

Honolulu Board of Water Supply
2018 Annual Water Quality Report

Special Notice for Board of Water Supply Kamaile Well Pump #2

On October 25, 2017 the Board of Water Supply (BWS) detected E.coli bacteria in Kamaile Well Pump #2 in a sample collected the previous day. E. coli testing requires 24 hours to complete. The test was conducted in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Ground Water Rule which required BWS to test Kamaile Well Pump #2 after detecting total coliform in a routine sample from Keaau Beach Park collected on October 23, 2017. **The water from Kamaile Well Pump #2 is chlorinated before it reaches customers.** The routine sample collected from Keaau Beach Park on October 23 and a follow up sample collected on October 24, 2017 both tested positive for chlorine and negative for E. coli. **For this reason, the public was not at risk of E. coli exposure.** BWS disclosed this incident in a press release dated October 27, 2017 and a legal notice in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on November 2, 2017. A corrective action plan for Kamaile Well Pump #2 was prepared by BWS in consultation with, and approved by the Hawaii Department of Health. The plan was then implemented and the well placed back into service on April 25, 2018. In accordance with the corrective action plan, the well is being tested monthly for E. coli bacteria and the water chlorinated before it reaches customers.

E. coli bacteria can exist in tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate soil and may persist in soil for a number of years. E. coli is a fecal indicator and microbe whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.