

Contact: Tracy Burgo Telephone: 748-5041 February 9, 2016

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY'S ANNUAL WATER CONSERVATION WEEK POSTER AND POETRY CONTESTS

Deadline for "Pure Water – There Is No Substitute" themed contests is February 24.

HONOLULU – The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is seeking entries for its 2016 Water Conservation Week Poster and Poetry Contest. The contest deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 24. These annual contests focus on educating Oahu's grade school students about the significance of water conservation and what they can do to help preserve our limited resources.

"Clean, fresh drinking water remains one of our most valuable resources and our *keiki* will one day be the caretakers of Oahu's limited supply," said Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. "The Water Conservation Week poster and poetry contests are an excellent opportunity for Oahu's youth to share their thoughts about responsible use of our island's water resources."

The 38th annual poster contest is open to Oahu students in grades K-6, while the 8th annual poetry contest is open to Oahu students in grades 7-12. The 2016 contest theme, "Pure Water – There Is No Substitute," invites Oahu students to creatively express their appreciation of clean, fresh water as one of our most valuable resources and that we all share a responsibility to support efforts to protect our precious and finite water supply for generations to come.

"Our poster and poetry contests challenge students to learn how water is vital to our lives and to share in preserving this irreplaceable resource to ensure its continued sustainability." said BWS Chairman Duane Miyashiro.

"We need to use our naturally purified groundwater sensibly because it is finite in quantity," said BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernest Lau. "We encourage Oahu's youth to learn more about what they can do to share in this responsibility and create posters and poetry that reflect their understanding of this important concept."

Students entering the poster contest should submit one original piece of artwork that expresses the theme on a 12 x 18-inch sheet of paper. Any art medium can be used except 3-dimensional work, chalk, charcoal, and oil-based crayons.

Students entering the poetry contest should submit one original poem, typed on a standard $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11-inch letter size paper. The poem must also reflect the theme and be 150 words or less and no longer than 20 lines. Any form of poetry is acceptable.

Entries must be submitted with a completed entry form by **February 24, 2016**, to the BWS's Communications Office at 630 South Beretania Street, Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or to any Satellite City Hall on Oahu during their normal business hours. The contest entry form, complete contest rules, and additional information are available online at <u>www.boardofwatersupply.com</u> or can be obtained by contacting the BWS Communications Office at 748-5041 or by email at <u>contactus@hbws.org</u>. Additionally, contest information will be provided online via the BWS's Facebook page at <u>http://www.facebook.com/BWSHonolulu</u> and its Twitter account at <u>http://www.twitter.com/BWSHonolulu</u>.

The winning and honorable mention posters and poems will be showcased at different venues across the island in 2016, as well as featured in the 2017 Water Conservation Calendar, which will be made available to the public at the end of the year. In April, the winning students will be recognized at a special ceremony and presented with awards.

The BWS would like to thank the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden, Hard Rock Café, Times Supermarkets, Sodexo, Hawaii Energy, Alexander and Baldwin, Pasha Hawaii, the BWS Federal Credit Union and Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union for their generous sponsorship of these contests.

About the Board of Water Supply

The Board of Water Supply (BWS), a semi-autonomous agency of the City and County of Honolulu, manages Oahu's municipal water resources and distribution system. As the largest water utility in the State, the BWS serves approximately one million customers on Oahu. The BWS embraces its mission of "Water for Life – Ka Wai Ola"—to provide a safe, dependable, and affordable water supply, now and into the future. *Uwē ka lani, ola ka honua* – "When the heavens weep, the earth lives." For more information about the BWS, visit <u>www.boardofwatersupply.com</u>, follow <u>@BWSHonolulu</u> or like the BWS's Facebook page at <u>http://www.facebook.com/BWSHonolulu</u>.

###