corrosion protection; and 3) clean up the fuel that is already underneath the tanks so that the contamination does not reach our wells.

For more information and to find out how to join the BWS in its efforts to protect our groundwater and the environment, visit, www.boardofwatersupply.com and click on the Community tab, then select Red Hill.



Rate Increase Reminder

To support our commitment to provide a safe and dependable water supply for our community, the fifth installment of the multi-year approved water rate increase will take effect July 1, 2015. Customers will receive an insert with their bill that further explains the scheduled increase.

The new rate schedule was approved in 2011 and took effect in 2012 to keep Oahu's water infrastructure and treatment systems operating properly. Additionally, the cost for day-to-day operation of the Board of Water Supply (BWS) system



continues to rise due to materials, labor, and other expenses. If you would like more information about BWS and water rates, please visit www.boardofwatersupply.com.

BWS Droplets

Effective March 2, 2015, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) no longer accepts JCB card payments.

If you suspect illegal access to parts of the BWS water system, such as fire hydrants, backflow preventers, or notice signs of water theft, call the Honolulu Police Department at 9-1-1 and the BWS at (808) 748-5041 to file an additional report.

Did You Know? There is a BWS rule, enacted in 1992, that prohibits automatic serving of water to customers at Oahu restaurants. Restaurateurs are asked to please kokua by reminding your wait staff and patrons of this water conservation effort.

Conservation Messages Reduce Water Waste

Summer is fast approaching and the need for cooling water will be on the rise. During the months of May through July, the Board of Water Supply (BWS), Maui and Kauai county water departments, will run the long-standing television public service announcements that remind the public to responsibly use the water they need, but not to waste. In August and September, new television public service announcements promoting conservation will appear on Oahu television stations.



To watch Water Conservation television public service announcements, visit www.boardofwatersupply.com and click on the Community tab, then select Public Service Announcements.

The BWS sponsored a category in the Olelo Youth Xchange Video Competition, a statewide contest that encouraged students to use animated clips and/or video to share their thoughts on important community issues. To see the winning videos from the BWS's category, "The Value of Water," visit www.olelo.org/yxc/

Winners of the BWS's 2015 Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contests were announced at a special awards ceremony in April 2015. Mahalo to the thousands of students who participated! Check out winning posters and poems online at www.boardofwatersupply.com or check out our traveling display at the following locations:

- Windward Mall - June 15 to June 25
- BWS Public Service Building Lobby - June 29 to August 14

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY & FRIENDS OF HĀLAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN PRESENT

HĀLAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN'S 27th Annual Open House & Unthirsty Plant Sale

GUIDED GARDEN TOURS
PLANT DOCTORS
KEIKI ACTIVITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL BOOTHS & CRAFTS
COMPOST GIVEAWAY
(while supplies last - 1 bag per person)

Agave

Saturday August 1, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

XERISCAPE WORKSHOPS
Aquaponics • Bokashi • Butterfly Garden Design
Companion Planting • Edible Garden Revolution
Succulent Care • Xeriscape 101

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF HAWAII SHOW

Hālawā Xeriscape Garden
99-1268 Iwaena Street
Parking on Iwaena and 'Iwa'Iwa Streets
FREE SHUTTLES

Coral Plant

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.boardofwatersupply.com or 748-5041