

## *TUITION COSTS FOR OPERATOR TRAINING ARE ON THE RISE*

The tuition charges for the drinking water operator training courses will begin to rise to meet the actual cost to provide the training. In past years, the cost to provide operator training was heavily subsidized by federal grants and the operator enjoyed a variety of training courses, low tuition charges, and opportunities to attend training several times a year on each island. The federal grants to provide or subsidize training are no longer available.

Two years ago, the University of Hawaii's Outreach College agreed to establish a drinking water operator training program for the operators in the State. The University's Outreach College is a non-profit organization, and the Outreach College is actively trying to provide recertification training at reasonable cost to the operators. The College uses State and County classrooms when available, local instructors are hired to minimize the travel expense, and training offered by other agencies are used when appropriate. On occasion, the College will utilize out-of-state instructors to bring other perspectives on water system operations to our operators. The current air fare war between local airlines is also helping to lower the cost of providing the training.

In spite of these efforts, the tuition for future training courses will need to increase and the College anticipates tuition to be around \$85 per class, but is only meeting expenses to break even.

Although this tuition might seem expensive, please note that the AWWA conference on Kauai this month offered 0.8 CEU (eight hours) of training to its members for \$110. A comparison with some other states show that tuition cost are also higher on the mainland. Some examples of non-subsidized course fees are as follows:

**OCT Academy (Oregon/California)**

0.6 CEU classes: \$145

**New England Water Works Association**

0.6 CEU classes: \$170 (non-members)

**Green River Community College-WETRC (Washington)**

1.4 CEU classes: \$210

0.7 CEU classes: \$140

**Penn State - Harrisburg**

0.6 CEU classes: \$145-\$195

Over the two-year certification period, grade 1 or 2 operators need eight approved contact hours of training, and grade 3 or 4 operators need 16 approved contact hours.

## *SDWB STAFF ON THE MOVE AND MOVING ON*

Effective February 2007, Michael Miyahira became the Engineering Section Supervisor, replacing Stuart Yamada (who became the SDWB Branch Chief in July 2006).

Effective March 1, 2007, the SDWB lost two staff to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Sharon Nekoba, an engineer with the Engineering Section, moved to the DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation. Robert Chong, the groundwater program planner, moved to the DLNR's Commission on Water Resources Management. The SDWB staff wishes both of them well in their new jobs

Aloha and Happy New Year from USEPA Region 9's Drinking Water Office in San Francisco! Its been another action packed year for both EPA and the Hawaii DOH drinking water programs. In January 2006, EPA finalized the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts and Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules. These two rules provide more protection from microbial contaminants while at the same time minimizing exposure to disinfectant byproducts. The Hawaii DOH is working closely with water systems to ensure compliance with these new rules, notifying them of the requirements and providing guidance and assistance. In November, the long anticipated federal Groundwater Rule went final. Although most of its provisions don't take effect until 2009, its worth getting familiar with sooner rather than later! A new Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR2) also went final in January 2007. This rule effects all larger systems (serving more than 10,000 persons) and a few randomly selected, "lucky" smaller systems. The purpose of this rule is to find out if certain as yet unregulated contaminants are widespread enough to be worthy of being regulated. Although this rule is enforced directly by EPA, Hawaii DOH is partnering with EPA and notifying systems of their requirements and will help provide assistance to help you comply. In 2007 EPA hopes to finalize some changes to the lead and copper rule to make the rule work more effectively at lowering lead levels in home taps.



EPA now provides a lot of on line, live webcasts on both new and existing rules, available to water systems and any interested persons - check out the webcast schedule at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/calendar.html>

As you know, 2006 saw the retirement of long time Safe Drinking Branch Chief Bill "Waterbill" Wong. Bill was a long time friend of EPA, and although we all miss him, his excellent training and preparation of staff, coupled with the selection of the highly experienced, long time Engineering Section Chief Stuart Yamada as the New Branch Chief, have resulted in the same continuing excellent program. The SDWB staff continue to work to provide operators and water systems with many opportunities for training and technical assistance. The State Revolving Fund staff continue to work feverishly to get loans out to water systems that need capital improvements. The State has adopted a new, computerized data tracking system (SDWIS/State), which will result in more efficient data and compliance tracking, setting of monitoring schedules, and reporting to EPA. We send our kudos to the SDWB for a job well done!

And as always, the work that EPA and the State does pales in comparison to the work you, the drinking water utility managers, operators, technical and administrative personnel do, on a day after day, year after year basis, to ensure the continued safe and reliable quality of the water. In this New Year I salute your continuing efforts to produce safe and plentiful water, and wish you and your families a safe and happy, violation-free, 2007!

