



# WATER MATTERS

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

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Fall 2022

## Erwin Kawata Named 2022 City Manager of the Year

Erwin Kawata, Board of Water Supply (BWS) Water Quality Division Program Administrator, is the 2022 City Manager of the Year. He is recognized as an exemplary manager with strong planning, organizational and collaborative leadership skills. He challenged his team members to take on new tasks while working to develop their skills and



Erwin Kawata

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Over his 40-year BWS career that began as a Chemist II, this champion of safe drinking water has acquired exceptional water quality knowledge and experience. As a result, Kawata:

- is a highly respected subject matter authority on water quality;
- heads the BWS division responsible for continued safety of Oahu's ground water supply and distribution system; and
- leads a team of various experts that has worked to develop and coordinate

the BWS's prudent response to the Navy's Red Hill fuel tank leaks, since 2014.

The BWS conducts more than 30,000 tests annually to ensure that drinking water throughout Oahu's water system meets or exceeds federal and state monitoring requirements. This ensures that all island water users have safe drinking water for now and into the future.

*Update: In October, Kawata was selected to be the BWS Deputy Manager after Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer Ellen Kitamura retired. The Water Quality Division is being temporarily managed by Roland Fenstema-cher, Ph.D.*

## Everyone Asked to Stay Mindful of Water Use in Wet Season

Thank you to BWS customers who have reduced their water usage by 10 percent or more! Pumping data shows that Oahu's water demand is below what it was last year.

Because of your efforts, the BWS can avoid making conservation mandatory.

Weather forecasters are predicting an above-average rainfall season in the coming months. However, we still need for everyone to remain mindful of water use so our existing resources can be

replenished to meet the needs of all.

It may take 5 to 7 years to install new wells to replace the three sources that were shut down because of the Navy's Red Hill fuel spill. Meanwhile, we continue to adjust the water system to fulfill demand.

The BWS offers helpful water-saving ideas, including rebates for purchasing water-efficient appliances and devices. Looking for ways to further reduce water use? Visit <https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/conservation>.



## BWS Launches New Residential Toilet Rebate

The BWS recently launched a new toilet rebate as part of its WaterSensible Rebate Program to help customers save water and reduce costs.

BWS customers who replace an older toilet with an EPA WaterSense labeled model can qualify for a \$45 rebate, with a limit of two per household. This can save the average family approximately 13,000 gallons of

water per year, helping to preserve our precious water resources.

WaterSense models use no more than 1.28 gallons per flush (GPF). That's 20% to 30% less water than the current federal code of 1.68 GPF. Learn more about this rebate and other residential and commercial rebates at [www.boardofwatersupply.com/rebates](https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/rebates).

# Restaurant Water Service Rule Reduces Water Waste

Did you know that one eight-ounce glass of water requires an additional 16 ounces of water to wash and rinse the glass? If the glass is left untouched, that's 24 ounces of our precious water down the drain.

A BWS rule, which has been in effect since January 1, 1992, states that water service in restaurants can be provided only upon request. Section 2-209(5) of the BWS Rules and Regulations provides as follows:

**The Department (Board of Water Supply) shall restrict the serving of drinking water to any customer unless expressly requested at any restaurant, hotel, café, cafeteria, or other place where food is sold, served, or offered for sale.**

**These restrictions shall not apply to catered groups of 25 or more people. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) special assessment for each violation, or in the discontinuation of water service and/or penalties as authorized in Section 2-205, 2b, and Section 5-501 of these Rules and Regulations.**

The BWS urges dining establishments throughout Oahu to change their service policies, remind their employees about this rule, and instruct their wait staff to serve water only upon request. The BWS can provide table tent cards for restaurants



to remind their staff and customers about the rule.

To report a rule violation, or if a restaurant wishes to obtain a supply of table tent cards, contact the BWS's Communications Office at (808) 748-5041 or email [contactus@hbws.org](mailto:contactus@hbws.org).

## 2023 Water Conservation Calendar Available in BWS Lobby

The 2023 Water Conservation Calendar featuring the winning posters and poems from the BWS's 2022 Water Conservation Week Contests is available to the public.



The free calendar can be picked up from the BWS's Beretania St. building lobby. Quantities are limited. First come, first served.

The calendar also contains an entry form for the 2023 Water Conservation Week Contests, open to all students on Oahu only. The poster contest is open to Grades K-6 and the poetry contest is open to Gr. 7-12.

The contests deadline is Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

For more information, visit [www.boardofwatersupply.com/wcwcontest](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/wcwcontest)

**Mahalo to our 2022 WCW Program sponsors:**

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- Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.
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- Pasha Hawaii

## We're Hiring! Make a Difference in Our Island Home

Join our team of water protectors  
To view and apply for current BWS job opportunities,  
go to [www.boardofwatersupply.com/jobs/featured](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/jobs/featured)

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