

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com




February 2019

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer 

Aloha:

In September 2018, news coverage of Board of Water Supply's (BWS) Nuuanu Dam No. 1 – stemming from our efforts to lower the water level in our reservoir behind it – disclosed its presence to many in the Nuuanu community who were unaware of its existence. Because of expected heavy rains from Tropical Storm Olivia, the BWS and the Honolulu Fire Department were proactively pumping out water to increase the reservoir's capacity and protect the dam's structural integrity. The activity drew media attention and raised questions and concerns about the dam, and plans to address a dam failure and evacuation in the event of a failure.

In response, BWS staff gave presentations about Nuuanu Dams No. 1 and No. 4 at area Neighborhood Board meetings. The BWS agreed to provide an update in early 2019. To follow up on community questions and concerns, the BWS developed the enclosed flyers to provide the most recent information on each Nuuanu dam, including mandatory evacuation zones downstream.

This vital information is being mailed to all within the 96817-zip code area because the BWS wants to make every effort to reach anyone who could be impacted if either of these dams fail. Therefore, although you may live outside the evacuation zone and may not be affected by a dam failure, you are still receiving these materials.

Please be reassured that the likelihood of failure of either dam is extremely low. BWS staff constantly monitor water levels and siphon off excess water from the dam's reservoirs to maintain storm flow capacity. Mandatory evacuation would be needed only if the water levels rise to one foot below the top of the dam.

We invite you to join the BWS and the City Department of Emergency Management for a presentation at the Nuuanu-Punchbowl Neighborhood Board meeting in February. You can learn more about both dams, our efforts to preserve their structural integrity, and what you need to do in a mandatory evacuation to keep yourself and your 'ohana safe and sound:

Nuuanu-Punchbowl Neighborhood Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
7:15 p.m.
Pauoa Elementary School Cafeteria
2301 Pauoa Road

Please contact our Communications Office at 748-5041 or email ContactUs@hbws.org if you have any questions or would like to arrange for a presentation for a community group or organization.

Very truly yours,


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

Enclosures (2)