



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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NEW GUIDANCE TO EXPEDITE CONTAMINATION CLEAN UP

HONOLULU – The Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) office of the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) today announced new Environmental Action Levels (EAL) to assist landowners, developers and lending institutions to quickly identify properties that may have potential environmental contamination concerns. They can then work with their consultant to estimate the "worst-case" time and cost of remedial actions that may be required to redevelop the site.

This greatly reduces the financial risk of purchasing and redeveloping "Brownfield" type properties and ultimately helps to bring abandoned properties back into use and reduce urban sprawl.

This is the first update of such guidance in 10 years, and represents a significant improvement in an important tool to address contaminated sites. The updated guidance expands the types of environmental concerns considered in the EALs as well as the number of chemicals addressed.

HEER office staff overseeing work at a specific site should be contacted prior to using EALs in order to ensure that the document is applicable to the site and that the user has the most up-to-date version available.

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The EAL document is not intended to establish policy or regulation. Use of the document and associated EALs is entirely optional on the part of the party responsible for the investigation and cleanup of a contaminated site. Reference to the updated EALs will generally not be needed at sites where final cleanup levels have already been reviewed and approved by the HEER office, including sites that have already been closed. For sites where investigation is currently underway, referral to the updated EALs is strongly recommended.

The EAL document will be revised and updated on a regular basis. Comments and suggestions from the general public are welcome at any time. Workshops to present and discuss the EALs will also be held periodically. To provide comments or be included on the mailing list for updates and workshop announcements, please contact Roger Brewer of the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office at 586-4328.

The Environmental Action Levels can be viewed at the Department of Health's Web site at www.hawaii.gov/health .

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