

WATER MATTERS

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

Volume 12 – Issue 1 Spring /Summer 2025

Water Wisdom Program Helps Multi-Family Residential Customers Reduce Water Usage

As O'ahu enters the summer months, data collected from rain gauges in watershed areas since December 2024 reflects lower-than-normal rainfall on our island home.

This results in less recharge of O'ahu's aquifers and less available water supply to carry our residents and businesses through the warm summer months, so we all need to be water-efficient where possible.

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is reaching out to all O'ahu water users to promote and support water conservation efforts.

This includes people who are not its direct customers – they use water but do not receive a water bill from the BWS -- such as those living in multi-family residential buildings, apartments, condominiums, or townhome communities.

Most units are not individually metered and many multi-family residential users may never see a water bill, as they pay for their usage as a part of their monthly rent or maintenance fee.

So they may not be aware of how much water they use as a unit or as part of a larger association or community.

The BWS is working to educate and encourage this hard-to-reach group of water users about the importance of conserving this precious resource through the Water Wisdom Program, available online at boardofwatersupply.com/waterwisdom.

Water Wisdom offers help to property and resident managers through an online guide that provides access to a free online tool to track a property's water use, tips to achieve greater water efficiency, and flyers to print and post in common areas with specific tips for residential units.

There is also a how-to video on conducting a home water audit to check if plumbing fixtures meet low-flow standards and if a property has leaks.

Additionally, there are links to additional online resources to repair some of the more common types of leaks.



For more information about Water Wisdom, call (808) 748-5041 or email ContactUs@hbws.org.





Stay Up-to-Date on Large Main Breaks with HNLAlert

Whenever there is a main break, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) uses various means to keep residents informed about alternate water sources, road closures, and other important details.

Efforts include a map on its homepage and main break page at

boardofwatersupply.com and posts on its Facebook and Nextdoor social media accounts.

When a main break has a large public impact, the BWS also uses X and the city's notification system.

Recently, the city converted to the HNLAlert notification system.

Like the previous HNL.info system, HNLAlert allows the city and the BWS to inform subscribers about situations and events that affect O'ahu citizens. It also allows subscribers to choose the types of notices they wish to receive.

To receive these alerts:

- · Go to **hnlalert.gov** or download the "Public Safety by Everbridge" app.
- · Create an account.
- · On the Home page, in "My Profile," choose how you want to receive alerts via text, email, or app.
- $\cdot\,\,$ In "My Subscriptions," choose the types of alerts you will get.



To receive only urgent alerts regarding severe weather, evacuation, and other safety issues, text "HNLALERT" to 888777. No registration required.

Visit **hnlalert.gov** and sign up to stay "in the know" about large main breaks, road closures, and other city emergencies.

Out with the Old, In with the Water Savings





Older toilets use anywhere from 3.5 to 7+ gallons per flush (GPF), while EPA WaterSense toilets use a maximum of 1.28 GPF.

If you are still using a toilet that was made before 1992, or if you're frequently fixing leaks or clogs, it's time to invest in a new toilet.

Replacing your old toilet with an EPA WaterSense model could save you up to 13,000 gallons of water per year.

Toilets with an EPA WaterSense label utilize innovative flushing mechanisms and optimized bowl designs, so you won't have to sacrifice performance, but you'll save on water bills for years to come.

The Water Sensible Program offers a \$100 rebate on EPA WaterSense toilets. Learn more at boardofwatersupply.com/watersensible.

Happy saving!







TROUBLE CALL: (808) 748-5000 Customer Service: (808) 748-5000, ext. 5 Billing & Payment: (808) 748-5000, ext. 2



