



# STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

Board of Water Supply, City & County of Honolulu  
January 16, 2025  
Meeting 53



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

DAVE EBERSOLD, FACILITATOR

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 53

JANUARY 16, 2025

[WWW.BOARDOFWATERSUPPLY.COM](http://WWW.BOARDOFWATERSUPPLY.COM)





WELCOME NEW STAKEHOLDER!  
KALEO MANUEL  
DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES AT  
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS AINA PAUHI  
REPRESENTING HAWAIIAN CULTURAL



# MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Welcome
- Public comment
- Provide landfill overview and update
- Review climate change impacts & approach for Water Master Plan
- Provide Red Hill updates
- Accept notes from meeting #52
- Review 2025 meeting dates



# PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS





# OAHU'S GROUNDWATER AQUIFER AND SITING NEW LANDFILL

Ernest Lau  
Manager and Chief Engineer

January 16, 2025

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



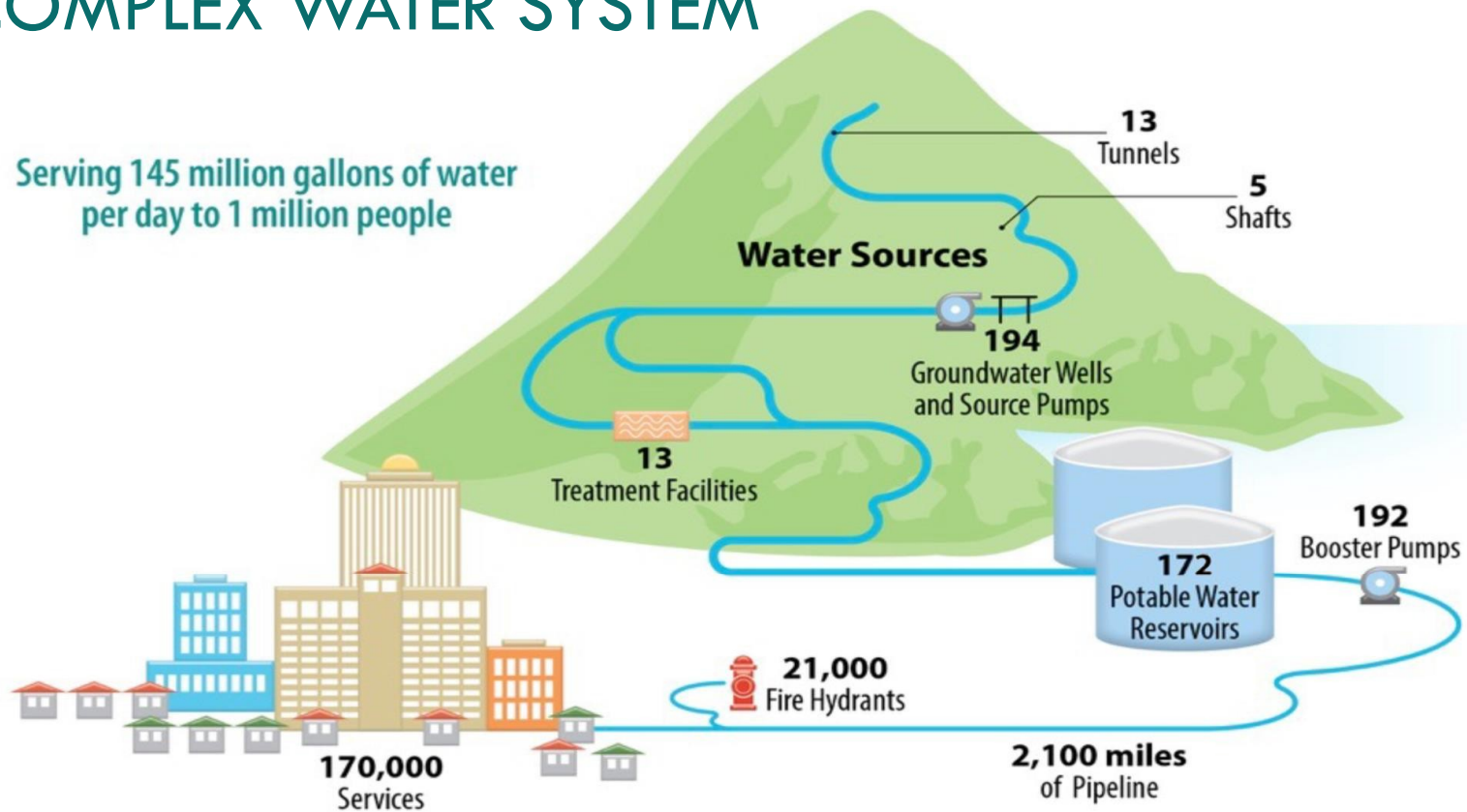
A young child is shown from the chest up, holding a metal water tap basin. Water is spraying from the tap and splashing onto the child's face. The child has their eyes closed and a joyful expression. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'KA WAI OLA' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*KA WAI OLA*

*WATER FOR  
LIFE*



# DELIVERING WATER FROM UNDERGROUND WATER SOURCES TO YOUR HOME REQUIRES A LARGE AND COMPLEX WATER SYSTEM







# CITY REQUEST FOR BWS POSITION ON SITING NEW LANDFILL

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

# CITY REQUEST FOR BWS POSITION ON 6 LANDFILL SITES

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
1800 ULUKOHI STREET, SUITE 300, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://www.honolulu.org>

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL O'KEEFE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
IN REPLY REFER TO:  
DIR 22-88

November 3, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Ernest Y. W. Lau, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer  
Honolulu Board of Water Supply  
[elau@hbws.org](mailto:elau@hbws.org)

Dear Ernest

Thank you for your time and attention during the October 24, 2022, Board of Water Supply (BWS) board meeting. This letter follows up on the item for information, "Briefing by the Department of Environmental Services on their Landfill Siting" that was on that meeting's agenda.

At that meeting we briefed the board that BWS presented on groundwater and landfills to the Landfill Advisory Committee (LAC) and the LAC, based on BWS' presentation, despite evaluating and ranking six sites did not recommend any of the six sites as an alternative to the existing landfill (please see attachment A for final report).

Given this sequence of events, at the October 24 BWS board meeting, I requested clarity on BWS' legal authority over landfill siting and whether that authority was exercised, and if not exercised, when the City should seek a determination.

In order to clarify BWS' position and due to the impending deadline set by the State Land Use Commission Decision and Order for the Department of Environmental Services to "identify an alternative landfill site that may be used upon closure of WGSLS [Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill]" by December 31, 2022, I am writing this letter to formally ask for BWS' official position on the six potential landfill sites (please see attachment B for details on those six sites) the LAC evaluated. Specifically, were Mayor to select any of the six ranked sites off the LAC's list, what would be BWS' official response or position?

Ernest Y.W. Lau, P.E.  
November 3, 2022  
Page 2

Given the timeline before us, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible. Please contact me at 768-3486 if you have any questions with respect to the foregoing.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by O'Keefe,  
Michael  
Date: 2022.11.03 11:33:02  
-1000

For Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.  
Director

APPROVED:

Digitally signed by Formby,  
Michael  
Date: 2022.11.03 13:59:17  
-1000

Michael D. Formby, Managing Director  
Office of the Managing Director

Attachments: A - LAC Report [Here](#)  
B - Sites



cc: Rick Blangiardi, Mayor  
Brian Andaya, Chair, Board of Water Supply

Attachment B

4-18

June 2022

# BWS RESPONSE DISAPPROVING THE 6 LANDFILL LOCATIONS OVER THE DRINKING WATER AQUIFER

<p><b>BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY</b></p> <p>CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET HONOLULU, HI 96843 www.boardofwatersupply.com</p>  <p>November 16, 2022</p> <p>RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair MAX J. SWORD MULLEBU ANTHONY JONATHAN KANESHIRO JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio DAWN B. SZEWZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E. Manager and Chief Engineer ERWIN M. KAWATA Deputy Manager</p> <p>Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E. Director City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services</p> <p>Dear Dr. Babcock,</p> <p>Subject: <u>Response to November 3, 2022 Letter Regarding the Board of Water Supply's Official Position on the Six Potential Landfill Sites</u></p> <p>The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in receipt of your November 3, 2022 letter, in which the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services (ENV) "formally ask[s] for the BWS' official position on the six potential landfill sites" that were evaluated by the Landfill Advisory Committee (LAC)<sup>1</sup> for possible use upon the closure of the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill and "clarity on BWS' legal authority over landfill siting."<sup>2</sup> For the reasons set forth below, the BWS does not approve any of the six proposed landfill sites that are located above (or mauka) the No Pass Zone and over Oahu's drinking water aquifer system.</p> <p><b><u>The Board of Water Supply's Legal Authority Concerning Plans Proposing Waste Disposal Facilities</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding Oahu's water supply from sources of potential contamination is not a matter of discretion; it is constitutionally mandated. The Hawaii Constitution guarantees that "[a]ll public natural resources are held in trust for the benefit of the people" and directs the State, and by extension the BWS, "to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people." Haw. Const. art. XI, § 1, 7. As the largest municipal drinking water utility in Hawaii, the BWS has a constitutional public trust responsibility to protect the water resources it manages and to preserve the rights of present and future generations in the waters of Hawaii. See <i>Kauai Springs, Inc. v. Planning Comm'n of Cnty. of Kauai</i>, 133 Haw. 141, 171, 324 P.3d 951 (2014) (holding</p> <p><sup>1</sup> See <i>O'ahu Landfill Siting Study &amp; Landfill Advisory Committee Recommendations: Final Report</i> (June 2022) ("LAC Final Report").</p> <p><sup>2</sup> At the October 28, 2022 meeting of the BWS Board of Directors, ENV posed similar questions during an item for information before BWS Board. However, ENV's November 3, 2022 letter is directed to the BWS Manager and Chief Engineer.</p>	<p>'State and its subdivisions shall (emphasis in original)). Specifically, to maintain the purity and flow of the waters of our land are put to rest here, drinking water is among <i>Water Use Permit Application</i>, 94</p> <p>ect Oahu's drinking water, the BWS enforce rules and regulations having prevention of waste and pollution of the proper conservation and the city." Revised Charter of the City (54-33). To ensure that sites are protected, the BWS has facilities, including municipal receive written approval from the Regulations § 3-301(1).</p> <p>"Zones" which generally prohibit landfills, in areas that may be used to be used for domestic water uses, § 3-301(2).<sup>5</sup> The No Pass Zone brings that define the areas of thick a) the No Pass Zone are primarily ble the aquifer to replenish within ent of infiltrated rainwater that falls to prevent surface contamination above the No Pass Zone, have no that is used for drinking water. plans proposing certain waste and the Manager and Chief there is any basis to expect that</p> <p>sibility is "unlimited by any surface-ground ater." <i>In re Water Use Permit Applications</i>,</p> <p>toward achieving the highest water quality "shall be liberally interpreted to obtain § 174C-2(c).</p> <p>establish "No Pass Zones" which ... shall waste disposal facilities. BWS Rules and ns areas in which the installation of waste es used or expected to be used for (emphasis added).</p>	<p>y wastewater therefrom may sources used or expected to § 3-301(2)-(3).</p> <p><b><u>Potential Landfill Sites</u></b></p> <p>WWS' No Pass Zone, and all drogeologically-connected of this groundwater aquifer ect it been more ng with what the Hawaii d environmental disaster" Fuel Storage Facility that ly and the pollution of this s unfortunate environmental tive in protecting all of our s of contamination. Oahu's</p> <p>to the LAC, the BWS nges associated with finding esign and engineering can adversely impact the evaluated by the LAC are directly over Oahu's drinking y (USGS), citing EPA nto the environment and that both old and modern GS Fact Sheet FS-040-03</p> <p>do contain a wide range of ing concentrations—such as and per- and polyfluorinated have the potential to</p> <p>gnated sole-source groundwater s 77 percent of the total island- Agency (EPA) determined that "ing water" for the island, and that uthern Oahu Basal Aquifer in the Fed. Reg. 45496, at 45497 (Nov.</p>	<p>Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary annually that contains al dissolved solids rinking water maximum dfill leachate n Oahu in December leachate at the charges of municipal Gulch stream and roposed landfill sites that could impact Oahu's</p> <p>groundwater is always and impact other parts of d can move relatively use of this, contaminant bust monitoring well y drinking water esult, contamination from hwater aquifer and it could—as was the water supply wells in the</p> <p>hat any landfill sited at ty and/or quantity of the . See BWS Rules and</p> <p>Sanitary Landfill, Kapolei, bmitted to the State of Hawaii f <a href="#">BWMR_Final.pdf</a>); United the Destruction and Disposal rfluoroalkyl and er 18, 2020 <a href="#">527-0002_content.pdf</a>); Leachate PFOA and PFOS mpleted in Collaboration with March 6)</p> <p>f Haw., No 19-224 (D. Haw. h <i>Honolulu and Waste v. epa.gov/newsreleases/epa- angle-gulch</i>.</p>	<p>e consideration of the requisite guidelines and isapprove all six of the proposed landfill sites above</p> <p>ed to protect Oahu's drinking water from underground WS continues to urge ENV to explore new landfill sites including, where appropriate, requesting additional ion to explore other siting options.</p> <p>feel free to contact me at (808) 748-5061.</p> <p>Very truly yours,</p>  <p>ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E. Manager and Chief Engineer</p> <p>ardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu ing Director, Department of Environmental Services Director, Department of Environmental Services</p> <p>anager, BWS</p> <p>ty of Honolulu agreed when it adopted Resolution 03-09, FD1 Council resolved to establish a policy "of the city that municipal d anywhere ... within the [BWS'] groundwater protection zone, or cess." This resolution was partially a result of the Council's chology that can guarantee that hazardous or other harmful f the city's aquifer will not, over the long-term, enter the city's o the public health and welfare of Honolulu's citizens."</p> <p>its Final Report, specifically noting the importance of the "Board commending any of the final landfill sites. Indeed, "[a]ll LAC the location of the proposed sites in the No Pass Zone and, for O'ahu's drinking water resources" (LAC Final Report 1-4) and t support a landfill sited within the BWS No Pass Zone due to n of groundwater resources on O'ahu" (LAC Final Report 6-4).</p>
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# BWS 2024 RESPONSE REAFFIRMING 2022 DISAPPROVAL