**Mahalo and a hui hou kakou,**

**Barry Pollock - USEPA Region 9 Hawai'i PWSS Program Project Officer**

**P.S. - I hope to see you at the 2007 AWWA-Hawaii Section Annual Conference in May.**

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### **NEW FACES AT EPA**

There are some new faces at EPA, who are now working with Hawaii's Water Quality Programs. From left to right, we have Ephraim Leon-Guerrero (the Hawaii Groundwater and Source Water Protection Program(s) Project Officer); Rebecca Tuden (the new cesspool and OSDS staff); and "The Boss", David Albright (Manager of EPA, Region 9's Groundwater Office).

Ephraim replaces Shannon Fitzgerald, while Rebecca replaces Laura Bose.



## ***DRINKING WATER SAMPLE REJECTION CRITERIA***

In order to meet new Quality Assurance Requirements, the laboratory analyst(s), quality assurance officer(s), section supervisor(s), and the sample transporter(s) are responsible for inspecting all sample containers and chain-of-custody sheets upon receipt and they have the authority not to accept drinking water samples if the following conditions are noted:

1. If the sample container is leaking, broken, frozen, or are of the wrong type for the particular analysis. Samples will also be rejected if wrong sample volumes are collected (when method critical).
2. If either the sample container or the custody sheet is missing from the shipment.
3. If sample containers are unlabeled or if their labels somehow become detached during transit. In addition, if the label indicates information different from the chain-of-custody sheet.
4. If the container labeling or the chain-of-custody sheet is illegible or filled out incorrectly. This includes missing sample collection dates, collection time or if the samples were relinquished incorrectly (chain-of-custody is broken).
5. If the sample is received at the laboratory after the hold time has expired for either preservation or analysis. Samples may also be rejected if received at the laboratory with insufficient hold time remaining for analysis.
6. If sample vials (VOA type) are received with an inverted septa or if VOC, EDB/DBCP/TCP samples have excessive headspace (air-bubble that moves when the vial is inverted).
7. If the custody sheet has been superceded by a more recent version.
8. If samples upon arrival at the laboratory (that require the temperature to be maintained at  $4^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) fail the temperature, preservation, and dechlorination check.

**Samplers should make sure that samples are collected, labeled, preserved, and shipped properly. Failure to follow the proper sampling procedures will result in the sample being rejected. Rejected samples will result in the collection of a new sample and a possible monitoring violation of the resample is not collected within the proper sampling frequency.**

## ***NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION (NRWA) OPENS OFFICE IN HAWAII***



National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is a trade association representing the rural and small community water and wastewater industry throughout the United States. The primary mission of NRWA is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the U.S.

NRWA is organized as a federation of state rural water associations and has offices in each of the 50 states. NRWA also has an office in Puerto Rico. The association currently represents over 25,748 utility systems throughout the U.S.

The NRWA's Circuit Rider and Wastewater Program provide training and technical assistance as the two primary services that is provided to water utility systems and wastewater utility systems.

In Hawaii, NRWA will work with the rural and small community water systems to provide training and technical assistance. This service is funded through a grant from the USDA's Rural Development Program.

NRWA's Other Programs include: EPA Training and Technical Assistance Program; Groundwater/Wellhead Protection Program; and Source Water Protection Program.

**The Hawaii Office contact is Robert Brokate who can be reached via cellular phone (808) 646-0944 or via email at: [brokate@wave.hicv.net](mailto:brokate@wave.hicv.net)**

## ***OCTOBER DSO CERTIFICATION EXAM RESULTS***

### ***October DSO Exam Results Are Up and Down***

**Exam results.** The 2nd 2006 Distribution System Operator (DSO) certification exams were held on Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island (Hilo and Kona) in late October. Forty-six operators sat for the exam, and 21 passed for a passing rate of 46%. The passing rate improved for grade 1 operators, but decreased for grades 2 through 4 operators. The breakdown by grade is as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b># of Examinees</b>	<b>Passing Rate</b>	<b>Passing Rate - April 06</b>
1	18	29	62%	53%
2	3	10	30%	42%
3	0	3	0%	67%
4	0	4	0%	41%
<b>Total</b>	21	46	46%	48%

*Congratulations to those operators who passed the exam, and to those who took the time to study!*

**2007 exam dates.** Please make note of upcoming exam dates and deadlines:

Certification exam	Exam Date	Applications due
Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO)	<b>1/23/07</b>	10/23/06
DSO	<b>4/24/07</b>	1/24/07
WTPO	<b>7/24/07</b>	4/24/07

**CEU approval.** If your DSO or WTPO certification expires on 11/30/06, you were mailed a renewal reminder this past spring, along with a listing of your CEUs recorded to date. If you need to have other CEUs *approved* and recorded, please fill out the Course Approval form (purple) and send it in as soon as possible. After 12/31/06, the renewal fee **DOUBLES**. After 11/30/07, you can not renew without taking the certification exam again.

