

Honolulu Board of Water Supply

News Release



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**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016, ON DRAFT WATER MASTER PLAN
Plan Provides Foundation for Continuing Reliable
Long-Term Water Service to Oahu Residents**

HONOLULU – The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has completed a draft of its long term Water Master Plan, a comprehensive program that evaluates the entire water system, identifies necessary improvements over the long-term, and balances needs and costs to provide Oahu residents with safe, dependable, and affordable water.

“The Master Plan is important for the people of Oahu, providing the framework for sustaining our ability to serve precious water that’s safe and sufficient for our communities’ growing population. We want to ensure the community has a chance to review and comment on what the plan has found and what it recommends. All BWS water users on Oahu, whether or not they pay a water bill, are encouraged to learn about the draft Water Master Plan and share their thoughts on it with us,” said BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernest Lau. “This will be an important roadmap for the BWS to sustain our water works for the next generation, so we really want feedback from our customers.”

To provide public access to the plan, the BWS has posted the plan, a two-page brief of key points (attached), and other supplemental material to its website at www.boardofwatersupply.com. Hard copies of the plan will soon be available at our Public Service Building office at 630 S. Beretania St. and eventually at the 24 Oahu state libraries. The BWS is sending letters to customers to notify them about the availability of these documents and is also offering informational presentations about the plan to interested community groups and organizations. Call 748-5347 or email BWSWaterMasterPlan@hbws.org to make arrangements.

A Stakeholder Advisory Group of nearly 30 highly respected local residents, who represent community, environmental, and business interests, has provided input to the Water Master Plan’s development and implementation. Because of the long-term impact of the plan, the BWS is providing a 60-day public comment period. Only written comments on the plan will be accepted through September 12, 2016, via:

(More)



- Postal service at 630 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96843, Attn: Water Master Plan, or
- Email at BWSWaterMasterPlan@hbws.org.

Comments will be collected, reviewed and considered prior to the plan's anticipated adoption by the BWS's Board of Directors at its regular meeting on October 24, 2016.

Water master planning is a complex, time-consuming process, consisting of multiple steps and coordination among a team of diverse professionals. The Water Master Plan reflects these steps:

- Assess existing condition of pipes, pumps, reservoirs, wells, treatment plants, and other facilities.
- Compare projections of future needs with existing water supplies and infrastructure.
- Identify needs for increasing existing supplies and improvements to existing facilities.

Following public comment and our Board's adoption of the plan, which is anticipated in late October, we will take these next steps:

- Prioritize improvements over a 30-year period, based on risks to the system and providing reliable service to customers.
- Analyze funding options to pay for improvements, including rates.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to implement improvements, including priorities, schedules, costs, financing and rates.

The thoughtful, proactive investment in infrastructure and maintenance of the water system supports the BWS's ability to better control rates over the long run. This, in turn, supports the BWS's commitment to continue providing safe, dependable, and affordable water to all of its customers, now and into the future.

About the Board of Water Supply

The Board of Water Supply (BWS), a semi-autonomous agency of the City and County of Honolulu, manages Oahu's municipal water resources and distribution system. As the largest water utility in the State, the BWS serves approximately one million customers on Oahu. The BWS embraces its mission of "Water for Life – *Ka Wai Ola*"—to provide a safe, dependable, and affordable water supply, now and into the future. *Uwē ka lani, ola ka honua* – "When the heavens weep, the earth lives." For more information about the BWS, visit www.boardofwatersupply.com, follow [@BWSHonolulu](https://www.facebook.com/BWSHonolulu) or like the BWS's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/BWSHonolulu>.

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