



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
 MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII  
 BOX 63002  
 KANEOHE BAY HAWAII 96863-3002

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
 5090  
 LFE/088-20

**JUN 24 2020**

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii  
 To: Residents, Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Subj: MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (MCBH) KANEOHE BAY 2020 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Encl: (1) Board of Water Supply (BWS), City and County of Honolulu, 2020 Annual Water Quality Report

1. In 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put into effect regulations that require community water system operators to provide their customers an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. This letter, along with enclosure (1), describes where your water comes from, what was detected in the water in the past year, and how those results compare to standards for safe drinking water. **Test results show your drinking water meets all Federal and State standards and is safe to drink.**

2. MCBH Kaneohe Bay purchases its water from the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) and adds chlorine as needed prior to customer delivery. MCBH Kaneohe Bay also tests the water for the following: lead and copper, chromium, total trihalomethanes (TTHM), total haloacetic acid (HAA5), asbestos, total coliform bacteria, escherichia coliform bacteria (E-coli) and unregulated contaminants. Water samples are taken from various locations in the MCBH Kaneohe Bay distribution system and analyzed by State certified laboratories. The tables below list the results of this testing for calendar year 2019. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations for those contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. As a result, some of the data in this report is more than a year old. If a substance is not listed, it was not detected.

**Regulated Contaminants - MCBH Kaneohe Bay**

Substance	Sample Year	Average	Range		MCL	MCLG	Common Sources
			Min	Max			
TTHM (ppb)	2019	1.80	1.00	2.60	80	None	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (ppb)	2019	0.60	ND	1.20	60	None	Byproducts of drinking water disinfection
Chromium (ppb)	2015	1.50	1.50	1.50	100	100	Erosion of natural deposits

Substance	Sample Year	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Reading	Action Level (AL)	# Samples Above AL	Violation	Common Sources
Copper (ppm)	2018	0.053	1.3	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2018	5.09	15	1	No	

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter  
 ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter

Subj: MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (MCBH) KANEOHE BAY 2019 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

MCL = Maximum Contaminant level: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment.  
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Unregulated Contaminants - MCBH Kaneohe Bay

Substance	Sample Year	Unit	Average	Range	
				Min	Max
<i>Dibromoacetic acid</i>	2018	$\mu\text{g/l}$	.4483	.336	.625
<i>Chromium, Hexavalent</i>	2015	ppb	1.55	1.5	1.6
<i>Strontium</i>	2015	ppb	96	96	96
<i>Vanadium</i>	2015	ppb	9.35	9.3	9.4

$\mu\text{g/l}$  = micrograms per liter

Unregulated Contaminants do not have designated MCLs or MCLGs but still require monitoring.

3. All water provided at MCBH installations for drinking purposes comes from off-base sources managed by the BWS. There are no drinking water wells located on MCBH property. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) may include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels both above and below ground, naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases radioactive material, dissolve into it. Source water can also pick up substances resulting from animal and human activities. Contaminants that may be present in various types of source water include:

- \* Viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock, and wildlife.

- \* Salts and metals, which can be natural or may result from storm runoff, wastewater discharges, and farming.

- \* Organic chemicals, which originate from industrial processes, petroleum processes, petroleum production, gas stations, storm runoff and septic systems.

- \* Radioactive substances, which can be naturally occurring.

- \* Pesticides and herbicides, which can come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

4. In order to ensure safe tap water, the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) sets regulatory standards on the amounts of certain contaminants found in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants; the presence of contaminants is not always indicative of a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by accessing the EPA's drinking water web site ([www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)).

