

## M I N U T E S

To watch the recording of this meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://vimeo.com/bwshonolulu/jan-27-2025>. Closed captioning is available.

### THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

January 27, 2025

At 2:00 PM on January 27, 2025, in the Public Service Building Board Room at 630 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i, Board Chair Nā'ālehu Anthony called to order the Regular Meeting.

Present:	Nā'ālehu Anthony, Chair Jonathan Kaneshiro, Vice Chair Bryan P. Andaya, Board Member via Zoom Lance Wilhelm, Board Member Kēhaulani Pu'u, Board Member via Zoom
Also Present:	Ernest Lau, Manager and Chief Engineer Erwin Kawata, Deputy Manager Patrick Chun, Acting Program Administrator, Capital Projects Division Jennifer Elflein, Program Administrator, Customer Care Division via Vimeo Kathleen Elliott-Pahinui, Information Officer, Communications Office Raelynn Nakabayashi, Executive Assistant I, Executive Support Office Wayne Tello, Acting Program Administrator, Field Operations Division Kaliko Lum Kee, Acting Waterworks Controller, Finance Division Michele Thomas, Executive Assistant I, Human Resources Office via Vimeo Henderson Nuuhiwa, Program Administrator, Information Technology Division via Vimeo Ronald Wada, Assistant Program Administrator, Information Technology Division Michael Matsuo, Land Administrator, Land Division Kirk Iwamoto, Acting Water Quality Laboratory Director, Water Quality Division Barry Usagawa, Program Administrator, Water Resources Division Kevin Ihu, Program Administrator, Water System Operations Division Joyce Lin, Civil Engineer IV, Office of the Manager and Chief Engineer

Kimberly Kuwaye, Manager Secretary  
Joy Cruz-Achiu, Board Secretary  
Kathy Mitchell, Administrative Services Officer  
via Vimeo  
Stella Bernardo, Information Specialist II,  
Communications Office via Zoom  
Wayne Maria, Information Specialist II,  
Communications Office  
Ella Foley Gannon, Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, LLP  
David Brown, Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, LLP  
Joseph Stewart, Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, LLP  
Stephen Kaneshiro, Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, LLP

Others Present: Jeff Lau, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
via Zoom  
Jessica Wong, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
via Zoom

Absent: Edwin H. Sniffen, Ex-Officio  
Gene C. Albano, Ex-Officio

Chair Nā‘ālehu Anthony opened the Board meeting with an ‘olelo no‘eau:

**Aloha mai kākou e nā hoa makamaka mai ka lā hiki a ka lā kau. Welina nui me ke aloha!**

**Mahalo nui no kēia ‘ākoakoa ‘ana o kākou no ka pono o ka lāhui, no ka pono o ka ‘āina, a no ka pono o ka wai nō ho‘i. Eia he ‘olelo no‘eau e kālele ana i ke ko‘iko‘i o ka wai.**

Chair Anthony translated the ‘olelo no‘eau: Aloha from the rising to the setting sun. Thank you all for coming together today for the people, the land, and the water. Here is a short Hawaiian Proverb that helps us remember the importance of fresh water and land.

**‘Olelo 1149: I 'aina no ka 'āina i ke ali'i, a i waiwai no ka 'aina i ke kanaka.**

Chair Anthony translated ‘olelo 1149: The land remains the land because of the chiefs, and prosperity comes to the land because of the common people. Chiefs are needed to hold the land, and commoners are needed to work the land.

Chair Anthony welcomed everyone to the January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Supply (BWS). He stated that the Board of Water Supply is dedicated to providing safe, dependable, and affordable supply of water now and into the future.

Before continuing the meeting, Chair Anthony stated that a recording would be played to share reminders for public participation and the virtual meeting regulations required by law.