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
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RIK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANANA A. ME KAHU WILKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MAWAKA



December 17, 2024

Roger Babcock, Jr., PhD, P.E.  
Director  
Department of Environmental Services  
City and County of Honolulu  
roger.babcock@honolulu.gov

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Dr. Babcock:

Subject: Mayor's December 10, 2024 Press Conference Announcing the Selection of Area Northwest of Wahiawā as City's Proposed New Landfill Site

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) has reviewed the City and County of Honolulu's (City) December 10, 2024 announcement of a potential landfill site located in an area northwest of Wahiawā on agricultural land to the west of Kamehameha Highway, north of Pa'ala'a Uka Pūpūkea Road (previously referred to as "Area 3, Site 2" in the Mayor's Landfill Advisory Committee (LAC) June 2022 Final Recommendations Report, and referred to herein as the "Proposed Landfill Site"). While BWS appreciates the difficulties associated with selecting a new landfill site, the position of the Office of the Manager and Chief Engineer (OMCE) on the Proposed Landfill Site has not changed. As you know, by letter dated November 16, 2022, I exercised my authority as Manager and Chief Engineer to formally disapprove the six landfill locations identified by the Department of Environmental Services (ENV), including the Proposed Landfill Site (Babcock, 2022), because operation of a new landfill at any of these locations may impact the quality and/or quantity of the water resources used or expected to be used as drinking water (Lau, 2022). Neither the City nor ENV sought reconsideration of that final decision.

Board of Water Supply's Legal Authority Concerning Plans Proposing Waste Disposal Facilities

BWS is authorized to establish "No Pass Zones," which generally prohibit the installation of waste disposal facilities in sensitive areas in order to protect O'ahu's critical underground drinking water resources from contamination. See BWS Rules and Regulations §3-301(2). BWS' Rules and Regulations further empower the Manager and Chief Engineer to disapprove proposed waste disposal facilities, including landfills, that may affect the quality and/or quantity of water resources used or expected to be

NA'ALEHU ANTHONY, Chair  
JONATHAN KANESHIRO, Vice Chair  
BRYAN P. ANDAYA  
JANICE WILHELM  
KEHALI ANI PIUFI  
EDWIN H. SNIPFEN, Ex-Officio  
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

Dr. Babcock, Jr.  
December 17, 2024

domestic water. See BWS Rules and Regulations §3-301(3). All six of the landfill sites in the June 2022 Final Recommendations Report of the LAC are above the BWS' No Pass Zone and over O'ahu's hydrogeologically-connected water aquifer system. Accordingly, all six proposed landfill sites—including the Proposed Landfill Site—were disapproved in my November 2022 letter.

As the importance of this groundwater aquifer has become more apparent, and never more so than in the wake of the 2023 wildfire, the responsibility to protect it has become more paramount. As you know, the people of O'ahu are still coping with what the Hawaii State Department of Health aptly described as a "sanitary and environmental disaster," caused by fuel releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Red Hill), that resulted in the contamination of O'ahu's drinking water supply and the pollution of this island's irreplaceable sole-source groundwater aquifer. This unfortunate environmental catastrophe is a stark reminder that we all need to be proactive in protecting all of our precious drinking water resources from underground sources of contamination. O'ahu's aquifer cannot be

replenished in prior correspondence and presentations to the LAC, BWS understands the need for a new landfill, as well as the challenges associated with a new landfill site. We also recognize that modern landfill design and engineering can attempt to reduce the risk that contaminant constituents will adversely affect the environment. However, the Proposed Landfill Site is located above the No Pass Zone and sits directly over O'ahu's drinking water aquifer system. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), citing EPA studies, has concluded that all landfills will leak into the environment and that the fate and transport of leachate in the environment, from both old and modern landfills, are a potentially serious environmental problem (USGS, 2003).

Recent data demonstrates that landfill leachates can and do contain a wide range of organic and inorganic chemical constituents in varying concentrations—such as metals, chlorides, volatile and semi-volatile organic, and per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS)—that, if released into the environment, have the potential to affect drinking water resources. For example, the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill generates approximately 3.6 million gallons of leachate annually that contains concentrations of heavy metals, chlorides, sodium, total dissolved solids, nitrates, and amines well above their respective EPA drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Heavy rainfall can exacerbate landfill leachate containment. Indeed, intense storms that occurred on O'ahu in December 2010 and January 2011 resulted in the generation of additional leachate at the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill that ultimately gave rise to illegal discharges of municipal debris, medical waste, and leachate to the nearby Waimānalo Gulch stream and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. Leachate from the Proposed Landfill Site would constitute a significant source of contamination that could impact O'ahu's groundwater aquifer system.

O'ahu's groundwater is hydrogeologically-connected and groundwater is always in motion. Contamination in one part of the aquifer can spread to and impact other parts of the aquifer. Further, groundwater flow can be unpredictable and can move relatively

Dr. Roger Babcock, Jr.  
December 17, 2024  
Page 3

quickly (greater than ten feet per day in some instances). Because of this, contaminant migration along preferential flow paths will likely elude even a robust monitoring well network and undetected contaminants could make their way to drinking water production wells before any corrective action can occur. As a result, contamination from landfill leachate poses a considerable risk to both O'ahu's groundwater aquifer and drinking water resources. If such contamination were to occur, it could—as was the case for Red Hill—eventually cause BWS to shut down its water supply wells in the vicinity of the source of contamination at the landfill.

In sum, the No Pass Zone was established to protect O'ahu's drinking water from underground sources of contamination and there is a compelling basis upon which to expect that a landfill situation at the Proposed Landfill Site may impact the quality and/or quantity of the water resources used or expected to be used as drinking water. Accordingly, for the reasons provided in my November 16, 2022 letter (Lau, 2022) and reiterated above, I reaffirm my prior disapproval of the Proposed Landfill Site.

BWS is committed to safeguarding Hawaii's critical drinking water resources for present and future generations and continues to urge ENV to explore new landfill sites that are below the No Pass Zone. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 748-5061.

Very truly yours,

Ernest Y.W. Lau, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

Attachments:

1. Lau, 2022. Response to November 3, 2022 letter regarding BWS' official position on the six potential landfill sites, November 16, 2022.
2. Babcock, 2022. Request for clarity on BWS' legal authority over landfill siting and whether that authority was exercised and if not exercised, when the City should seek a determination, November 3, 2022.
3. Christenson, Scott C. and Cozzarelli, Isabelle M. Cozzarelli. The Norman Landfill Environmental Research Site: What Happens to the Waste in Landfills? USGS Fact Sheet 040-03, August 2003

cc: The Honorable Rick Blangiardi, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu  
Michael D. Formby, Managing Director, City and County of Honolulu  
Michael O'Keefe, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Services  
Nā'ālehu Anthony, BWS Board Chair