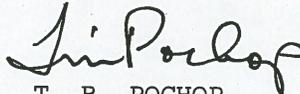
5. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Individuals with compromised immune systems such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be more susceptible to infections. These

Subj: MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (MCBH) KANEOHE BAY 2019 ANNUAL WATER  
QUALITY REPORT

individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate measures to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

6. Regular testing of MCBH drinking water continues to confirm that MCBH drinking water does not contain lead at levels above safe drinking water standards. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink lead containing water in excess of the set action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities while consumption by adults over many years could lead to kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead found in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

7. A source water assessment for the wells serving MCBH Kaneohe Bay was completed in 2003 and is available for review from the MCBH Environmental Division. Additional test results and drinking water information can be found in enclosure (1). MCBH does not have routine public meetings about the drinking water system, however questions regarding MCBH Kaneohe Bay Drinking Water (including the 2003 source water assessment) can be directed to Ed Zuelke, Chief of Environmental Compliance and Restoration, MCBH, 257-7142.



T. B. POCHOP  
LtCol USMC  
By Direction

2 0 2 0 A N N U A L

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

Federal and state law requires testing your drinking water for many different types of contaminants.

This report contains test results showing your water is **safe to drink** and meets all federal and state requirements. If a contaminant is **not listed**, then it was **not detected**.



Board of Water Supply  
City and County of Honolulu  
630 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96843  
[www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)

Federal and state law requires testing your drinking water for many different types of contaminants. Below is a complete list.

## Regulated Primary Contaminants

Acrylamide	2,4-D	Fecal coliform	Selenium
Alachlor	Dalapon	Fluoride	Simazine
Alpha emitters	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	Glyphosate	Styrene
Antimony	Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
Arsenic	o-Dichlorobenzene	Heptachlor	Thallium
Asbestos (>10 micron)	p-Dichlorobenzene	Heptachlor epoxide	Toluene
Atrazine	1,2-Dichloroethane	Hexachlorobenzene	Total coliform
Barium	1,1-Dichloroethylene	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)
Benzene	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Lead	Toxaphene
Beryllium	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	Lindane	2,4,5-TP
Beta/photon emitters	Dichloromethane	Mercury (total)	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
Bromate	1,2-Dichloropropane (DCP)	Methoxychlor	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
Cadmium	Dinoseb	Nitrate (as N)	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Carbofuran	Dioxin	Nitrite (as N)	Trichloroethylene (TCE)
Carbon tetrachloride	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Oxamyl (Vydate)	1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)
Chlordane	Diquat	PCBs	Turbidity
Chlorite	Endothall	Pentachlorophenol	Uranium
Chlorobenzene	Endrin	Picloram	Vinyl chloride
Chromium (total)	Epichlorohydrin	Polyaromatic hydrocarbons [benzo(a) pyrene]	Xylenes (total)
Copper	Ethylbenzene	Radium 226 + 228	
Cyanide	Ethylene dibromide (EDB)		

## Unregulated Contaminants

Boron	Chloride	HAA6Br	Sodium
Bromoform	Chlorodifluoromethane	HAA9	Strontium
1-Butanol	Chromium, hexavalent	Manganese	Vanadium
Chlorate	Diieldrin	Methyl t-Butyl Ether (MTBE)	

**Measurements** In this report, one part per million (ppm) is the same as one milligram of the substance in one liter of water (mg/L). To put this into perspective, one part per million is approximately one second in 11.5 days. One part per billion (ppb) is even smaller! – about 1 second in 31.7 years.



The water serving 600 Mokapu Road has been tested and meets all Federal and State standards.

The water quality monitoring results are presented below.

The water sources serving this address are:

Source Name	Origin of Water	Treatment	Region
a) Kaluanui Wells	Groundwater	Chlorination	2
b) Maakua Well	Groundwater	Chlorination	2
c) Punaluu Wells II	Groundwater	Chlorination	2
d) Punaluu Wells III	Groundwater	Chlorination	2
e) Waihee Tunnel	Groundwater	Chlorination	2

Unregulated Contaminants (Do not have designated maximum limits but require monitoring)

