



WATER MATTERS

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

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Water: Protect Our Precious Legacy



Ancient Hawaiians knew how vital fresh drinking water was. Their society, culture, and laws showed high regard and great care for this resource. They ensured water would always be available in the future to support their island home.

Today, as modern-day stewards of O'ahu's precious water, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) provides safe, dependable, and

affordable drinking water now and for generations to come.

But the 2021 Red Hill fuel leak continues to affect BWS operations, as it led to a shutdown of three nearby BWS sources; one was a major source.

Since then, BWS has used other sources to fulfill O'ahu's water needs. But this is not sustainable long-term, so the BWS is also working to develop new wells in the next 5 to 7 years.

Meanwhile, the BWS asks everyone to avoid wasting water and voluntarily reduce usage when possible.

This will help curb island-wide demand; reduce strain on our precious water resource and on the pumps that deliver water; and, most important, enable the

BWS to pass along the legacy of O'ahu's excellent drinking water supply to future generations.

Make Every Drop Count

When we each save a little water, we can save a lot together.

- Turn off the tap when not using water.
- Save 2.5 gals/min. while brushing teeth, shaving, or lathering hands.
- Cut 2 minutes off shower time. Save 5 gals.
- For showers, collect tap water as it warms up. Use on plants. Save 2.5 gals./min.

Visit www.boardofwatersupply.com/conversation/tips for more ideas.

Smart Home Technology That Helps You Save Water

Smart water monitors attach to your home's water line and provide real-time data to help you manage your water usage.

They can also detect water leaks and send alerts to your phone, enabling you to minimize water loss and damage to your home.

Many devices also have an automatic water shutoff feature which allows you to respond to leaks even while you're away. Protect your home and receive up to a

\$200 rebate when you purchase a smart water monitor!



Learn more and apply for rebates at boardofwatersupply.com/rebates.

Watch BWS Board Meetings Live or On Demand

BWS Board of Directors Meeting | December 18, 2023 | 2:00 PM



To ensure openness and transparency as it sets its regulations, policies, and overall direction, the BWS makes its monthly Board of Director meetings available for the public to watch.

Meetings are held generally on the fourth Monday of each month, at 2:00 p.m., at the Beretania St. headquarters.

You can watch the meeting in real time at www.boardofwatersupply.com/live.

Or you can watch it later. All meetings are recorded and aired on Ōlelo Ch. 49 the following month.

Videos are also posted on BWS's website at www.boardofwatersupply.com/boardmeetings.

Help Stop the Spread of Little Fire Ants on O'ahu

Despite being 1/16" in size, or half the size of a sesame seed, Little Fire Ants (LFA) are considered among the worst invasive species in the world. These small ants are linked to large damages, losses, and control costs.

LFA nest in trees, potted plants, electrical boxes, and other warm, wet, and shaded places. These slow-moving ants are orange-red to light brown in color. They're so small that you might not know that they're there until a gentle breeze knocks them off of their perch and sends them your way.

They're known to sting if they get caught in hair and clothing. These painful stings can leave welts or long-lasting, itchy rashes. They can also blind pets and other animals.

They put our economy at risk too, not just by painfully stinging outdoor workers. Since LFA colonies can get very large, there is potential for harm in our agricultural and horticultural areas.

LFA, like many other ants, will introduce plant pests such as scales, mealybugs, aphids and whiteflies. These pests are farmed and protected by the ants since they produce the sugars that LFA feed on. LFA are known to destroy bee hives as well.

Little Fire Ants can easily spread through infested potted plants, cuttings, foliage, produce, soil, mulch, and landscaping

materials. On O'ahu, there are 30-plus active sites undergoing survey and/or treatment for LFA.

The good news is that they can be controlled and eradicated if detected early. You can help stop the spread of LFA by doing a simple test to detect their presence in your property. You will need:

- Wooden chopsticks or popsicle sticks
- Ziplock bag
- Peanut butter*

**If you have a peanut allergy, you can use pieces of luncheon meat. Once you have ants on the bait, you can use tongs to pick up the luncheon meat.*

- Separate the chopsticks and break them in half.
- **Lightly** smear one end of the sticks with peanut butter and place sticks in various moist and shaded areas around your yard and in potted plants.
- After 45 minutes to 1 hour, carefully pick up the sticks.
- If there are ants on them, place the stick into a Ziplock bag; seal well and immediately; label the bag with your name, address, test date, and phone number.



<https://www.kauaisc.org/what-we-do/lfa-program/>
Credit: Alex Wild

Little Fire Ants are very tiny, but this invasive species causes great harm to O'ahu's ecosystems.

- Freeze the bag for 24 hours to kill the ants. Peanut butter does not trap ants; they easily fall off the chopstick etc, so be careful.

Mail ant samples to either:

- Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, 1428 S. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96814
- O'ahu Invasive Species Committee, 743 Ulukahiki Street, Kailua, HI 96734

Protect your home, family, and our island by testing for LFA annually. Also, isolate and test pots before you add a new plant to your garden and before giving away a plant. A quick test can save you a lot of pain!

For more information:

<https://www.oahuisc.org/little-fire-ant/>.

Financial Help with Water Bill Payment Available Through March 2024

If you need help paying your water bill, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) may be able to help:

- Reconnect disconnected water services.
- Pay past-due water bills to avoid disconnection.

- Assist with current bills, even if there is no past-due balance.

Applications must be approved prior to March 31, 2024, and is subject to availability of funds.

For more information and to see if you are eligible, visit www.waterhelp.info or

contact the Honolulu Community Action Program office near you:

Aiea - (808) 488-6834
Kalihi - (808) 847-0804
Kāne'ohe - (808) 239-5754
Pālolo – (808) 732-7755
Wai'anae – (808) 696-4261

We're Filling Jobs to Help Shape O'ahu's Water Future

Whether it is the next step on your career ladder or your "forever" job, join the BWS and make a difference in our community. Visit www.boardofwatersupply.com/jobs.