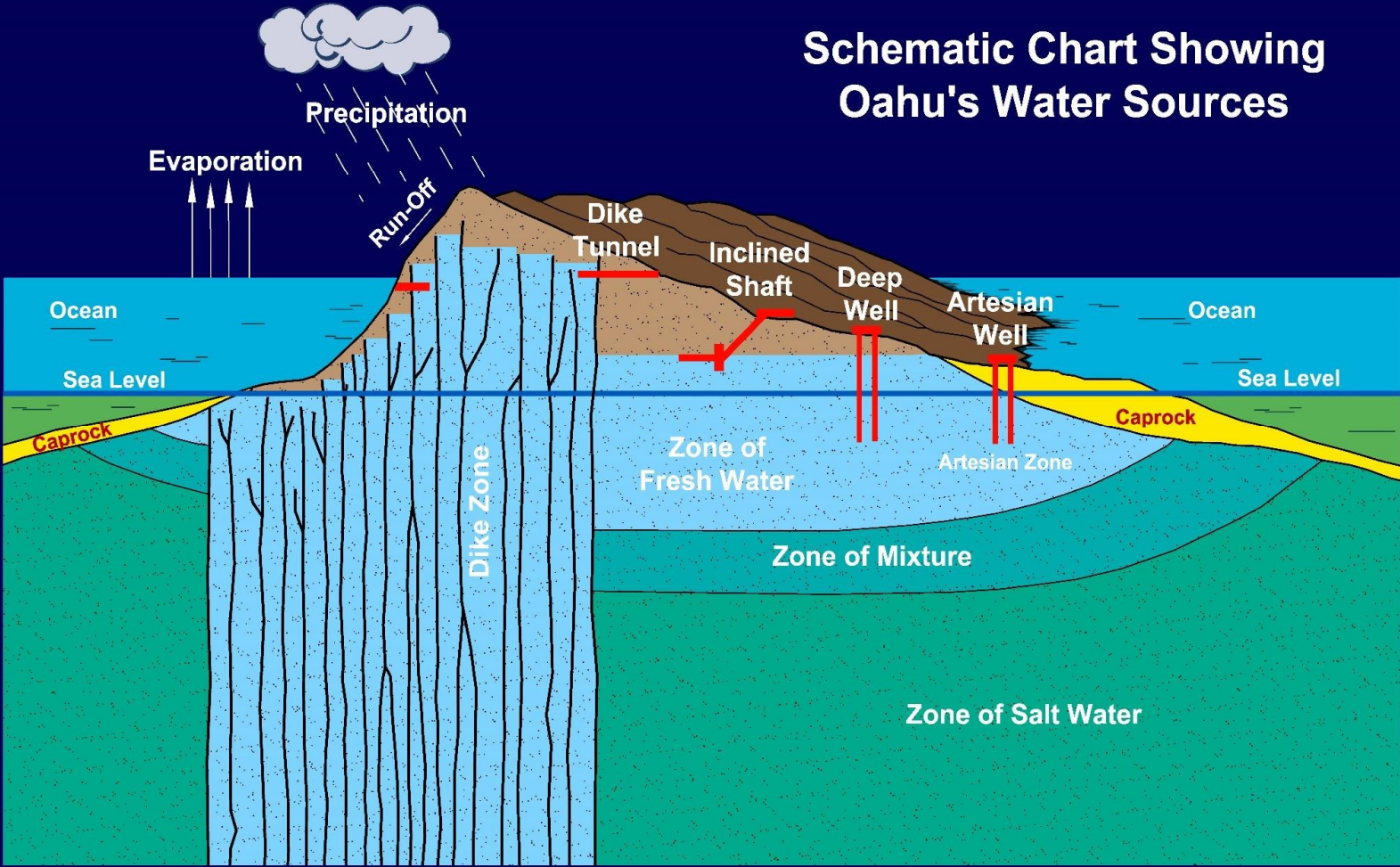


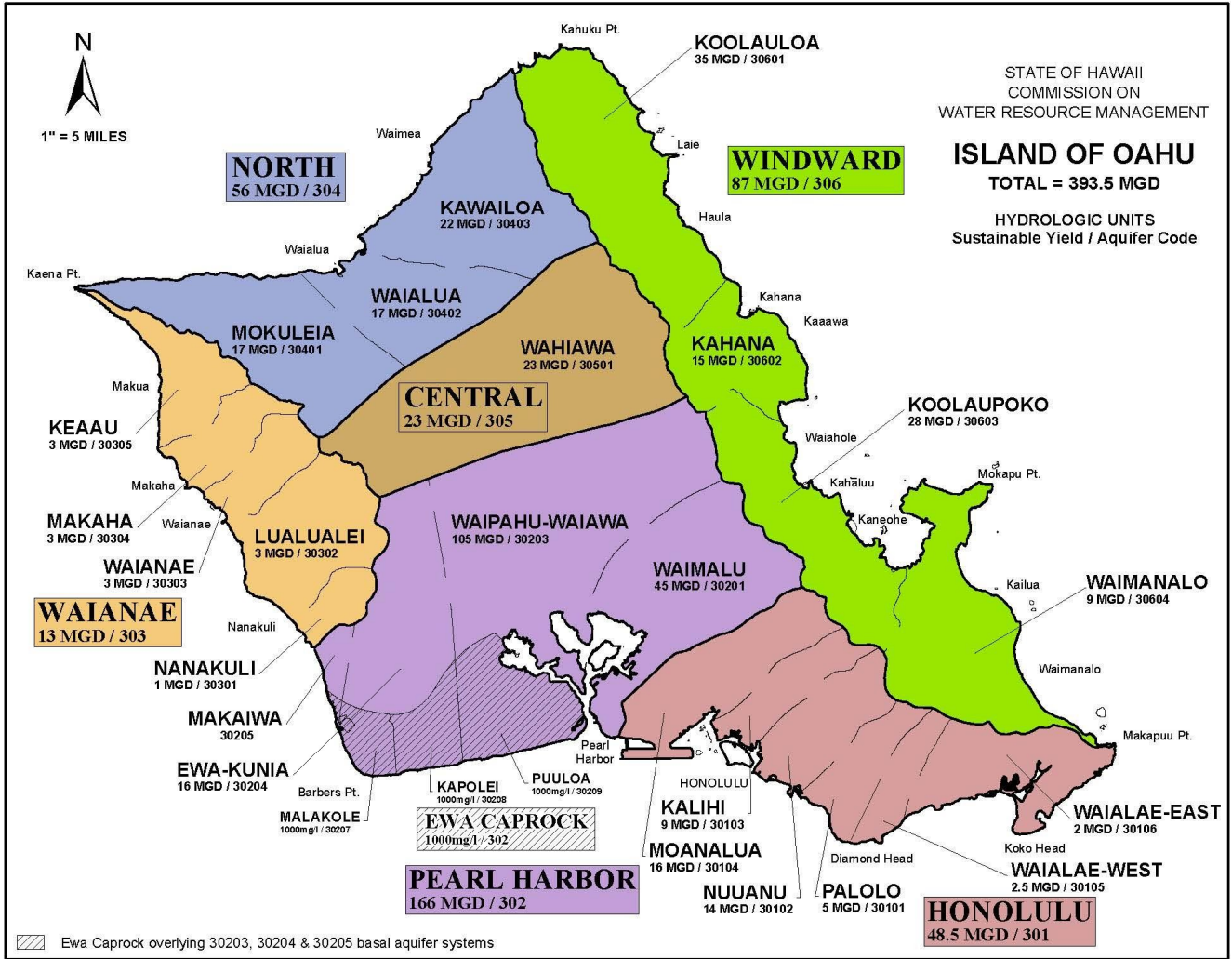
## KEY POINTS OF CONCERN

- Oahu is 100% dependent on its groundwater aquifer for drinking water.
- Landfills contain contaminants that can enter groundwater.
- Landfills, once constructed will be there permanently.
- Preservation and protection of our precious and pure groundwater resources are essential to ensure water security for our future for generations to come.



# Schematic Chart Showing Oahu's Water Sources





# LANDFILLS

- EPA has concluded that **all landfills eventually leak into the environment** (Fed. Reg. v. 53, no. 168, August 30, 1988)
- Christenson and Cozzarelli, US Geological Survey, August 2003
  - Although liners and leachate collection systems minimize leakage, **liners can fail** and leachate collection systems may not collect all the leachate that escapes from a landfill.
  - The **fate and transport of leachate in the environment**, from both old and new landfills, is a **potentially serious environmental problem**.
- Landfill liners and cover systems are designed to contain leachate and control emissions, but **even the best-designed systems will fail at some point unless they are replaced or the waste is removed** (EPA's 2020 Interim Guidance, December 18, 2020).
- Waimanalo Gulch Landfill generates about 3.6 MG leachate annually (9,800 GPD) \* Landfills in higher rainfall areas can yield higher leachate volumes.





# LANDFILL LEACHATE AND GROUNDWATER ANALYSIS

Analyte	Waimanalo Gulch Leachate Ash SMP*	Waimanalo Gulch GW MW-14*	BWS Honouliuli Wells I	BWS Beretania Low Service
pH	6.52	6.64	7.12	8.20
Aluminum	9,600 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Arsenic	9.0 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Barium	710 ppb	No data	ND	2 ppb
Calcium	3,000 ppm	87 ppm	28 ppm	12 ppm
Cadmium	1,300 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Chromium	320 ppb	No data	1.3 ppb	1.7 ppb
Chloride	22,000 ppm	920 ppm	156 ppm	73 ppm

\*Ref. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill First Semi-Annual 2021 Groundwater and Leachate Monitoring Report, August 23, 2021

No data = no test results; ND = tested and not detected



## LANDFILL LEACHATE AND GROUNDWATER ANALYSIS – CONT.

Analyte	Waimanalo Gulch Leachate Ash SMP*	Waimanalo Gulch GW MW-14*	BWS Honouliuli Wells I	BWS Beretania Low Service
Copper	880 ppb	No data	13 ppb	2.8 ppb
Iron	180,000 ppb	No data	2 ppb	2 ppb
Lead	14 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Mercury	2 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Nickel	4,400 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Potassium	2,000 ppm	17 ppm	4.6 ppm	3.6 ppm
Sodium	8,400 ppm	380 ppm	63 ppm	35 ppm
Total dissolved solids	45,000 ppm	1,900 ppm	573 ppm	267 ppm

\*Ref. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill First Semi-Annual 2021 Groundwater and Leachate Monitoring Report, August 23, 2021

No data = no test results; ND = tested and not detected



## LANDFILL LEACHATE AND GROUNDWATER ANALYSIS – CONT.

Analyte	Waimanalo Gulch Leachate Ash SMP*	Waimanalo Gulch GW MW-14*	BWS Honouliuli Wells I	BWS Beretania Low Service
Vanadium	160 ppb	No data	26 ppb	21 ppb
Zinc	1,900 ppb	No data	ND	ND
2-butanone (MEK)	120 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Dinoseb	2.0 ppb	No data	ND	ND
Toluene	No data	0.19 ppb	ND	ND
3-methyl phenol	770 ppb	No data	No data	No data
4-methyl phenol	770 ppb	No data	No data	No data
N-nitroso-di-n-propylamine	12 ppb	No data	No data	No data

\*Ref. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill First Semi-Annual 2021 Groundwater and Leachate Monitoring Report, August 23, 2021

No data = no test results; ND = tested and not detected



# LANDFILL LEACHATE AND GROUNDWATER ANALYSIS – CONT.

Analyte	Waimanalo Gulch Leachate Ash SMP*	Waimanalo Gulch GW MW-14*	BWS Honouliuli Wells I	BWS Beretania Low Service
N-Nitrosomethylethylamine	68 ppb	No data	No data	No data
Phenol	290 ppb	No data	No data	No data

\*Ref. Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill First Semi-Annual 2021 Groundwater and Leachate Monitoring Report, August 23, 2021

No data = no test results; ND = tested and not detected



## Average PFAS Concentrations in Different Types of Landfill Leachate Reported in Published Studies

Landfill type	Country	Mean PFAS Range (ng/L)	References
MSW landfill	USA	BDL* – 17,710	Solo-Gabriele et al., 2020; Lang et al., 2017; Huset et al., 2011
MSW landfill	Germany	BDL* – 2,968	Busch et al., 2010
MSW landfill	Spain	BDL* – 840.5	Fuertes et al., 2017
MSW landfill	Canada	BDL* – 8,700	Benskin et al., 2012
MSW landfill	Australia	BDL* – 1,700	Gallen et al., 2017
MSW landfill	China	BDL* – 41,600	Yan et al., 2015

Landfill type	Country	Mean PFAS Range (ng/L)	References
Ash monofill	USA	BDL* – 742	Solo-Gabriele et al., 2020
C&D debris landfill	USA	BDL* – 4,630	Solo-Gabriele et al., 2020

\*BDL = below detection limit; ng/L = nanograms per liter

Source: EPA's 2020 Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (Interim Guidance for Public Comment December 18, 2020)