Contaminant	Tested By	Sample Year	Unit	Highest Average	Range		Health Advisory	Found in Sources
					Minimum	Maximum		
Chlorate	(2)	2017	ppb	42.000	38.000	42.000	210.000	b,d,e
Chloride	(2)	2019	ppm	150.000	16.000	150.000	250 **	All Sources
Chromium, Hexavalent	(2)	2017	ppb	1.900	1.200	1.900	13.000	b,c,d,e
Sodium	(2)	2019	ppm	26.000	26.000	26.000	60.000	a
Strontium	(2)	2017	ppb	210.000	51.000	210.000	4000.000	b,c,d,e
Sulfate	(2)	2019	ppm	19.000	2.600	19.000	250 **	All Sources
Vanadium	(2)	2017	ppb	14.000	7.000	14.000	21.000	b,c,d,e

\*\* Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) are standards established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing the aesthetic quality (taste, odor and color) of drinking water. EPA does not enforce SMCLs.

**Source Water Monitoring**

The substances detected in these sources are shown below. If a substance is not shown then it was not detected.

**Regulated Contaminants (2)**

Contaminant	Sample Year	Unit	Highest Average	Range		MCL (Allowed)	MCLG (Goal)	Found in Sources
				Minimum	Maximum			
Barium	2019	ppm	0.003	0.003	0.003	2.000	2.000	a
Chromium	2019	ppb	2.000	2.000	2.000	100.000	100.000	a
Nitrate	2019	ppm	0.180	0.170	0.180	10.000	10.000	b,e

**Distribution System Monitoring**

**Disinfection By-Products (2)**

System Name	Contaminant	Unit	Min	Max	Highest LRAA	MCL (Allowed)	MCLG (Goal)
Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor	Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0.00	17.00	6.20	80	None
	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	0.00	0.00	0.00	60	None
	Contaminant	Unit	Min	Max	Average	MCL (Allowed)	MCLG (Goal)
	Haloacetic Acids (HAA6BR)	ppb	0.00	1.50	0.82	NYA	NYA
	Haloacetic Acids (HAA9)	ppb	0.00	1.50	0.82	NYA	NYA

**Microbial Contaminants (2)**

System Name	Contaminant	Number of positive E. coli samples found	Violation (Yes/No)	Number of assessments required to perform	Major sources in drinking water
Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor	E. Coli	1	No	0	Human and animal fecal waste

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Definitions:**

- MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- GAC** Granular Activated Carbon Filtration
- Health Advisory** An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information. Health advisory is not a legally enforceable standard.
- CFU/100ml** Colony forming units per 100 milliliter
- mrem/yr** Millirems Per Year (A Measure of Radiation)
- pCi/L** Picocuries Per Liter (A Measure of Radioactivity)
- ppb** Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter
- ppm** Parts Per Million or Milligrams Per Liter
- ppt** Parts Per Trillion or Nanograms Per Liter
- NQ** Not Quantifiable (< means "less than")
- NYA** Not Yet Available
- N/A** Not Applicable
- ND** Not Detected
- \*** EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles
- (1)** Analysis by the State of Hawaii Department of Health.
- (2)** Analysis by the Honolulu Board Of Water Supply. Questions, call 808-748-5370.
- LRAA** Locational running annual average is the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- MRDL** Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- MRDLG** Maximum residual disinfectant level goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**Residual Chlorine**

System Name	Sample Year	Unit	Lowest Monthly Average	Highest Monthly Average	Running Annual Average	MRDL	MRDLG
Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor	2019	ppm	0.29	0.35	0.3	4	4

**Lead/Copper Testing (2)**

Contaminant	Sample Year	Unit	90th Percentile Reading	Action Level	# Samples Above Action Level
Copper	2018	ppm	0.029	1.300	0
Lead	2018	ppb	<1.000	15.000	0

No violations found for calendar year 2019

## Is My Drinking Water Really Safe?

Yes, we take our responsibility to provide safe drinking water very seriously. Like you, we drink the same water and share the same concerns about its quality. Islandwide, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) operates over 94 water sources that are located among nine different water regions. Your tap water generally comes from those sources located within your area and not from all 94. The report shows the name of the source(s) serving your area and the region it is located in.

