June 6, 2016



Contact: Tracy Burgo Telephone: 748-5313

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY CONTRACTOR TO TAKE DOWN ILLEGAL SWING AT HAIKU STAIRS TOMORROW, JUNE 7 Helicopter to assist in removal of swing and poles only; stairs to remain intact

HONOLULU – A Board of Water Supply (BWS) contractor will be removing a swing, chains, and poles that support the swing, at the top of Haiku Stairs on Tuesday, June 7.

"The swing, which was unlawfully installed on the poles next to the stairs, creates an additional and dangerous attraction for thrill seekers and hikers and needs to be taken down," said BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernest Lau.

BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernest Lau will be available for comment at 3:30 p.m. today at the Beretania Headquarters at 630 South Beretania Street. The BWS assures Haiku Stairs proponents that only the swing, chains, and poles will be removed; this work does not involve removal of any part of the stairs. Since the BWS learned about the swing a few weeks ago, the agency has been working on plans to remove the items and obtaining necessary approvals and permits. The removal work will cost about \$23,000.

Area residents can expect to hear sounds from the helicopter that will be used to transport the workers to and from the work site, as well as retrieve the debris for disposal. As a safety precaution, the BWS has arranged for the helicopter to avoid flying with a load over residential areas, open sections of the H-3 Freeway, or the Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Charter School. Instead, the helicopter will fly over the Harano Tunnels that are protected by the Koolau Mountain.

The BWS reminds the public that hiking Haiku Stairs and trespassing on watershed land are illegal and violators who are caught can face fines as high as \$1,000.

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>.