## TABLE 2.2: SUMMARY OF LITERATURE STUDY - PFOA & PFOS CONCENTRATIONS IN LANDFILL LEACHATE

Source Cited	Location/ Region	Sample Size	PFOA EPA Drinking Water MCL = 4ng/L			PFOS EPA Drinking Water MCL = 4 ng/L		
			Detection Frequency%	Concentration Range (ng/l)	Median (ng/l)	Detection Frequency %	Concentration Range (ng/l)	Median (ng/l)
1. Huset, et al (2011)	USA	5	100	380 - 1,000	490	100	56 -160	97
2. Allred, et al (2015)	USA	6	100	150 - 5,000	1,055	100	25 - 590	155
3. Lang, et al (2017)	USA	87	100	30 - 5,000	590	96	3-800	99
4. Benskin, et al (2012)	Canada	5	100	210 - 1,500	520	100	80 - 4,400	390
5. Kallenborn, et al (2004)	Nordic Countries	NA	NA	90-501	230	NA	30 - 190	80
6. Bossi, et al (2008)	Denmark	NA	NA	0 - 6	3	NA	0 - 4	NA
7. Woldegiorgis, et al (2008)	Sweden	NA	NA	40 - 1,000	540	NA	30 - 1,500	550
8. Busch, et al (2010)	Germany	20	95	0 - 926	57	100	0 - 235	3
9. Fuertes, et al (2017)	Spain	6	100	200 - 585	437	17	0 - 44	NA
10. Gullen, et al (2016)	Australia	17	100	19 - 2,100	450	89	0 - 100	31
11. Gullen, et al (2017)	Australia	97	64	17 - 7,500	600	65	13 - 2,700	220
12. Yan, et al (2015)	China	6	100	281 - 214,000	2,260	100	1,150 - 6,020	1,740

Source: Michigan Waste & Recycling Association Statewide Study on Landfill Leachate PFOA and PFOS Impact on Water Resource Recovery Facility Influent, Technical Report Completed in Collaboration with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, March 1, 2019 (Second Revision March 6, 2019)



# PFAS IN WAIMANALO GULCH LANDFILL

Appendix 7: Landfill Leachate Data  
LF #1 (Waimanalo Gulch Landfill)

Field Study of PFAS in Hawai'i

Sample: WGLF E-6

Compound	Pre-TOPs Leachate (ng/L)	% Makeup
5:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	26,000	40%
PFBS <sup>-</sup>	14,000	22%
PFHxA <sup>-</sup>	9,600	15%
PFPeA <sup>-</sup>	4,400	7%
PFOA <sup>-</sup>	3,200	5%
Other	7,464	12%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>64,664</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sample: WGLF 4-B

Compound	Pre-TOPs Leachate (ng/L)	% Makeup
5:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	8,500	21%
PFHxA <sup>-</sup>	6,200	15%
PFBA <sup>-</sup>	5,800	14%
PFPeA <sup>-</sup>	4,400	11%
PFBS <sup>-</sup>	3,200	8%
Other	12,518	31%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>40,618</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sample: WGLF-ASH

Compound	Pre-TOPs Leachate (ng/L)	% Makeup
PFHxA <sup>-</sup>	4,700	36%
PFPeA <sup>-</sup>	3,100	24%
PFBA <sup>-</sup>	1,400	11%
5:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	1,300	10%
PFBS <sup>-</sup>	870	6.7%
Other	1,600	12%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>100%</b>

PFBA <sup>-</sup>	2,800
PFHpA <sup>-</sup>	1,300
7:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	980
3:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	820
PFHxS <sup>-</sup>	620
6:2 FTS <sup>-</sup>	420
PFPeS <sup>-</sup>	190
PFOS <sup>-</sup>	150
PFNA <sup>-</sup>	110
PFMPA <sup>-</sup>	45
PFDA <sup>-</sup>	29

PFOA <sup>-</sup>	2,900
PFHxS <sup>-</sup>	2,900
PFOS <sup>-</sup>	1,800
7:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	1,700
PFHpA <sup>-</sup>	1,500
6:2 FTS <sup>-</sup>	640
PFPeS <sup>-</sup>	440
3:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	330
PFNA <sup>-</sup>	140
8:2 FTS <sup>-</sup>	79
PFDA <sup>-</sup>	46
PFHpS <sup>-</sup>	43

PFHpA <sup>-</sup>	730
PFOA <sup>-</sup>	540
3:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	180
7:3 FTCA <sup>-</sup>	150





# BWS NO-PASS ZONE

November 28, 2020

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



# OAHU'S GROUNDWATER BODIES AND CAPROCK

- Oahu is 598 square miles
- About 461 square miles of Oahu (77% of the island) are inland of the caprock
- About 137 square miles (23% of the island) are covered by caprock



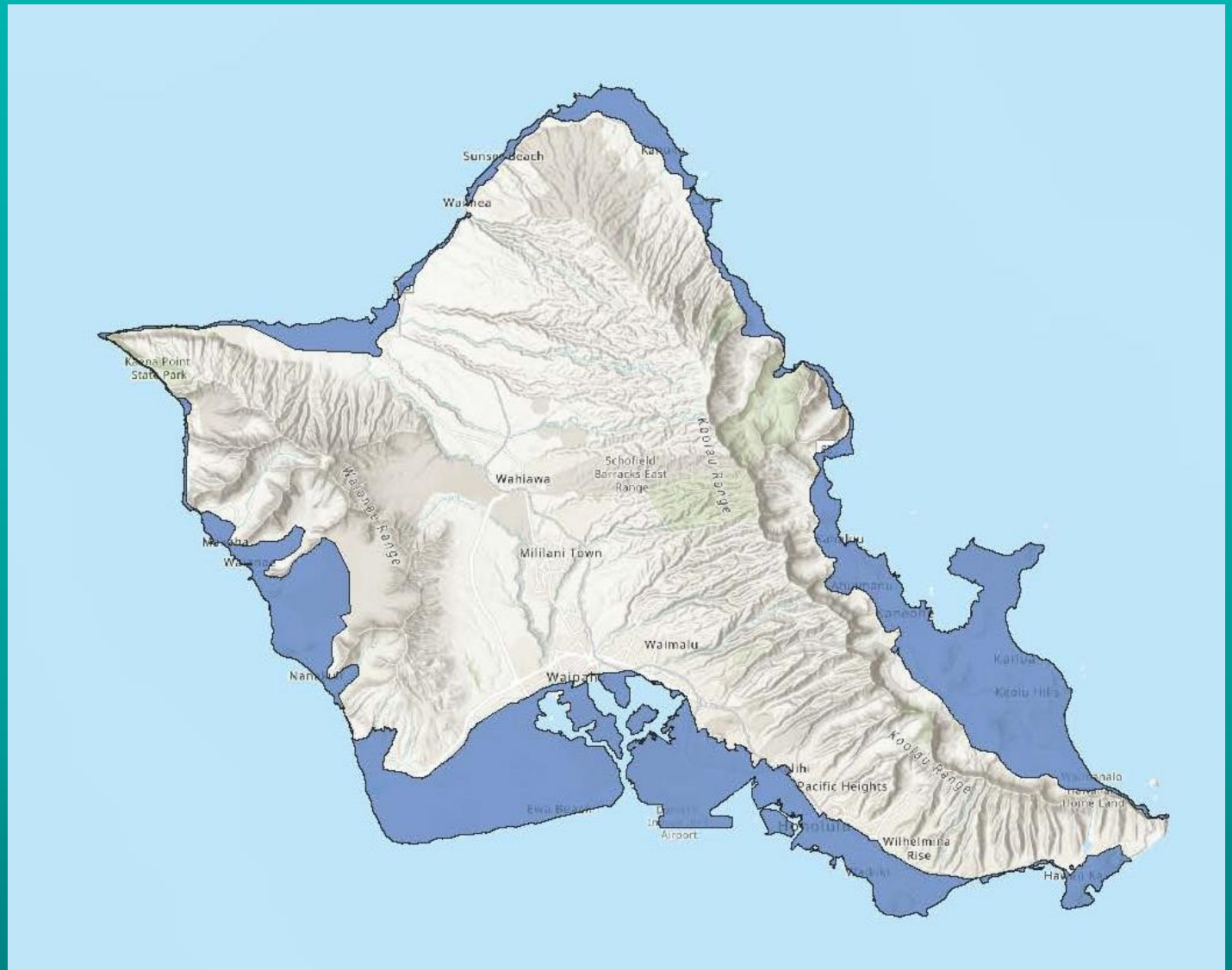
Ref. Izuka, Engott, Rotzoll, Bassiouni, Johnson, Miller and Mair, Volcanic aquifers of Hawai'i—Hydrogeology, water budgets, and conceptual models, Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5164, United States Geological Survey, 2015



## BWS “No Pass Zone”

Established December 9, 1982 (Resolution 502, 1982).

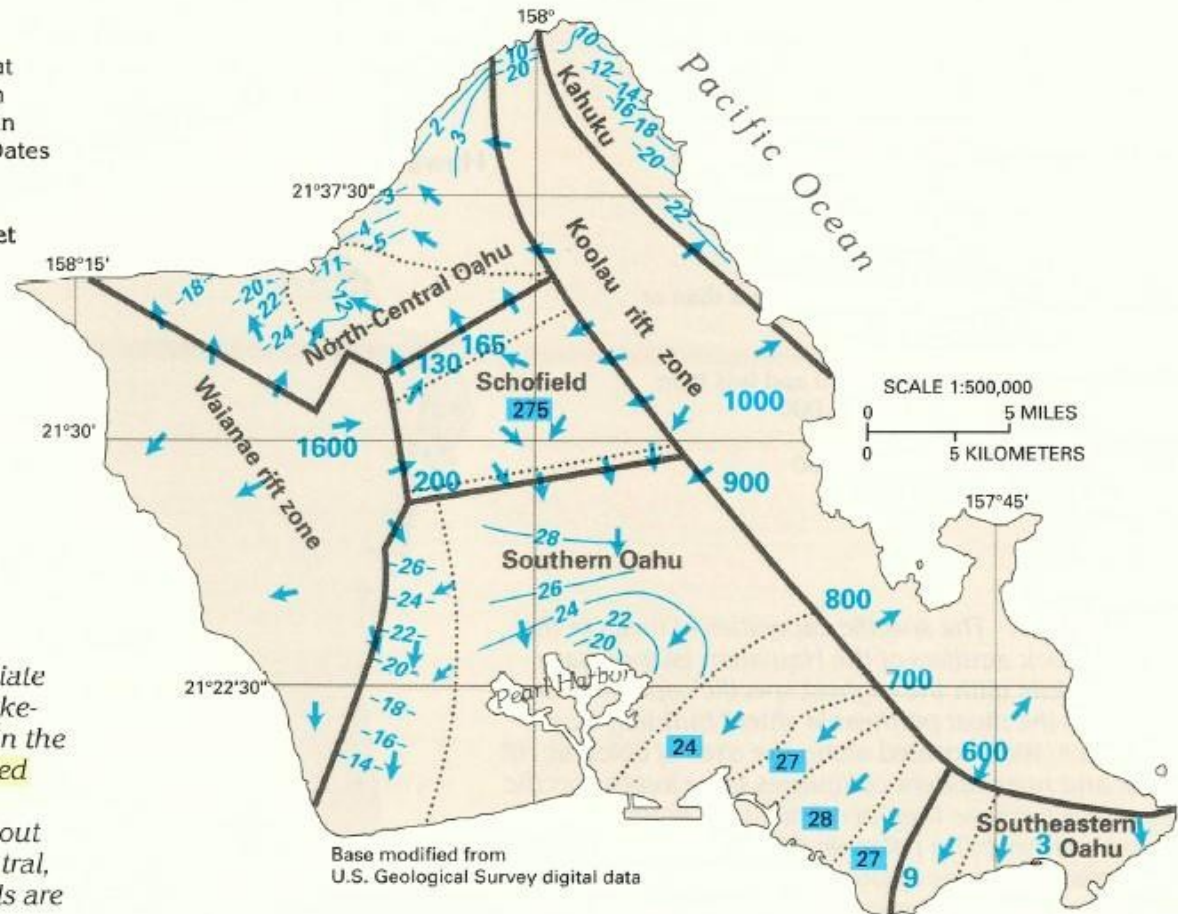
Amended BWS Rules and Regulations Section 3-301 to add definition and establishment of “No Pass Zone” and outlining an appeals procedure from decisions of the Manager relative to the “No Pass Zone”





## EXPLANATION

- 20 — Potentiometric contour—Shows altitude at which water level would have stood in tightly cased wells. Contour interval, in feet, is variable. Datum is sea level. Dates of measurements variable.
- 275 Representative water level for area, in feet above sea level
- 200 Point water level, in feet above sea level
- ➔ Direction of ground-water movement
- Boundary of ground-water area
- ..... Boundary of ground-water subarea



**Figure 56.** Water-level data help to differentiate the seven major ground-water areas of Oahu. Dike-impounded water is prevalent at high altitudes in the Koolau and the Waianae rift zones. Dikes or buried ridges hold ground water at a high level in the Schofield area. Freshwater lenses occur throughout the Kahuku and the southeastern, the north-central, and the southern Oahu areas, where water levels are generally less than 30 feet above sea level.