Each year, these sources and systems are tested for more than 80 different types of contaminants by the BWS.

**The sources serving your area did not contain any of the listed contaminants except for the ones shown on the report. In all cases, the amounts found are fully compliant with the standards for safe drinking water.**

## Drinking Water Standards and Testing

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. A contaminant is any substance that may pose a potential health concern if present in very large quantities.

The regulations require testing tap water for many different categories of contaminants. One category is the regulated or primary contaminants. Each has a maximum contaminant goal and maximum contaminant level. The **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. This limit is the standard for safe drinking water and is set by federal and/or state health agencies. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

The regulations also have testing requirements for certain unregulated contaminants. Health agencies generally do not specify MCLs or MCLGs for unregulated contaminants. However, they may establish an **action level** which is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

The rules also require testing the water in the distribution system (for trihalomethanes and coliform bacteria) and at the consumer's tap (for lead and copper).

Each contaminant category has its own monitoring frequency established by regulation. The testing is performed either annually, every two years or every three years as determined by federal and state drinking water regulations.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. On Oahu, drinking water begins as rain falling over the Koolau and Waianae

Mountain ranges. Because volcanic rock is porous, much of this rain is naturally filtered through the ground on its way to large underground formations called aquifers.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Source Water Assessments, reports that evaluate the susceptibility of our drinking water sources to pollution, have been completed as of 2004. These reports are available for review by calling Erwin Kawata at (808) 748-5080.

## BWS Water Sources and Systems

The Board of Water Supply operates and maintains over 94 water sources that combine to deliver an average of 145 million gallons of water per day.

The water is supplied through a distribution system that contains over 2,100 miles of pipeline and 171 reservoirs. The entire system is monitored 24 hours a day.

## What Kinds of Contaminants are a Concern to Drinking Water?

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

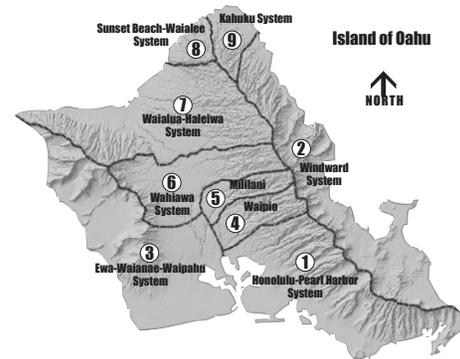
**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or the DOH at (808) 586-4258.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking



water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or the DOH at (808) 586-4258.

## What Kinds of Contaminants Have Been Found in Oahu's Water?

Below is a list of substances that have been found in Oahu's water and their possible sources. See the water quality report for the substances found in your water. In all cases, the amounts present are fully compliant with the standards.

**Alpha and beta activity** occur naturally in groundwater from the erosion of natural deposits and decay of natural and man-made deposits.

**Antimony** is found in discharge from petroleum refineries, fire retardants, ceramics, electronics, and solder.

**Arsenic** may occur from the erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, runoff from glass, and electronics production wastes.

**Atrazine** may occur from runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

**Barium** may occur naturally in groundwater from the erosion of natural deposits.

**Boron** is a mineral found in food and the environment. It occurs naturally in rocks, soil, and seawater and is also used in vitamin supplements.

**Bromide** occurs naturally in the environment and is not being considered for regulation.

**1-Butanol** is used as a solvent in paints, surface coatings, lacquers, thinners, pharmaceutical formulations, waxes, and resins. The testing of this contaminant is currently being performed and reported under the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4). The purpose of UCMR4 is to collect data on contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency then uses this information to decide if changes to the regulations are needed.

**Carbon tetrachloride** is an organic chemical that may occur in drinking water from discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.

**Chlorate** is a byproduct of the drinking water disinfection process that forms when using sodium hypochlorite. According to EPA, chlorate levels more than 210 parts per billion may be a health concern.

**Chlordane** is a residue of a banned termiticide.

**Chloride** is a common element in the environment that occurs widely in soils, plants, water, and foods. It is most commonly found in nature as a salt of sodium called sodium chloride better known as table salt.

