

# 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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## Financial Policies Frame Future Rate Studies

In May, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) Board of Directors approved the adoption of a \$335.8 million budget for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). The budget was based on [current water rates, which will remain unchanged for Fiscal Year 2018](#), and is expected to be sufficient to cover the cost of operating Oahu's water system for the year ahead.



*The SAG assisted in framing updated financial policies and continue to meet monthly to discuss approaches to structuring rates.*

The approved budget provides funds to manage and operate the island's water system to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of water to Oahu consumers. This includes monies to replace water mains to reduce main breaks and repave damaged roadways after main breaks.

Also in May, the BWS Board approved an update of financial policies which will support implementation of the Water Master Plan adopted in October 2016. The BWS financial

policies define the permitted uses of funds, their limits, as well as principals for financial planning and management. The BWS Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) assisted in framing the updated financial policies. These community leaders volunteered their time at multiple meetings where they learned about various rate-related topics and made recommendations to the BWS Board.

The SAG will continue working with the BWS on the rate study in their now monthly meetings. They will not only look at rate objectives, but also at different approaches to structure rates so that they reflect community values and generate sufficient revenue to support the Water Master Plan goals.

Follow the SAG's activities through meeting notes available at [www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/water-master-plan/about-the-stakeholder-advisory-group](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/water-master-plan/about-the-stakeholder-advisory-group).

## Protect Oahu's Watersheds for Tomorrow's Water

*World Rainforest Week - October 9th to 15th*

People depend on water every day. We expect it every time we turn on the faucet, and yet many of us don't know where it comes from or about the watersheds on Oahu that provide us with this priceless resource.

A watershed is an area of land enclosed by mountain ridges that catches and collects rainwater to continually replenish



*Watersheds sustain Oahu's natural cycle of water.*

ground water supplies. Oahu's watershed can also be described as a Hawaiian rain forest, which captures and saves large amounts of water. The Koolau mountain range is Oahu's primary watershed area, located above the windward shore and on the eastern side of the central Oahu plains. Oahu also has the

Waianae mountain range watershed area located on the west and leeward coast.

Today, the watershed is at a greater risk than ever. Invasive plant and animal species, deforestation, and excessive human foot traffic are just a few threats to the watershed.



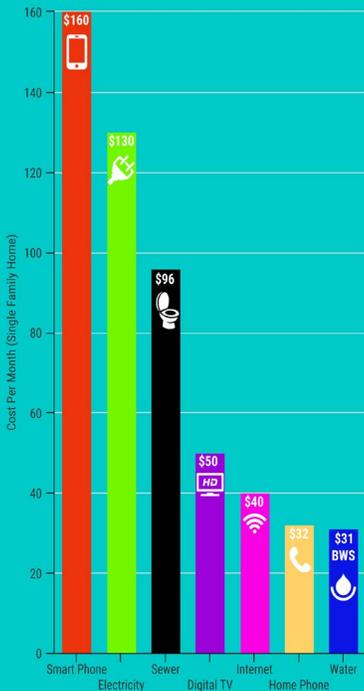
*Keep to designated trails while hiking to help preserve watershed lands.*

Help prevent forest degradation by staying on designated trails, respecting the wildlife when hiking, and supporting existing laws and agriculture quarantine to prevent the introduction of foreign plants and animals into the watershed. Everyone should take personal responsibility to preserve and protect watershed areas and water resources for future generations to enjoy.

For more information, visit [www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/watersheds-on-oahu](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/water-resources/watersheds-on-oahu).

# Water Offers Exceptional Value

## COMMON HOUSEHOLD SERVICES



### WATER

Compared to some of the most common household services, water has exceptional value.

BWS supplies approximately 170,000 services on Oahu serving 1 million people, including tourists.

Water is typically the lowest utility cost per household. We will spend more on our phones, TV, and WiFi, than we will on water. Board of Water Supply (BWS) household water bills reflect the costs for stewardship of water resources and the services required to deliver safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water now and into the future. Water truly offers exceptional value!

## BWS at Neighborhood Board Meetings

To promote open communication with the community, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) sends representatives to all Neighborhood Boards that request one. The monthly evening meetings provide a place where the board members and the public can communicate directly with elected officials (or staff), as well as with representatives from the BWS. Representatives share general water announcements, informational handouts, reports on water main breaks, and status of specific construction projects. Representatives also answer general questions regarding the BWS and its activities. For more complex questions, they can take back the question to the appropriate BWS division and provide the response at a subsequent meeting. To find your neighborhood board meeting information, visit [www.honolulu.gov/nco](http://www.honolulu.gov/nco).

# BWS Droplets

Check out the BWS [YouTube channel](http://www.youtube.com/user/HonoluluBWS) at [www.youtube.com/user/HonoluluBWS](http://www.youtube.com/user/HonoluluBWS). It features water conservation ads, winning entries from the BWS-sponsored category in the Olelo Youth Xchange video competition, and BWS-produced videos on home leak detection, how meter readings are obtained, and storing water for emergency preparedness.

The BWS is producing a new video on the [Red Hill Underground Storage Tanks](#) leak issue. It explains the issue and includes video clips from interviews with the Sierra Club, City and State elected officials, and BWS administrators. When completed, the video will air on an Olelo channel.

**Water system improvements:** In Kaneohe, approximately 6,400 feet of 8-inch water mains, originally installed from the 1930s to the 1950s, will be replaced along: Keaahala Road from Keaahala Place to Kamehameha Highway; Kamehameha Highway from Kahuhipa Street to Keole Street; and Luana Place.

# QUICK TIPS

## For Water Emergency Preparedness



### Start Conserving

- Do NOT wash cars or water lawns.
- Postpone laundry unless absolutely necessary. If so, wash FULL loads only.



### Fill Up Containers

- Use basins, sinks, and bathtubs for additional water storage.



### Turn Off Fixtures

- Turn off water-using fixtures such as automatic ice makers or irrigation systems.



### Tune in to the News

- Stay tuned to news reports. BWS, through City Department of Emergency Management, will issue informational bulletins and status reports.

source: [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)



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