## BWS PASS, NO-PASS ZONE GUIDELINES

- The Pass/No-Pass Zone delineation maps are used as guidelines for Groundwater Protection in implementing Section 3-301 Waste Disposal Facilities, BWS Rules and Regulations.
- The Pass zone represents areas overlain by thick “caprock” (unconsolidated and consolidated sediments, corals and weathered volcanic rock) above the permeable volcanic rock aquifers.
- The No Pass zone represents areas over the freshwater aquifer with a smaller or nonexistent caprock.
- The Pass/No-Pass zone delineation is based upon hydrogeologic literature research and data analysis by the BWS Hydrology-Geology Branch. Requests for reconsideration of No-Pass line locations should be based on technical data including boring logs which indicate that the proposed waste disposal facility in the "No Pass Zone" would not contaminate groundwater resources used or expected to be used for domestic water supplies.



## CHAPTER III: PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES

### SEC. 3-301: WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

1. All plans proposing the following waste disposal facilities must have the written approval of the Manager:<sup>1</sup>
  1. Sewage disposal systems.
    1. (1) Cesspools.
    2. (2) Septic tank systems.
    3. (3) Individual household aerobic treatment units.
  2. Disposal wells.
  3. **Sanitary landfills.**
  4. Refuse disposal dumps.
  5. Sewage treatment plants.
  6. Stabilization ponds.
  7. Any other wastewater disposal facilities.
2. The Department may establish "No Pass Zones" which shall be delineated on "No Pass Zone" maps. These maps shall be used as guidelines in implementing this Section.

Footnote: <sup>1</sup> Per March 6, 1989 BWS-DOH Agreement to Regulate the Ground Disposal of Wastes on Oahu. DOH will APPROVE/DISAPPROVE waste disposal facilities with consideration of BWS's advice. The Agreement was in response to the DOH adoption of Ch. 11-62, and Ch. 11-23, HAR.



3. The Manager may at his discretion, withhold his approval, if there is any basis to expect that the operation of the proposed waste disposal facility and any wastewater therefrom may to any degree affect the quality and/or quantity of water resources used or expected to be used for domestic water.
4. If the Manager disapproves a proposal, he shall inform the applicant in writing of the facts and reasons upon which his disapproval is based and afford the applicant an opportunity for an informal appeal hearing. Any applicant who is aggrieved by the Manager's decision and desires reconsideration of such decision shall petition the Manager in writing within 30 days from the date of receiving such decision. The applicant should base his request for reconsideration on pertinent technical data, including boring logs which indicate that the proposed waste disposal facility in the "No Pass Zone" would not contaminate groundwater resources used or expected to be used for domestic water supplies. If after the hearing, the request for reconsideration is disapproved by the Manager, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Board, which shall have the power to affirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Manager so appealed from. Such appeal shall be taken within 30 days after the final decision of the Manager.

[Eff 5/10/76; am, renum and comp BWS Res. No. 427, 1976; am and renum BWS Res. No. 502, 1982]



## KEY POINTS OF CONCERN

- Oahu is 100% dependent on its groundwater aquifer for drinking water.
- Landfills contain contaminants that can enter groundwater.
- Landfills, once constructed will be there permanently.
- Preservation and protection of our precious and pure groundwater resources are essential to ensure water security for our future for generations to come.





## Source Water Protection Plan's Guiding Principle

**Prevention** of sources from degradation is always preferable to mitigation and clean-up, thus **reducing risk** is the **foundation** of our Source Water Protection Plan



*BWS Monitoring Well Installation, February 2024  
Source: Honolulu Star-Advertiser*



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION





# Mahalo!

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS & APPROACH FOR WMP

Sebastian Malter, PE CC-P  
CDM Smith  
January 16, 2025

# WATER MASTER PLAN MAJOR SCOPE ELEMENTS

Condition  
Assessment

Water  
Demand  
Forecast

Water  
Source  
Evaluation

Water  
Quality and  
Regulations

Climate  
Resilience  
Planning

Capital  
Improvement  
Plan

Financial  
Planning  
and Funding

Water  
Master Plan  
Report and  
Scorecard



# INTEGRATING THE WATER MASTER PLAN WITH OTHER CLIMATE INITIATIVES

## ■ State and City-wide Initiatives

- One Water (Water Infrastructure)
- Community Climate Preparedness
- Urban Climate Adaptation
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Emission reduction and decarbonization
- Transportation
- Solid Waste

## ■ Water Master Plan









- Water Resources
- Water Demand
- Critical Water Infrastructure at Highest Risk

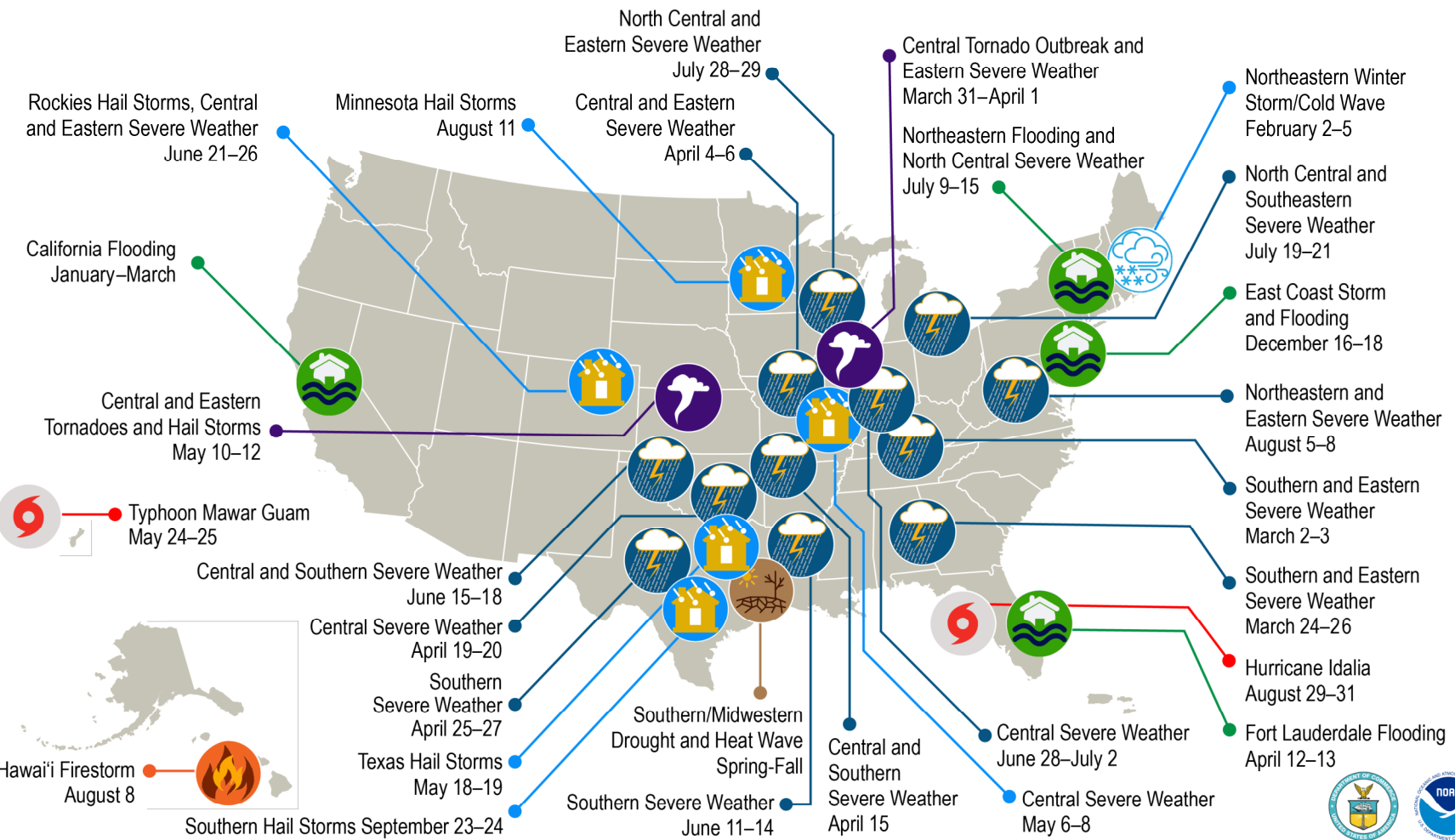
## ■ American Water Infrastructure Act

- Natural Hazards
- Malevolent Acts
- Acute & Current



# U.S. 2023 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

-  Drought/Heat Wave
-  Flooding
-  Hail
-  Hurricane
-  Severe Weather
-  Tornado Outbreak
-  Wildfire
-  Winter Storm/Cold Wave



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 28 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2023.



# HAWAII CLIMATE STRESSORS



Extreme Heat

Hawaii has recorded its highest temperatures in recent years, with numerous heat records broken across the islands.



Flooding

Over 96 flash flooding events and 654 heavy rain events led to flooding between 2018 and 2022.

Total property damage of \$107.3 million and crop damage of \$1.8 million were reported.



Hurricanes

Category 5 Hurricane Lane, bringing torrential rains, particularly to the Big Island, where it caused major flooding and landslides.



Sea Level Rise

Waikiki Beach and North Shore of Oahu, have seen significant impacts, threatening infrastructure, homes, and iconic sandy beaches.



Droughts & Wildfires

2010 Extreme drought covered the entire state with all four counties designated as Primary Natural Disaster Areas.








When you think about climate change, what are  
you most concerned about?