**Chlorodifluoromethane** also known as R-22, is a gas used for cooling in refrigeration and air conditioning systems.

**Chromium** may occur naturally in groundwater from the erosion of natural deposits.

**Chromium, Hexavalent** also known as chromium 6 is a chemical form of chromium that occurs naturally in rocks, animals, plants, soil, and in volcanic dust and gases. Water sources can be affected by hexavalent chromium naturally, or through contamination plumes from industrial centers, landfills, and improper discharge of industrial processing streams. EPA has not yet determined if low levels of hexavalent chromium in drinking water are a health risk.

**Copper** may occur in tap water from new or the corrosion of household copper plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, or leaching from wood preservatives.

**Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate** is found in discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

**Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)** is an organic chemical formerly used in Hawaii as a soil fumigant in pineapple cultivation and a petroleum additive. It has been found in several groundwater wells in Central Oahu.

**1,2-Dichloropropane (DCP)** is an organic chemical used as a solvent and pesticide that may occur in drinking water by leaching into groundwater. It also may come from improper waste disposal and discharge from industrial chemical factories.

**Dieldrin** is an organic chemical once used as a pesticide for controlling ground termites and may occur in drinking water by leaching into groundwater.

**Ethylene dibromide (EDB)** is an organic chemical formerly used in Hawaii as a soil fumigant in pineapple cultivation and petroleum additive. It has been found in some groundwater wells in Central Oahu.

**Fecal coliform bacteria** and **E. Coli** can be found in human and animal fecal waste and may also be found in soil.

**Fluoride** occurs naturally in groundwater. According to EPA, it may also come from the erosion of natural deposits or discharged from fertilizer and aluminum factories. It can be a water additive that promotes strong teeth. BWS does not add fluoride.

**HAA6Br** are disinfection byproducts that are formed when chlorine is added to disinfect drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water. The six brominated haloacetic acids (HAA6Br) are Bromochloroacetic Acid, Bromodichloroacetic Acid,

Dibromoacetic Acid, Dibromochloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, and Tribromoacetic Acid. HAA6Br is currently being tested and reported under the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4). The purpose of UCMR4 is to collect data on contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency then uses this information to decide if changes to the regulations are needed.

**HAA9** are disinfection byproducts that are formed when chlorine or chloramine is added to disinfect drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water. The nine haloacetic acids (HAA9) are Bromochloroacetic Acid, Bromodichloroacetic Acid, Chlorodibromoacetic Acid, Dibromoacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, Monochloroacetic Acid, Tribromoacetic Acid, and Trichloroacetic Acid. HAA9 is currently being tested and reported under the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4). The purpose of UCMR4 is to collect data on contaminants that may be present in drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency then uses this information to decide if changes to the regulations are needed.

**Haloacetic Acids (HAA)** and **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)** [such as bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and dibromochloromethane] are by-products of drinking water chlorination.

**Heptachlor epoxide** is an organic chemical formed by the chemical and biological transformation of heptachlor in the environment. Heptachlor was once used as a non-agricultural insecticide. Heptachlor and its epoxide adsorbs strongly to soil.

**Lead**—If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. BWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may choose to have your water tested by contacting private laboratories that are certified by the State for doing drinking water analyses. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Manganese** is a naturally-occurring element that can be found ubiquitously in the air, soil, and water. It is also used in the manufacturing of steel alloys, ceramics, glass, and as a food additive. The United States Environmental Protection Agency secondary drinking water maximum contaminant limit (SMCL) for manganese is 0.05 milligrams per Liter (50 parts per billion). Concentrations in water above the SMCL may create black to brown color staining and a bitter metallic taste.

**Methyl t-Butyl Ether (MTBE)** is used in gasoline to reduce auto emissions.

**Nitrate** (as nitrogen) occurs naturally in groundwater. According to EPA,

nitrate may come from runoff from fertilizer use or leaching from septic tanks, sewage, or erosion of natural deposits. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million (ppm) is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider if the nitrate level is between 5 to 10 ppm.