The recording played: Goals for this meeting under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Section 92-7.5 are accessible at [www.boardofwatersupply.com/boardmeeting](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/boardmeeting). The public may attend this meeting in person at the Public Service building located at 630 South Beretania Street. The public may also view a live stream of today's meeting on our website at [www.boardofwatersupply.com/live](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/live). We have been accepting written or oral testimony for today's meeting. Instructions and an online submittal form are available at [boardofwatersupply.com/testimony](http://boardofwatersupply.com/testimony). The deadline to submit advance written testimony has passed. Testimony received by noon today has been distributed to the board members. We will continue to accept written testimony today through our online form. Oral testimony in person or remotely will be accepted during today's meeting. To facilitate as much in-person and remote testimony as reasonably possible during the time allotted, preregistration and submittal of a written version of testimony at [boardofwatersupply.com/testimony](http://boardofwatersupply.com/testimony) is strongly encouraged. To testify in person, please register using our online form or come to the public service building at 630 South Beretania Street. We have a representative in the lobby to provide intake and further instructions. To request to testify remotely, please complete the online form at [boardofwatersupply.com/testimony](http://boardofwatersupply.com/testimony). Requestors will receive an email containing links and instructions on how to join the Zoom session. Testifiers will have two minutes to state their position. A timekeeper will alert testifiers when there is one minute remaining. Once the two minutes are up, please summarize to allow time for questions from the Board. Then, make room for the next testifier. Board members attending any board meeting remotely must be visible to the public to be considered, present, and meet quorum guidelines. Board members participating remotely must also disclose their location and anyone present at their location during roll call. Meeting participants who are calling or video conferencing in, please mute your microphone when you're not speaking. If you have a question, comment, or wish to enter or second a motion on an action item, please unmute your microphone and identify yourself before continuing to speak. If you encounter technical issues during today's meeting, please use the

Zoom chat to send a direct message to our support team. Their names are listed in the message to all participants. To open the chat window, please click the text Bubble icon on the Zoom Toolbar.

Chair Anthony requested a roll call for the Regular Meeting. He asked those participating remotely to give the appropriate disclosures up responding.

Board Member Bryan Andaya joined via Zoom, responded Aloha, and disclosed that he was alone at his location; and Board Member Kēhaulani Pu'u responded Aloha and and disclosed that she was alone at her location. Vice Chair Jonathan Kaneshiro responded here and was present in the Board room; Chair Anthony was in the Boardroom. Board Members Gene Albano and Edwin Sniffen were absent.

Chair Anthony introduced those in the Boardroom: Manager Ernest Lau, Deputy Manager Erwin Kawata, Board Secretary Joy L. Cruz-Achiu, Manager Secretary Kimberly Kuwaye, and Information Specialist II Wayne Maria. Deputy Jeff Lau and Deputy Jessica Wong joined via Zoom from the City and County Corporation Counsel.

## REGULAR MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on December 16, 2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE Jonathan Kaneshiro and Lance Wilhem motioned and seconded, respectively, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on December 16, 2024.

Board Member Pu'u stated that she was alone in her office.

Ms. Cruz-Achiu conducted a roll call vote: Vice Chair Jonathan Kaneshiro, aye; Board Member Bryan Andaya, aye; Board Member Lance Wilhelm, aye; Board Member Kēhaulani Pu'u, aye; and Chair Nā'alehu Anthony, aye. Ms. Cruz-Achiu announced that the motion passed with five ayes. Board Members Gene Albano and Edwin Sniffen were absent.

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2024, WERE APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 27, 2025, BOARD MEETING			
	AYE	NO	COMMENT
NĀ'ALEHU ANTHONY	X		
JONATHAN KANESHIRO	X		
BRYAN P. ANDAYA	X		
LANCE WILHELM	X		
KĒHAULANI PU'U	X		
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN			ABSENT
GENE C. ALBANO			ABSENT

ITEM FOR INFORMATION NO. 1

“January 27, 2025

RECRUITMENT      Chair and Members  
STATUS              Board of Water Supply  
                    City and County of Honolulu  
                    Honolulu, Hawai'i 96843  
                    Chair and Members:

Subject:      Recruitment Status

Michele L. Thomas, Executive Assistant, Human Resources Office, will be presenting an update on the Recruitment Status for the period of October 2024 to December 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/      ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E  
Manager and Chief Engineer

Attachment”

The foregoing was for information only.