# CLIMATE IMPACTS TO SOURCE WATER (QUALITY & QUANTITY)

Climate Stressor	Climate Impact	Potential Utility Impacts
 Extreme Heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased demand</li><li>• Increased evapotranspiration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased demand</li><li>• Modifications in treatment operations</li><li>• Increased monitoring and maintenance required</li></ul>
 Sea Level Rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saltwater intrusion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced water availability</li><li>• Increased salinity in wells</li></ul>
 Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced groundwater recharge to aquifers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced water availability</li><li>• Water restrictions</li><li>• Community and economic impacts</li></ul>





# CLIMATE IMPACTS TO DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT OPERATIONS

Climate Stressor	Climate Impact	Potential Utility Impacts
 Extreme Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flooding</li><li>• Storm surge</li><li>• Wind damage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damage to equipment and infrastructure</li><li>• Equipment failure</li><li>• Decreased reliability of communications, water quality monitoring and energy systems</li><li>• Accessibility challenges</li></ul>
 Extreme Heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher air temperatures</li><li>• Reduced water availability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased demand, but reduced supply</li><li>• Equipment damage</li><li>• Higher cost for cooling facilities</li><li>• Blackouts due to excessive electric demand</li></ul>
 Sea Level Rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coastal flooding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damage to low lying infrastructure and equipment</li><li>• Corrosion of distribution system piping</li><li>• Difficulty maintaining and repairing underground infrastructure</li><li>• Accessibility challenges</li></ul>



# CLIMATE IMPACTS ON UTILITY PERSONNEL

Climate Stressor	Climate Impact	Potential Utility Impacts
 Extreme Heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unsafe outdoor working conditions for staff</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heat stress impacts resulting in injuries, fatalities</li><li>• Overtime hours required due to failure of systems, equipment</li><li>• Increased break times for outdoor workers required</li></ul>
 Extreme Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flooding</li><li>• Wind damage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased chances of loss of life or injury</li><li>• Damage to employees' vehicles, homes</li><li>• Overtime hours required due to failure of systems, equipment</li></ul>



# Comprehensive System Wide Climate Resilience Analysis

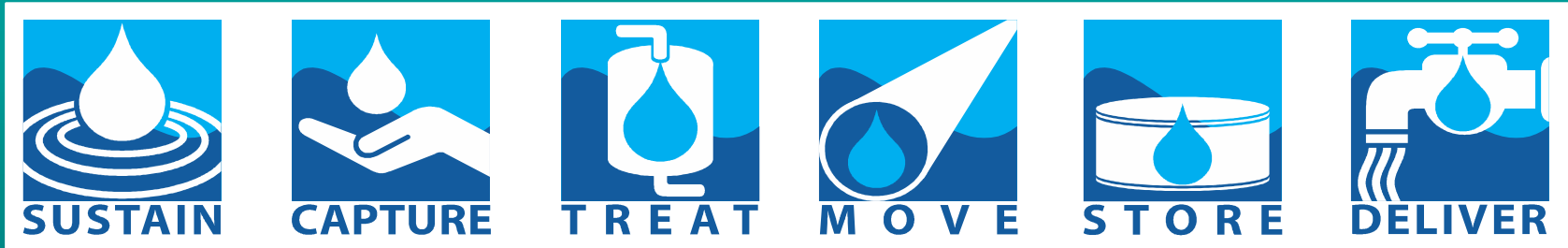
## CHRONIC HAZARDS

Rising temperatures  
Reduced rainfall  
Sea Level Rise

## ACUTE HAZARDS

Extreme rainfall and heat  
Wildfires  
Flooding  
Droughts

Climate  
Change



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING

## OBJECTIVES

- Determine the increased frequency and severity of natural hazards
- Identify impacts to BWS & improve resilience

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Evaluate how climate stressors affect the water system
- Leverage existing studies, reports, data and information

## OUTCOMES

- Climate impacts and actionable data to inform WMP update
- Conceptual designs for selected resilience measures

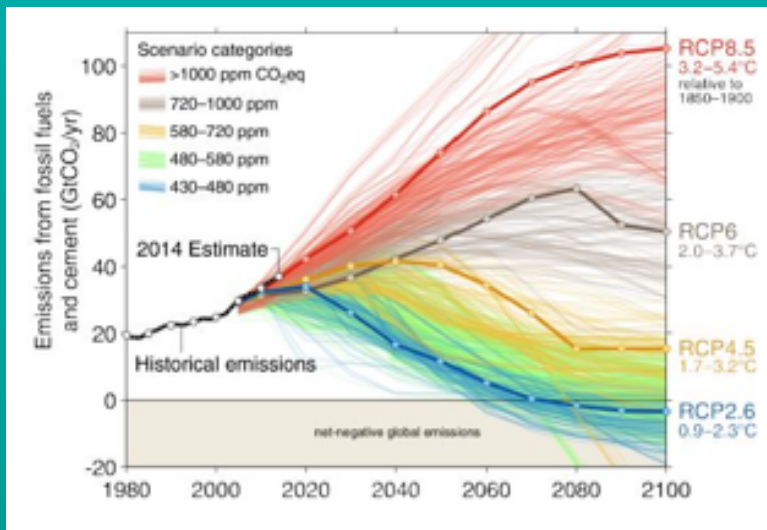


# WHAT SCIENTIFIC TOOLS CAN HELP US TO ASSESS FUTURE CLIMATE?

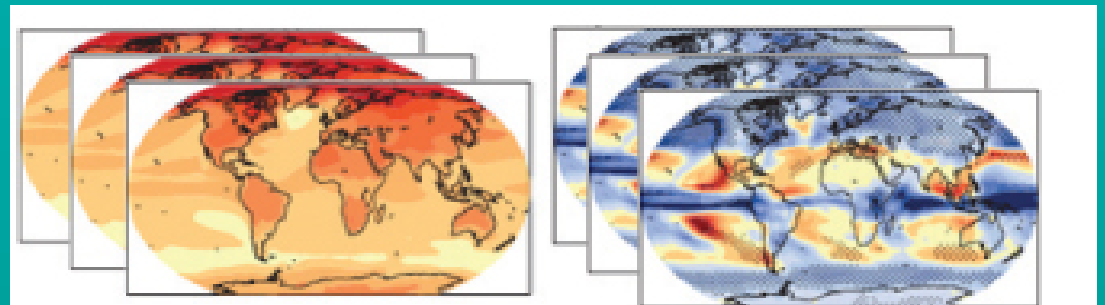


# CLIMATE MODELING AND CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

## Emission Scenarios



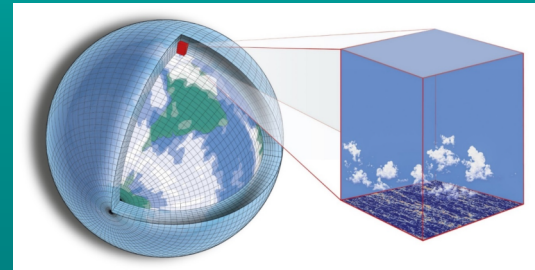
## Future Climate and Sea Level Rise Projections



Emissions



Climate Models



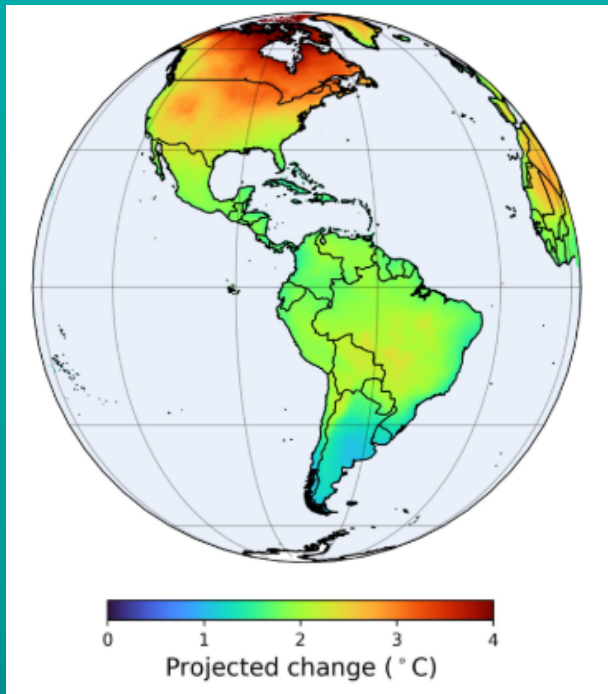
Climate Projections





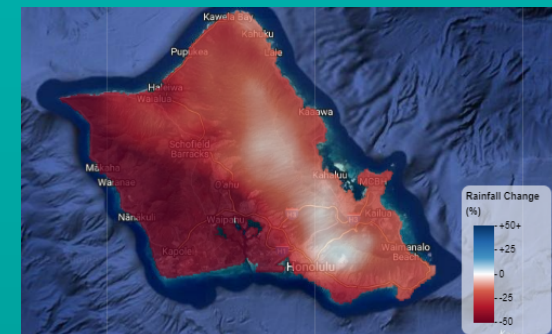
# MAKING CLIMATE SCIENCE ACTIONABLE

## Climate Scientists

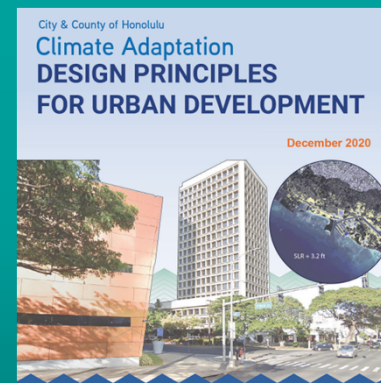


How to Use it?

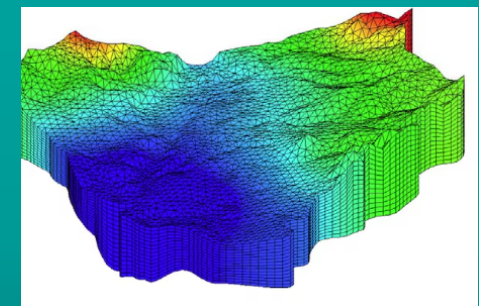
## End User



## Risk Assessments



## Design Guidance



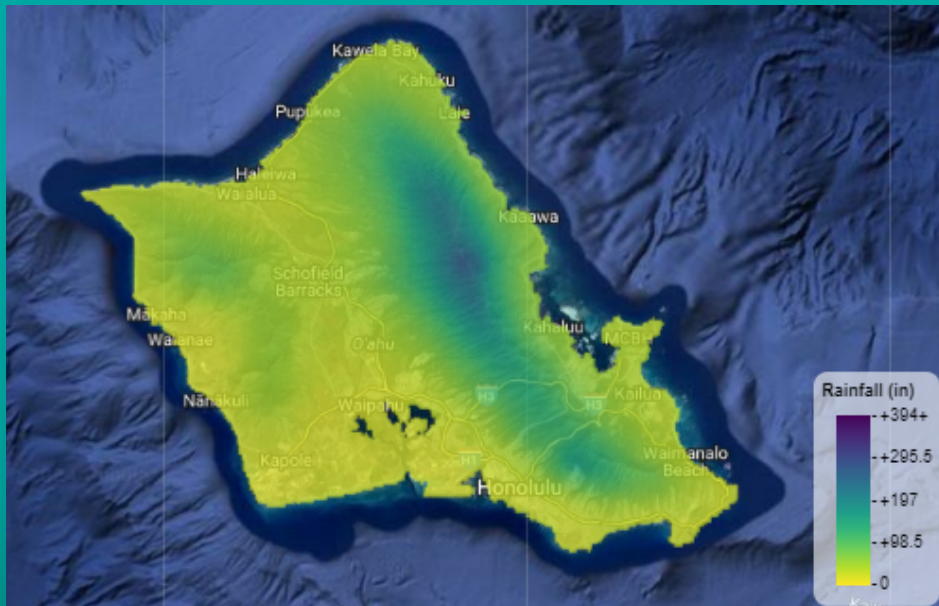
## Hydrologic Modeling



# WHAT DO CLIMATE MODELS TELL US ABOUT O‘AHU?

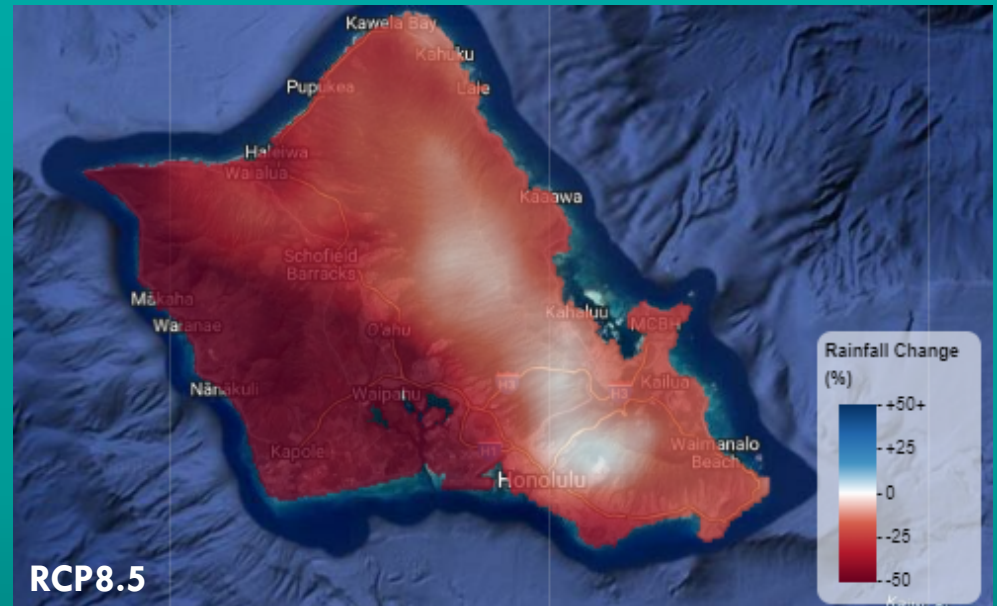


Annual Rainfall



Present Day

Change in Annual Rainfall



High Emission Scenario (2070-2099)