**Nitrite** (as nitrogen) occurs naturally in groundwater. According to EPA, nitrites may come from runoff from fertilizer use or leaching from septic tanks, sewage, or erosion of natural deposits. Nitrite levels in drinking water in excess of the MCL could cause serious illness or be fatal to infants below the age of six months.

**Radium** occurs naturally in groundwater from the erosion of natural deposits.

**Radon** is a naturally-occurring radioactive substance found everywhere on earth. It is a colorless, odorless gas produced from the natural decomposition of uranium. Because radon is a gas, it can move from water to the air in the course of dishwashing, showering, and other water-using activities. In the atmosphere, radon is harmless because it is diluted. However, in enclosed spaces such as basements, radon levels can build up. Appropriate ventilation is the best way to prevent indoor air accumulation of radon.

**Selenium** is found in discharge from petroleum and metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits, and discharge from mines.

**Simazine** may occur from herbicide runoff.

**Sodium** is a common element in the environment that occurs widely in soils, plants, water, and foods. It is also found in personal care products, foods, nutritional supplements, and medications.

**Strontium** is an alkaline earth metal that occurs naturally in the environment. Air, dust, soil, foods, and drinking water all contain small amounts of strontium. Ingestion of small amounts of strontium is not harmful. According to EPA, strontium levels more than 4000 parts per billion per day may lead to negative health effects. There is no evidence that drinking water with trace amounts of naturally-occurring strontium is harmful.

**Sulfates** are naturally occurring substances that are found in minerals, soil, and rocks. They are present in ambient air, groundwater, plants, and food. The principal commercial use of sulfate is in the chemical industry. Sulfates are discharged into water in industrial wastes and through atmospheric deposition. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, studies suggest sulfate levels more than 500 mg/L can act as a mild laxative.

**Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)** is used in dry cleaning, textile processing and as a degreaser. It can be discharged from factories and dry cleaners.

**Total coliform bacteria** are naturally present in the environment.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE)** is an organic chemical that may come from metal degreasing sites and other factories.

**1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)** is an organic chemical formerly used as

a soil fumigant in agriculture and as a gasoline additive. It has been found in a number of wells in Central Oahu.

**Uranium** occurs from the erosion of natural deposits.

**Vanadium** is a metal that naturally occurs in many different minerals and in fossil fuel deposits. Exposure to vanadium is very common, as it is a naturally occurring element that is found in many parts of the environment including at low levels in many foods. According to EPA, levels more than 21 parts per billion per day may lead to negative health effects. There is no federal drinking water standard for vanadium at this time.

### Where Can I Get More Information?

Visit our website at [boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com) or call Erwin Kawata at (808) 748-5080 or Owen Narikawa at (808) 748-5851. You can also reach us by e-mail at [contactus@hbws.org](mailto:contactus@hbws.org).

For information about the following topics, call:

#### Environmental Protection Agency

Federal drinking water regulations, health effects

Safe Drinking Water Hotline ..... 1-800-426-4791

#### Board of Water Supply

Communications Office.....(808) 748-5041

Water testing program (chemicals).....(808) 748-5840

Microbiology testing/chlorine taste.....(808) 748-5850

Copies of your Water Quality Report .....(808) 748-5041

#### State Department of Health

State and Federal drinking water standards, Hawaii drinking water monitoring/compliance, health effects

Safe Drinking Water Branch.....(808) 586-4258

### How Can I Get Involved?

The Board meets at 2:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the Board of Water Supply, 630 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii. You are invited to participate in these meetings. For copies of Board meeting schedules and minutes, call (808) 748-5061 or visit [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

2 0 2 0 A N N U A L

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Supplemental Information

A separate report, containing the results of tests performed on samples of your water, accompanies this Supplemental Information.



Board of Water Supply  
City and County of Honolulu  
630 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96843  
[www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)