DISCUSSION:      Michele L. Thomas, Executive Assistant, Human Resources Office, gave the report.

Chair Anthony asked, compared to other County Departments how the percentage of vacant positions for BWS compares.

Ms. Michele Thomas replied that the BWS's vacancies are the average norm. The BWS does well filling general vacant positions. However, the BWS struggles to fill highly specialized positions such as engineers and skilled trades. The BWS uses various strategies to attract potential candidates and to retain current employees, including promoting staff development training, allowing those with little to no experience to have opportunities in the long term.

Chair Anthony asked what strategy or type of advertisement has been most fruitful in gaining recruits.

Ms. Thomas stated that there are five generations in the workforce; therefore, different outreach is required. The younger generations are inclined to use social media, whereas the older generations prefer face-to-face contact.

## ITEM FOR INFORMATION NO. 2

“January 27, 2025

STATUS Chair and Members  
UPDATE OF Board of Water Supply  
GROUNDWATER City and County of Honolulu  
LEVELS AT Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96843  
ALL INDEX  
STATIONS Chair and Members:

Subject: Status Update of Groundwater Levels at All Index Stations

Three aquifer index stations were in low groundwater condition for the production month of December 2024. Waialua and Punalu‘u are in Caution Status. Kaimukī is in Alert Status. The monthly production average for December 2024 was 137.21 million gallons per day.

The Board of Water Supply rainfall index for the month of December 2024 was 17 percent of normal, with a 5-month moving average of 68 percent. As of January 7, 2025, the Hawai‘i Drought Monitor shows drought conditions across the entire island of O‘ahu, with moderate drought conditions over most of the island, grading to extreme drought conditions along the leeward coast.

The National Weather Service had been forecasting above-normal precipitation through March 2025; they are currently forecasting above-normal precipitation in January 2025, with no predictions further ahead in time. Their Precipitation Summary for December 2024 notes that “December is usually one of the wettest months of the year across the State of Hawai‘i. Long range projections generated in early Fall 2024 favored above normal precipitation for the month. The end result painted a very different picture, with below average December totals at most locations across the main Hawaiian Islands. Drought areas increased in size and intensity instead of easing. Rather than low-pressure systems nearby producing episodes of heavy rain, many days in December featured stable conditions with a surface ridge of high pressure over or just north of the state.”

Monitoring wells exhibited an almost equal number of stable, slightly increasing, and slightly decreasing head levels for the month of December 2024. This likely reflects combined effects of increased production relative to the prior month but lower than summer maximums,

and significantly low rainfall following two months of higher/above normal rainfall. Average monthly production for December 2024 is higher than November 2024 and higher than the 5-year monthly average.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E  
Manager and Chief Engineer

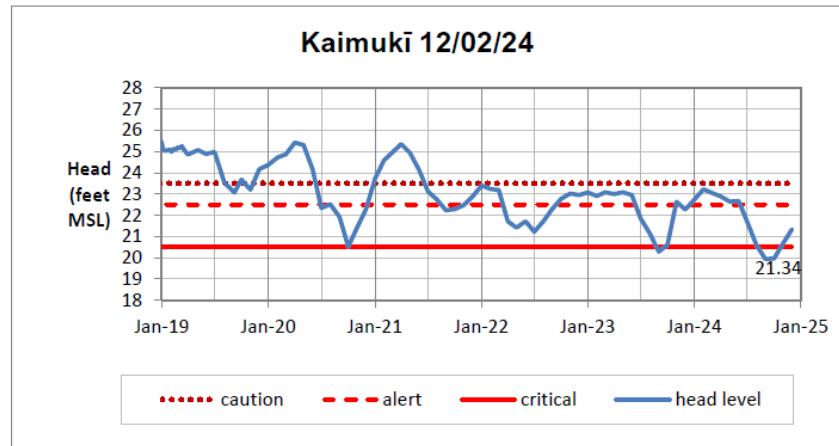
Attachment"

The foregoing was for information only.

