



# WATER MATTERS

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

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## Watershed Management Plans Help Protect Our Island Water Supply for the Future

Watersheds capture rain to replenish aquifers and streams. Keeping them healthy is essential to ensure O’ahu’s water supply is sustainable as our climate changes. Watersheds extend from mountain ridges to coral reefs and encompass conservation, agricultural, and urban lands, and nearshore waters.

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has been working with a wide range of stakeholders across the island to develop eight holistic, community-based watershed management plans (WMPs), for each of O’ahu’s land use districts.

The plan approach utilizes the Hawaiian Ahupua’a concept that recognizes the interconnections of ‘āina and wai, from mauka to makai.

For example, improving the quality of Maunalua Bay requires a robust set of integrated management and cultural restoration projects and strategies of mauka lands.

Each environmentally holistic WMP provides a balance between: 1) the

preservation, restoration, and management of O’ahu’s watersheds; and 2) sustainable groundwater and surface water use and development to serve present users and future generations.

Along with the plan goal are five plan objectives that apply to all WMPs. Promoting sustainable watersheds; protecting water quality and quantity; protecting native Hawaiian rights; promoting public participation, education and project implementation; and meeting water demands at reasonable costs.

Each plan contains an islandwide overview and region-specific short-, mid-, and long-term recommendations for One Water watershed management, new diversified water sources, conservation efficiencies, water infrastructure improvements, stormwater management, and climate and drought resilience to promote sustainable watersheds and use of that region’s ground and surface water resources to meet future water demand consistent with City land-use plans.



The WMPs also includes agency and community based projects and strategies involving lo’i kalo, fishponds and cultural sites restoration, cesspool conversion, sea level rise adaptation, wildfire mitigation, water resource education programs for schools, and BWS partnerships and collaboration efforts with agencies, large landowners, and the community.

After each WMP is completed, it undergoes numerous public hearings and adoption by

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## NEW Online Portal Makes it Easier to Apply for BWS Rebates

**SAVE WATER INSIDE AND OUT**

**WaterSensible**

- \$40 REBATE** Rain barrel
- \$100 REBATE** Toilet
- \$75 REBATE** Clothes washer
- UP TO \$100 REBATE** Weather-based irrigation controller
- 50% OFF UP TO \$200 REBATE** Smart water monitor

**HURRY! Offer ends Dec. 31, 2024.**

Save water inside and out by installing water-saving products in your home!

You’ll reduce your future water bills and help protect O’ahu’s precious water.

The Board of Water Supply’s Water Sensible Program offers rebates on water-efficient clothes washers, toilets, rain barrels, smart water monitors and smart irrigation controllers.

**Learn more and apply online with our NEW online rebate portal at [boardwatersupply.com/watersensible](http://boardwatersupply.com/watersensible).**

# Help Make Our Island More Water-Resilient

## Apply for a FREE rain barrel, rain garden, or tree, plus installation

Help make O‘ahu more earth-friendly, cleaner, and water-resilient by applying for a FREE rainwater capture solution (also known as Green Stormwater Infrastructure) for your property.

Rainwater capture solutions either capture or store rainwater onsite - such as a rain barrel - or allow rainwater to soak into the soil and replenish our aquifer - such as a rain garden.

Capturing and using rainwater benefits our island home in these ways:

- Preserves our precious groundwater supply.
- Reduces energy use, as less potable water is pumped through the water distribution system.

- Reduces stormwater runoff that can cause flooding and erosion, and pollution in streams and the ocean.
- Lowers everyday expenses. Rainwater is free.

This new pilot incentive program, led by the City and County of Honolulu and Mālama Maunaloa, allows O‘ahu residents to apply to get a free rain barrel, rain garden, or tree installed on their property.

Application period open: January 6, 2025  
Application submission deadline: March 31, 2025

Learn more and access the application at [www.rainwaterhawaii.com](http://www.rainwaterhawaii.com).

**GET YOUR PROPERTY RAIN READY**

**Apply today to get a FREE rain barrel, rain garden, or tree installed on your property.**



For questions, email [runoff@malamamaunaloa.org](mailto:runoff@malamamaunaloa.org).



### Watershed Management Plans

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the Honolulu City Council and then the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to become part of the O‘ahu Water Management Plan and the State’s Hawai‘i Water Plan.

The Wai‘anae, Ko‘olau Loa, Ko‘olau Poko, North Shore and East Honolulu plans have been adopted by ordinance into the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) Chapter 30. East Honolulu goes before CWRM in December for adoption. Primary Urban Center, ‘Ewa and Central O‘ahu review drafts are being revised to address climate change.

For more information about O‘ahu’s watershed management plans: [boardofwatersupply.com/watershedmanagementplan](http://boardofwatersupply.com/watershedmanagementplan).

### Entries Being Accepted

#### 2025 Water Conservation Poster (Gr. K-6) and Poetry (Gr. 7-12) Contests

O‘ahu students in grades K-12 islandwide are invited to share their thoughts and creative ideas on protecting our precious water resources by entering the



Board of Water Supply’s annual Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contests.

Contests theme: “Worth of Wai”  
Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2025

More information, including contest rules and drop off sites, are online at [boardofwatersupply.com/contests](http://boardofwatersupply.com/contests).

Don't Forget!

### Take the BWS Household Questionnaire

Results will help develop programs that could better assist our communities, especially our kūpuna



[www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com) or use QR code