# WHAT DO CLIMATE MODELS TELL US ABOUT O‘AHU?

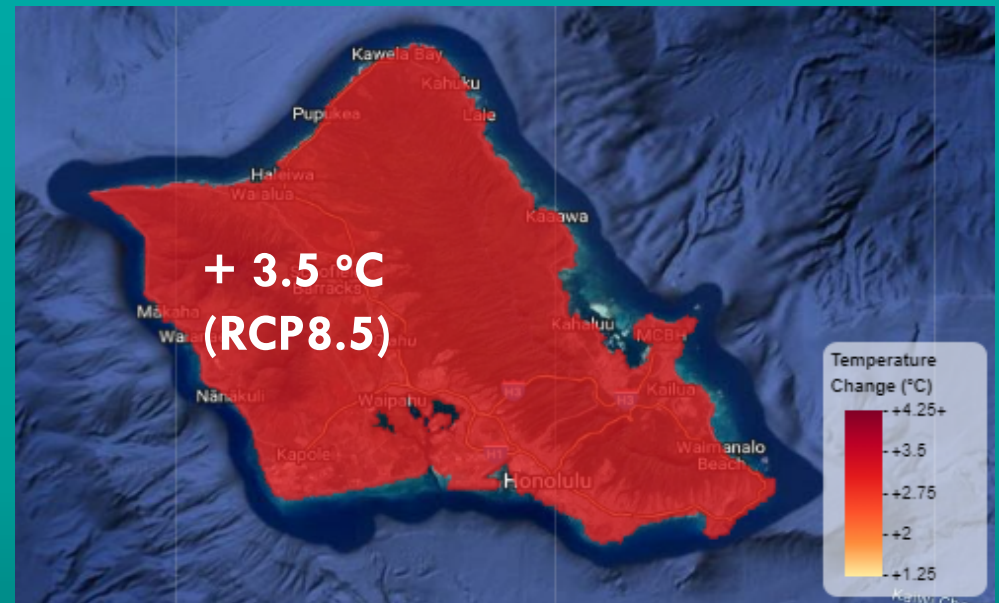


## Average Temperature



## Present Day

## Change in Average Temperature

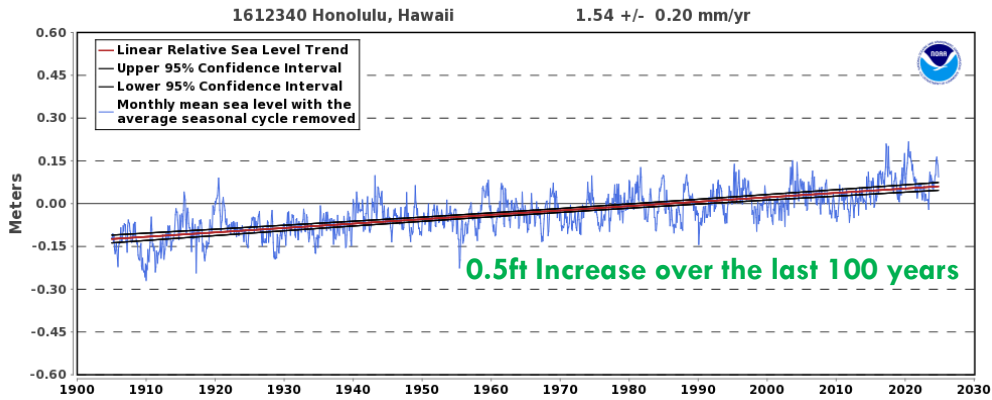


## High Emission Scenario (2070-2099)

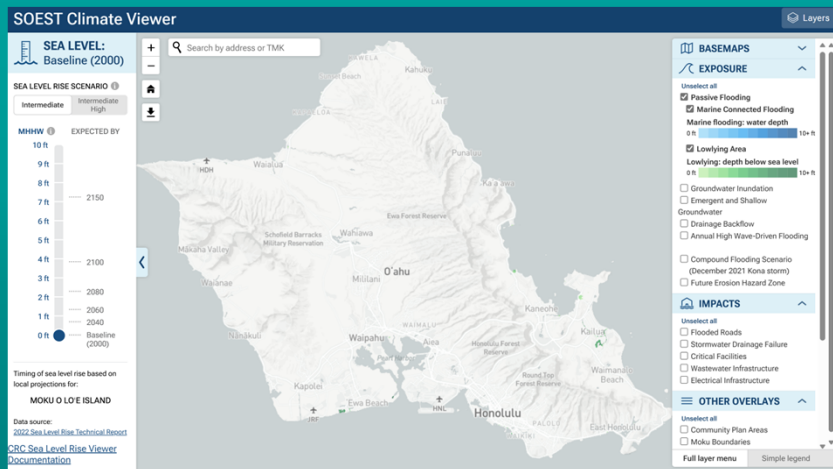


# WHAT ABOUT SEA LEVEL RISE?

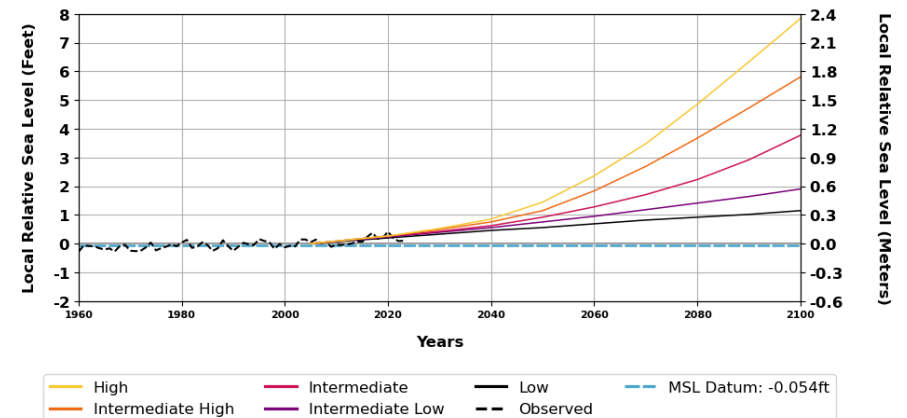
Relative Sea Level Trend  
1612340 Honolulu, Hawaii



Sea Level Trends



Annual Relative Sea Level Since 1960 and Projections  
1612340 Honolulu



2022 NOAA Sea Level Rise Scenarios



# PROGRESS TO DATE



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION



Data Collection and Review

On-going



Identifying Climate Stressors Relevant to the WMP

On-going



Technical Analyses and Assessments

On-going



Climate Impacts and Resilience Measure Development

Upcoming



# DATA COLLECTION AND REVIEW

## Selection of Data Sources

**USGS**  
science for a changing world

Volcanic Aquifers of Hawai'i—Construction and Calibration of Numerical Models for Assessing Groundwater Availability on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui

Scientific Investigations Report 2020–5126

**USGS**

**HCDP** HAWAII CLIMATE DATA PORTAL

HOME ABOUT DATA PORTAL CULTURAL RESOURCES LIBRARY RESEARCH CLIMATE TOOLS

Climate Tools

- Rainfall Atlas of Hawaii
- CCVD Portfolios
- Hawaii's Rangeland Information Portal (H-RIP)
- Site-specific Climate Portfolios
- Hawaii Groundwater Recharge Tool
- Coastal Erosion
- Sea Level Rise Viewer

**Hawaii  
Climate  
Data Center**

**The Water Research Foundation**

PROJECT NO. 4637

**Impacts of Climate Change on Honolulu Water Supplies and Planning Strategies for Mitigation**

Division of Water Supply

**Water Research  
Foundation**

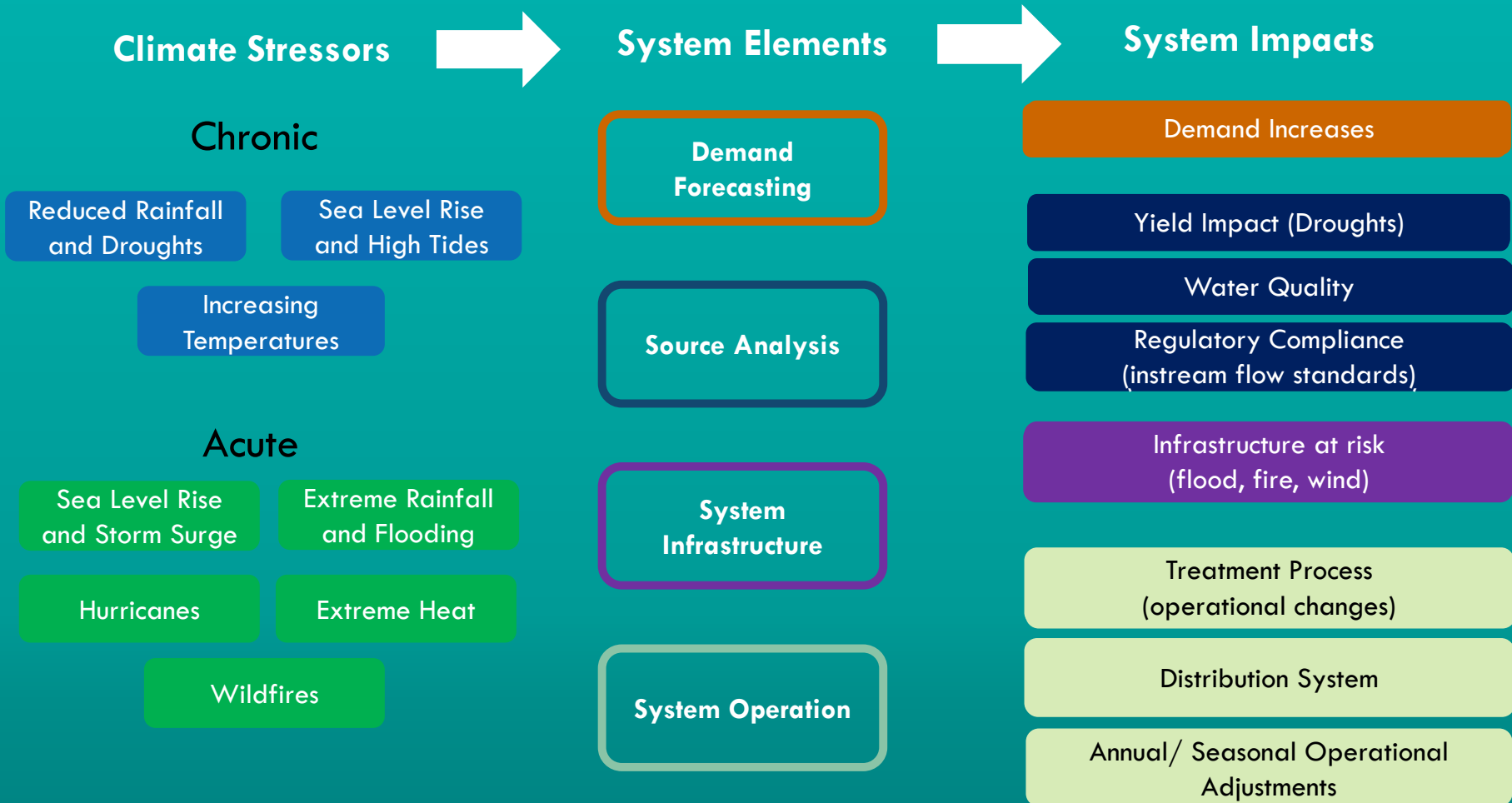
**Climate Ready O'ahu**

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

**State and Local**

**Hawai'i  
Sea Level Rise  
Vulnerability and  
Adaptation Report**

# HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT OUR WATER SYSTEM?





# SOURCE ANALYSIS



- How will climate change affect our water resources?