If you need to *take* courses for CEUs, you can refer to the "Approved CEUs" sheet for ideas. The UH Outreach College taught courses in July through November this year. *Please note that the Outreach College program must charge more for courses in the coming years because the training subsidy from EPA has run out. Therefore, the fee for each course will increase and will be closer to the actual cost of providing training.* As always, options also available to earn CEUs are: AWWA workshops and the annual conference in May, Statewide Wastewater Operator Training Center courses, correspondence courses through California State University at Sacramento (CSUS), or online courses through AWWA and CSUS.

As you know, we've revised our internal CEU tracking system so that 10 contact hours equals one "CEU-10". *The number of approved contact hours you must earn to renew remains the same as it has been.* Grade 1 or 2 operators need eight contact hours (0.8 CEU-10s). Grade 3 or 4 operators need 16 contact hours (1.6 CEU-10s) per two-year renewal period.

**Application for certification.** You can download copies of the DSO or WTPO certification application form (and exam registration form) from the DOH SDWB website at:

**<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/sdwb/index.html>**. You can also call Kumar Bhagavan or Ann Zane at 586-4258 for copies of these forms.

The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) 2 for Public Water Systems Revisions was published in the Federal Register (72 FR 368) on January 04, 2007.

This regulation requires large public water systems and selected other public water systems to conduct assessment monitoring and possibly screening surveys for selected unregulated contaminants. Public water systems covered under this regulation now have until April 4, 2007 (90 days) to submit contact information and August 2, 2007 (210 days) to submit sampling locations for UCMR2 monitoring. Failure to meet the deadlines are considered a violation). Actual monitoring is not expected to begin until sometime in 2008.

Under a Partnership Agreement signed with the EPA, the SDWB is expected to (1) review the draft State Monitoring Plan (SMP) to verify proper classification of public water systems with respect to system size, type, source water type, and UCMR2 applicability; and (2) perform supplemental responsibilities which include providing or ensuring the proper PWS inventory data for each PWS, review representative sampling plans for reduced monitoring submitted by PWSs with groundwater sources that have multiple entry points to the distribution system, notify very large and large PWSs of their Assessment Monitoring and/or Screening Survey responsibilities, notify small PWSs that are part of the final SMP of their Assessment Monitoring and/or Screening Survey responsibilities, and assist the EPA in obtaining compliance through follow-up contact with PWSs concerning their monitoring responsibilities and concerning instances of noncompliance.

The following large public water systems (serving over 10,000 persons) are required to conduct UCMR2 monitoring:

Assessment Monitoring and Screening Survey

Honolulu BWS - Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor (331), Honolulu BWS - Waipahu-Ewa-Waianae (335), Navy - Pearl Harbor (360)

Assessment Monitoring Only

Hawaii DWS - Hilo (101), Hawaii DWS - South Kohala, (130), Hawaii DWS - North Kona (131), Maui DWS - Wailuku (212), Maui DWS - Makawao (213), Maui DWS - Lahaina (214), Honolulu BWS - Waiialua (332), Honolulu BWS - Wahiawa (333), Honolulu BWS - Waipio Heights (334), Army - Schofield Barracks (345), Honolulu BWS - Mililani (367), Kauai DOW - Lihue (400)

The following smaller public water systems (serving less than 10,000 persons) have been selected to conduct UCMR2 sampling with analysis to be performed through EPA (at no cost to the water system):

Assessment Monitoring Only

Hawaii DWS - Haina (161); Kapalua (204); and Kaanapali (205)

Screening Survey Only

Kauai DOW - Hanapepe-Elele (404)

<b>ASSESSMENT MONITORING (10 Contaminants)</b>	
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Analytical Method</b>
<b>2 Priority Compounds:</b> Dimethoate, Terbufos sulfone	527
<b>5 Flame Retardants:</b> 2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47), 2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-99), 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromobiphenyl (HBB), 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153), 2,2',4,4',6-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-100)	527
<b>3 Explosives:</b> 1,3-dinitrobenzene, 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT), Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX)	529
<b>SCREENING SURVEY (15 Contaminants)</b>	
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Analytical Method</b>
<b>3 Acetanilide Parent Herbicide:</b> Acetochlor, Alachlor, Metolachlor	525.2
<b>6 Acetanilide Herbicide Degradates:</b> Acetochlor ethane sulfonic acid (ESA), Acetochlor oxanilic acid (OA), Alachlor ESA, Alachlor OA, Metolachlor ESA, Metolachlor OA	535
6 Nitrosamines: N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA), N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), N-nitroso-n-butylamine (NDBA), N-nitrosodi-n-propylamine (NDPA), N-nitrosomethylethylamine (NMEA), N-nitrosopyrrolidine	521

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: General UCMR questions: 1-800-426-4791

See the website: [www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2)

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Please send your suggestions, ideas, questions or comments to:

**THE WATER SPOT 2007**  
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SDWB WEB SITE:  
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 Director of Health

**LAURENCE K. LAU**  
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*We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.*

***The Water Spot 2005 (January/February/March 2007)***  
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