**DISCUSSION:** Barry Usagawa, Program Administrator, Water Resources Division, gave the report.

Chair Anthony stated that the BWS has closely watched Kaimuki since its head levels reached critical. He asked what the BWS must do to recover from being in critical. Chair Anthony also inquired if more water is being used than produced, what the BWS does to obtain the water to accommodate the demand.

#### **Head Report**

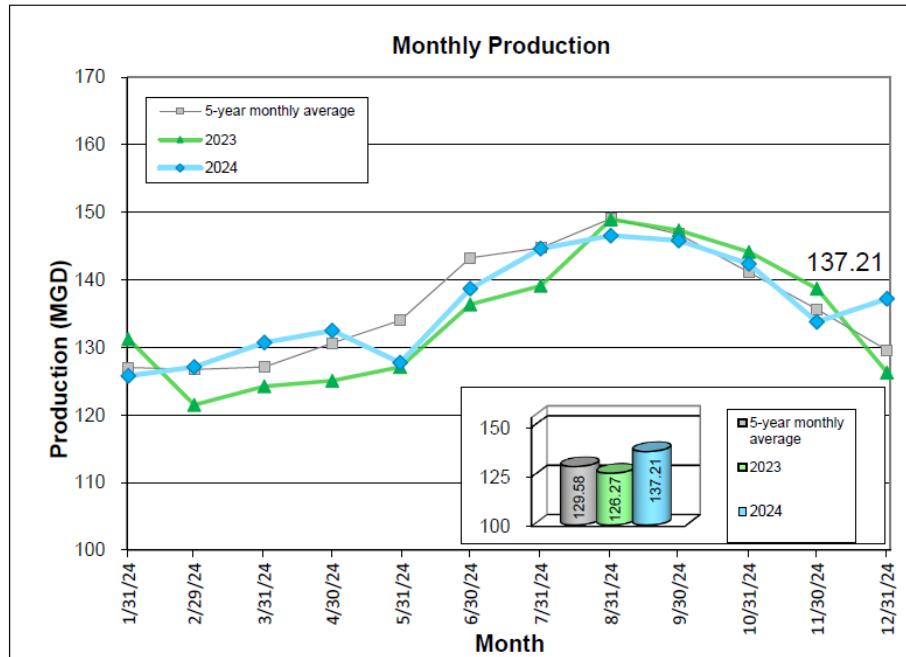


Mr. Barry Usagawa explained that the Kaimuki production was decreased to three million gallons per day (mgd) from a permitted used of 4.0 mgd, which helped raise the head levels. Kāimukī has since moved up into alert. During the summer, Kaimuki can produce up to five mgd.

Chair Anthony asked if the two mgd remaining are held in the reserves for use when necessary.

Mr. Usagawa replied yes. He mentioned that Halawa Shaft's shutdown has caused additional stress on Beretania and other low-service sources. However, the BWS has been able to keep up with demand and maintain its use to three mgd.

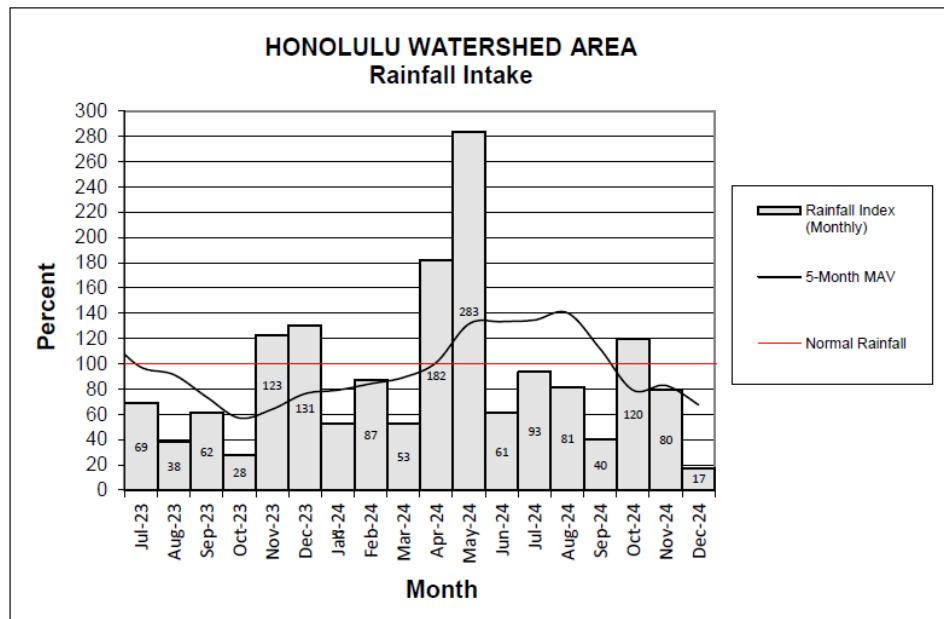
Chair Anthony referred to the monthly production graph and stated that the monthly average has been tracked to be relatively the same as in previous years; however, the monthly production was higher due to low rainfall in December 2024. He inquired when would it be necessary to issue a water shortage mandate.



