



Board of Water Supply Focuses Solely on Water

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) was created on April 27, 1929, by the Territorial Legislature in response to public outcry for a truly effective water management system that was above politics.

In the previous years, droughts and the failure of the City Water Works department to effectively manage uncontrolled drilling led to drastically decreasing aquifer levels and water shortages. Several important meetings were held in Honolulu during this time, with citizens, legislators, engineering experts and water works officials all working together to solve the critical water problem.



Local citizens and experts alike recommended the establishment of a commission to manage the municipal water system. A prime consideration in the creation of this commission was to remove the operation and management of the waterworks from direct political influence and control.

Both groups agreed that *proper management of the water system would be most effectively accomplished through the establishment of an independent, non-political commission whose members would be responsible citizens serving overlapping terms to assure continuity.*

The 1929 Legislature considered these recommendations and passed **Act 96 that created and defined the powers and duties of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.** With this act, the Legislature took the control of water away from the City and turned it over to the newly-created semi-autonomous City agency, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, effective February 1, 1930.

Although it remained as a Department of the City and County, **the BWS was designed to be semi-autonomous and self-supporting with the authority to charge for water usage to support its capital improvement and operating expenses and set long-term plans for Oahu's water future.**

Today, a seven-member Board of Directors presides over the agency and sets its policies. Five at-large members are nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

Two serve as ex-officio members: the Director of the State Department of Transportation and the Chief Engineer of the City Department of Facility Maintenance. The Board of Directors appoints the Manager and Chief Engineer who is responsible to administer the water department and its operation.



Currently, the BWS manages Oahu's municipal water resources and distribution system, which includes 2,100 miles of pipeline, 94 well pumping stations, 90 booster pump stations, 172 reservoirs, and 168,000 customers. This includes repairing and replacing aging infrastructure and installing and maintaining facilities critical to delivering water.

The BWS focuses solely on water and its semi-autonomy ensures that water revenues can only be applied to the BWS's water programs and projects. It does not receive nor request money collected from City or State taxes or fees to manage and maintain water supplies and systems.

Its semi-autonomous operations allows the BWS to continue to successfully fulfill its mission to provide Oahu water users with a safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water supply now and into the future.

More information about the BWS can be found in the publication *Water for Life: The History and Future of Water on Oahu* available online at www.boardofwatersupply.com/files/WfL_Website.pdf. Email contactus@hbws.org, or call 748-5041 to request copies.

*Beretania Pumping Station
Then: 1935 and Now: 2016*



Improving Oahu's Water System to Serve You

As part of the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) efforts to proactively replace and upgrade Oahu's water infrastructure, customers can expect to see construction projects around the island. For more information visit www.boardofwatersupply.com or call BWS Construction at 748-5730.

Kalihi Water System Improvements, Part III: Project to replace approximately 9,600 feet of 8-inch water main along Puuhale Rd., Bannister St., Bannister Pl., Gulick Ave., Kopke St., Factory St., Stanley St., Waterhouse St., Wilcox Lane, and Industrial Rd.

Kapiolani Boulevard Water System Improvements: Project to replace approximately 2,800 feet of 12-inch water main and approximately 1,000 feet of 8-inch water main on Kapiolani Boulevard between University Avenue and McCully Street.

Kapahulu Water System Improvements, Part I: Project to replace approximately 4,700 feet of 8-, 6- and 4-inch water mains along Kaimuki Ave., Lincoln Ave., 2nd Ave., 3rd Ave., Belser St., and Aloalo Pl.

Pensacola Street Water System Improvements: Project to replace approximately 2,300 feet of 12-inch water main and 750 feet of 8-inch water main on Pensacola St. between Kinau St. and Kapiolani Blvd. Occasional evening work and lane closures may be implemented based on project needs.

Wilhelmina Rise Water System Improvements, Part IV: Project to replace approximately 11,000 feet of 8-inch water main on Sierra Dr. from Wilhelmina Rise to just below Halehoola Pl., and along Hilo Pl., Iwi Way, Kawelolani Pl., Lanihale Pl., Lilioe Pl., Mariposa Dr., Niele Pl., Nihipali Pl., Nioi Pl., Pakaki Pl., Paula Dr., and Paula Pl.

Meet the New Waiola



The Board of Water Supply recently gave its mascot Waiola a makeover and updated its coloring book. The new coloring book features Waiola as a friendly, smiling water drop who participates in the water cycle process and becomes a part of the water supply. To request copies, email contactus@hbws.org or call (808) 748-5041. Coloring book pages are also available at www.boardofwatersupply.com, click on Publications at the bottom of the homepage.

Workshops at the Garden

The Board of Water Supply and the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden offer educational workshops at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden. Workshops feature less thirsty plants and gardening techniques that will help conserve water outdoors. For more information, visit



www.boardofwatersupply.com, What's Happening section, and click on Workshop Schedule under Halawa Xeriscape Garden. To register for upcoming listed workshops, email workshops@hbws.org or call 748-5320.

Xeric Seed of the Month

On the first Wednesday of each month, Halawa Xeriscape Garden's (HXG) Facebook® page will feature a Xeric seed or seedling of the month. Visitors to the HXG will receive information on the plant's origin, care, and interesting facts. Free seed of the month packets are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (One packet per household, while supplies last).

BWS Water Rates Remain Unchanged

Rates effective July 1, 2015, will remain in effect until a new rate schedule is adopted. Rate adjustments are required to go through a formal public hearing and customer notification process before adoption in order to inform customers before its implementation. For more information, visit www.boardofwatersupply.com, Customer Service section, click on Your Water Bill, then click on the Rate Schedule link.



BWS Receives a Clean Audit

As an assurance that the Board of Water Supply (BWS) is managing ratepayers' money effectively, an independent auditor is hired annually to provide an opinion on the BWS's financial statements and compliance with requirements related to major federal programs. For the year ended June 30, 2015, an independent audit was conducted by Accuity, LLP, which found no significant or material financial deficiencies. The audit and other financial data is available at www.boardofwatersupply.com, click on the About Us tab, then the Department Financial Statements link.



www.boardofwatersupply.com



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