# SOURCE ANALYSIS

## Current

Average Condition

Drought Condition

## Future

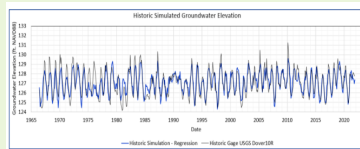
Average Conditions

Drought Conditions

Climate-Adjusted Demand

## Technical Approach

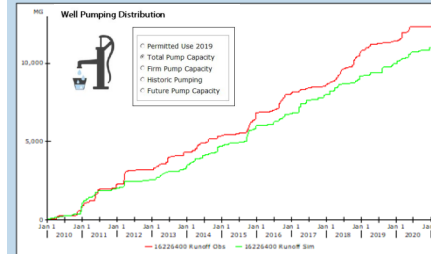
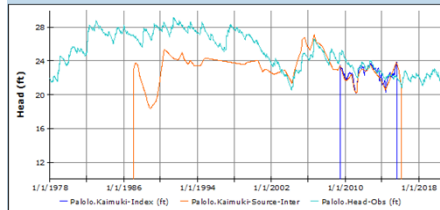
- Predictive Statistical Model



- USGS Studies



## Groundwater Levels & Pumping Patterns



## Management Strategies

- Water Transfers
- Demand Management
- Well Capacities

Aquifer & Supply Sustainability



WMP

Linking Climate Data to Impacts

Water Availability Vulnerabilities



# WATER DEMAND

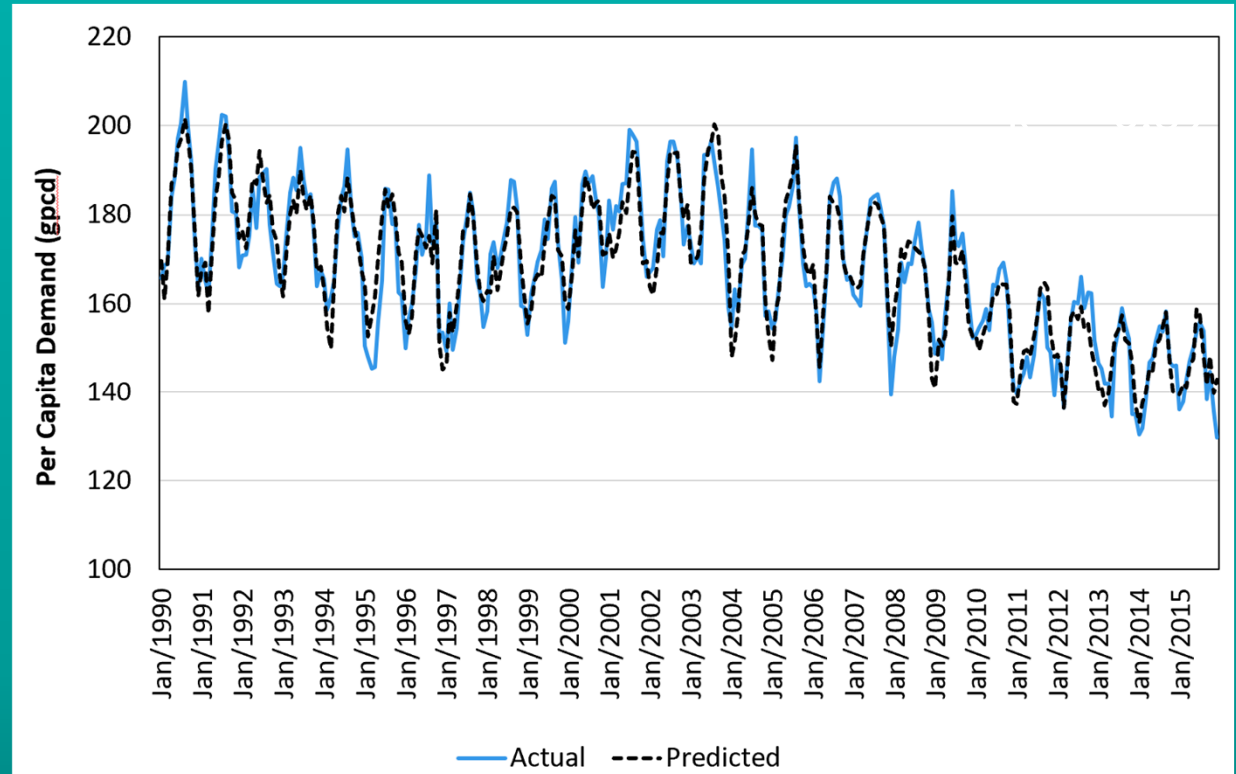


- Higher temperatures, more evaporation, less rainfall = Higher water demand
- How do we capture demand increases due to climate change?

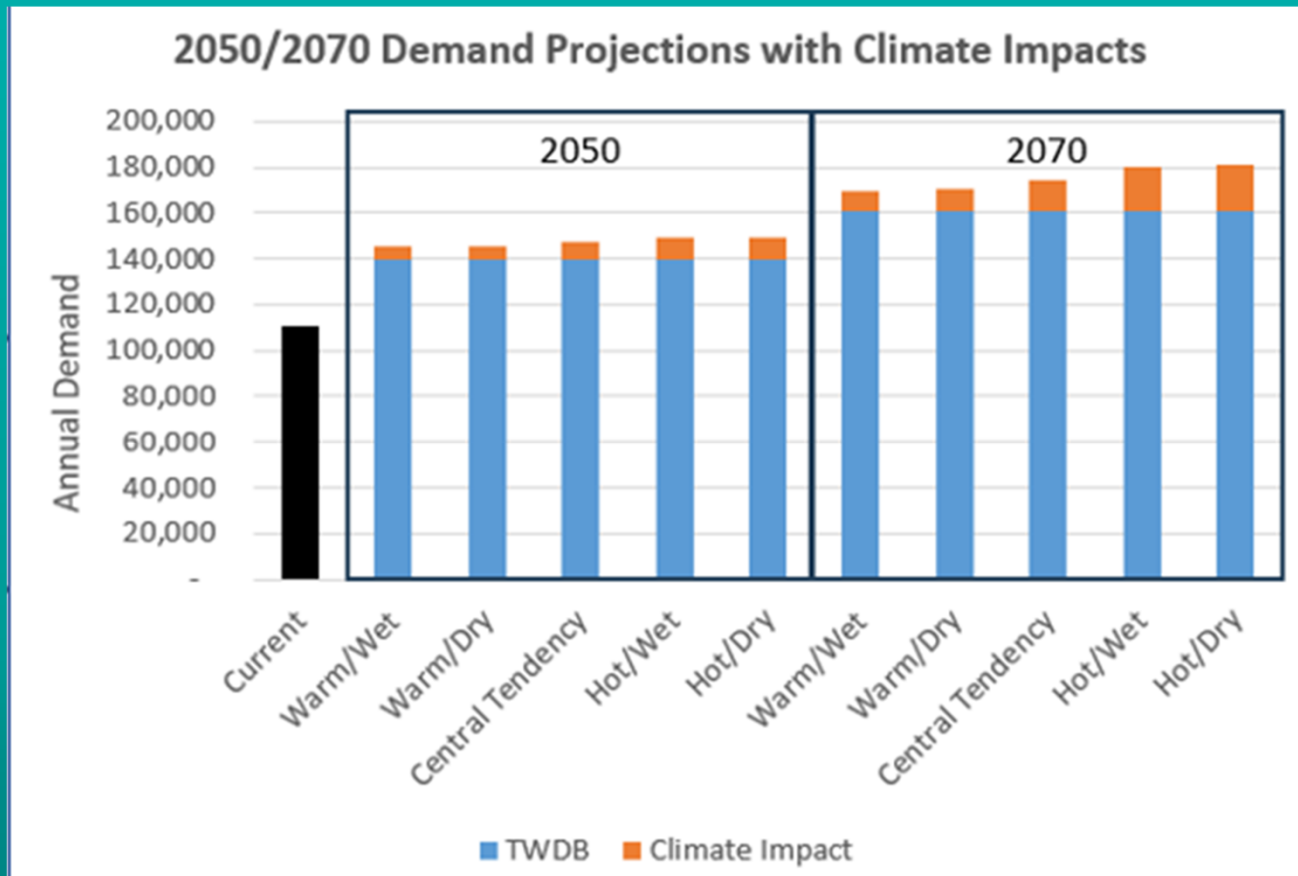


# WATER DEMAND REGRESSION MODEL

- Climate variables
  - Consecutive days without rain
  - Maximum monthly temperatures
  - Monthly precipitation
  - Previous month precipitation
- Non-Climat variables
  - Local economy
  - Average price of water
  - Plumbing efficiency
  - Increased active conservation



# EXAMPLE – CLIMATE CHANGE DEMAND MULTIPLIERS



Up to 20% Increase in Demand



# HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT OUR WATER SYSTEM?

## Climate Stressors

### Chronic

Reduced Rainfall  
and Droughts

Sea Level Rise  
and High Tides

Increasing  
Temperatures

### Acute

Sea Level Rise  
and Storm Surge

Extreme Rainfall  
and Flooding

Hurricanes

Extreme Heat

Wildfires

## System Elements

Demand  
Forecasting

Source Analysis

System  
Infrastructure

System Operation

## System Impacts

Demand Increases

Yield Impact (Droughts)

Water Quality

Regulatory Compliance  
(instream flow standards)

Infrastructure at risk  
(flood, fire, wind)

Treatment Process  
(operational changes)

Distribution System

Annual/ Seasonal Operational  
Adjustments



# INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO THE WMP

- Acute and chronic climate stressors
- Climate change drives capital projects and costs
- Opportunities for improving infrastructure and operational efficiencies



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION







# Mahalo!

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.



# ACCEPT MEETING NOTES FROM MEETING 52

David Ebersold  
Facilitator

January 16, 2025

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





# RED HILL UPDATES

Ernest Lau  
Manager and Chief Engineer  
January 16, 2025  
[boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com)



# Mahalo!

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.

# UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

2025

- Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Thursday, July 17, 2025
- Thursday, October 16, 2025





# Mahalo!

Providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water, now and into the future.