Mr. Usagawa stated that the BWS rules allow the BWS to declare a low groundwater condition if three or more index stations are in alert or critical. He stated that the BWS could declare a low groundwater situation if it were facing the same situation as in 2003 when there were nine index stations in low groundwater, and Punalu'u was in critical. Mr. Usagawa shared that since then, the BWS has cut back its production at Punalu'u due to chloride levels. In 2008, the windward also experienced low groundwater levels due to its smaller dike storage.

Mr. Usagawa mentioned that the BWS Water Shortage Plan is available on its website. He stated that pumping units online will experience the highest levels during the summer months as they reach their maximum threshold of 20 to 22 hours a day of pumping. He explained that pumping up to 20 hours a day is considered alert status, and pumping up to 22 hours a day would be considered critical status; therefore, the BWS could declare a water shortage based on pump run times when demand rises. If a water shortage is declared, the BWS would implement progressively stricter conservation measures to reduce water demand and protect the aquifers.

Manager Lau shared that if conservation is needed, the BWS sends reminder letters to the top 200 water users, such as multi-family homes, high rises, and the Marine Corps base. He stated that as the Manager of the BWS for almost 13 years, he has never seen rainfall so low in December at 17% of normal.



Manager Lau referred back to the monthly production graph and stated that the BWS will have to monitor very closely. In December 2024, the blue indicates that the monthly production was much higher than what was measured at the same time in 2023, as shown in green.

Chair Anthony commented that the December 2023 and 2024 comparison is quite significant.

Mr. Usagawa also commented, hopefully, January will bring more consistent rainfall.

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION NO. 3**

“January 27, 2025

WATER MAIN  
REPAIR  
REPORT FOR  
DECEMBER 2024

Chair and Members  
Board of Water Supply  
City and County of Honolulu  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96843

### Chair and Members:

Subject: Water Main Repair Report for December 2024

Wayne Tello, Acting Program Administrator, Field Operations Division, will report on water main repair work for the month of December 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E  
Manager and Chief Engineer

## Attachment”

The foregoing was for information only.

DISCUSSION: Wayne Tello, Acting Program Administrator, Field Operations Division, gave the report. There were no comments or discussion.

MOTION TO  
RECESS INTO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

There being no further business, Chair Anthony, at 2:24 PM, called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session. Jonathan Kaneshiro so moved; seconded by Lance Wilhelm and unanimously carried.

Upon unanimous approved motion, the Board recessed into Executive Session Pursuant to [HRS § 92-5 (a)(4)] at 2:25 PM to Consider Issues Pertaining to Matters Posted for Discussion at an Executive Session.

OPEN  
SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:39 PM.

Chair Anthony disclosed that the Board authorized the BWS to proceed in the proposed settlement of Civil No. 1CCV-22-456, Drayko Construction Inc., V. BWS.

MOTION TO  
ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Anthony, at 5:44 PM, called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Lance Wilhelm so moved, seconded by Kēhaulani Pu'u, and unanimously carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 27, 2025, are respectfully submitted,

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JOY CRUZ-ACHIU

APPROVED:

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NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY  
Chair of the Board

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Date